

**British Parliamentary papers, Accounts and Papers 54, Statistical tables,
Agriculture (Great Britain and Ireland), 1905, XCVII**

**Second report by Mr. Wilson Fox on the wages, earnings and conditions of
employment of Agricultural labourers in the United Kingdom, with statistical charts
and tables.**

Ireland

I – Classes of Labourers, methods of remuneration, &c.

Classes of Labourers and terms of engagement.

In many parts of Ireland agricultural labourers cannot be classified according to their duties, as so many of the farms which employ labour, other than that of the family are too small to admit of special duties being assigned to particular men. It is only estates or large farms that distinct classes, such as stewards, cattlemen, yardmen, horsemen, carters, and ploughmen are to be found. Stewards are generally only employed on estate farms. On a number of farms the herds attend to the cattle, sheep and pigs. Frequently some of the ordinary labourers plough or attend to the horses and cattle, and in such cases they are sometimes paid rather high wages on account of Sunday work.

In many districts in the counties Mayo, Roscommon, Galway, Kerry, Cork and Donegal, agricultural labourers as a class scarcely exist, except on the larger estates, the work on the larger farms being undertaken by the sons of the small farmers, who work on their farmers land, cut turf, and gather seaweed, if near the shore, when not able to earn wages. A number of small land-owners and their sons go to work on farms in England and Scotland for part of the year, and those who live near the coast often do some fishing.

In counties where farms are large enough and have sufficient tillage land to employ a staff of men, the terms of engagement vary considerably in different districts. The men in charge of animals are usually engaged for the longest periods and have continuous work.

In Ulster the greater number of agricultural labourers of all classes, including ordinary labourers, men in charge of horses and cattle, and also boys and girls, are engaged half yearly, those who are unmarried being lodged and boarded in the farmhouses, the married men living in cottages on the farms or in the villages. Generally speaking, it is on the smaller or medium sized farms which have no cottages or only a short supply, that hired men (unmarried men, generally called 'boys') are boarded and lodged. The majority of the farm servants in Ulster are hired at hiring fairs, though an increasing number of private agreements are now made, especially in the case of married men and girls. The term of service usually commences in May and November.

The greater number of married labourers in Ulster are engaged by the half-year, "wet and dry" and paid weekly. In some cases, however, the weekly payments form only a part of total wages, the balance being paid at the end of the half-yearly term, when payment is usually made of debts for clothing &c. There are also yearly and weekly engagements in Ulster. In some districts, on estates and farms where there are cottages attached, the engagements are by the year, but on farms where there are none, the

engagements are half-yearly, the men being paid weekly wages and sleeping at home, but given their board in the farmhouses. In the case of the men on the longer terms of engagement, living in cottages, they are sometimes subject to one month's, two months', or a quarter's notice.

In the western half of Ulster, where the farms are small and the districts poor, very little regular labour is employed. In certain poor law unions in Ulster, on the Western and Southern side, in the counties of Donegal, Fermanagh, Cavan and Monaghan the farm work is done mainly by members of the family, and hired lads living in the farmhouses, the farms being small ones. In these districts it is unusual to find ordinary agricultural labourers attached to the staff of farms, and casual labour is undertaken by the sons of small farmers. Again, in certain Poor Law Unions in the same counties, and also in certain unions in the counties of Londonderry and Tyrone, a good many lads are hired to live in the farmhouses, and where regular married men are employed, they generally get a free cottage, about a rood of potato land, and sometimes milk, in addition to their cash wages.

Some of the principal hiring fairs in Ulster are Antrim, Armagh, Aughnacloy, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Bailieborough, Banbridge, Ballynahinch, Cavan, Cookstown, Coleraine, Cotehill, Comber, Dungannon, Derrygonnelly, Enniskillen, Irvinestown, Killyleagh, Lisbellaw, Letterkenny, Monaghan, Magherafelt, Mewry, Newtownards, Newtown Hamilton, and Strabane. Young boys and girls are frequently coming from the western part of Donegal to the half yearly hirings at Letterkenny, and many of them go to the smaller farms in the counties of Londonderry and Tyrone.

In other parts of Ireland, the terms of engagement are generally not so long, and there are no hiring fairs, though in many districts unmarried men are engaged privately, usually by the year, but sometimes by the half year, or quarter, and occasionally for such periods as nine or ten months, and lodged and boarded in the farmhouses. Frequently, definite agreements are made as to notice, but difficulties are not often raised if either of the parties desires to terminate the engagement. The married men are mostly paid weekly, and the unmarried men lodged and boarded in the farmhouses, at the end of their term of service, though advances are frequently made during the term.

It may be stated generally that for ordinary labourers, regularly attached to the staff of a farm, a weekly engagement is a common one. There are, however, exceptions. In numerous cases, the engagement is a daily one; and where it is nominally a weekly one, but not "wet and dry," it is for all practical purposes a daily one. In certain districts monthly, half-yearly or yearly engagements are to be found. Sometimes in the same locality there is a mixed system. Thus, in a Poor Union in Limerick both weekly and yearly engagements exist for ordinary labourers. In the rich dairy lands, for a wide area around Killmallock (Co. Limerick), dairy girls and men are engaged from Kerry from about St. Patrick's Day (17 March) to Christmas Day. Again, in Tipperary, in one union engagements are by the month, with a month's notice, in another Union by the week "wet and dry," in another by the day or the week, not "wet and dry." Again, in King's county some engagements are yearly, half-yearly, and weekly. Generally speaking, the daily engagements are to be found more often in the poorer districts, or in the localities where the farms are small, labour not being required all the year round.

In many counties ordinary labourers get their food in the farmhouses on working days, the cash wages in such cases being at a lower rate than in districts in which no food is provided.

Herds and Shepherds are usually engaged by the quarter, the half-year, or the year, and the notice to quit their situations varies considerably. They are frequently paid largely in kind, receiving a free house, some tillage land, potatoes, hay, the right to graze a certain number of animals, to cut peat, &c. In cases where a farmer takes more than one farm, a herd is often put in charge of one and his responsibilities are then considerable. Herds frequently stay in the same situation for many years. It is not uncommon to find cases where they have been born on the farm or property where they are employed, and where their fathers and grandfathers “herded” on the same farm.

The engagement of men in charge of horses and cattle, though sometimes as long as that of herds, is often a weekly or monthly one, but their work is continuous, and they frequently remain in their situations a long time.

Casual labourers are nearly always engaged by the day, and lose time in wet weather, though they are sometimes engaged by the week. In a good many districts, notably on the Western side of Ireland, there is not sufficient casual work all year round to enable men to gain a livelihood by it, and in such localities casual work is frequently undertaken by the sons of small farmers and their sons become migratory labourers at certain seasons of the year (see p.26).^{*} But in some other parts of Ireland farmers have complained in recent years of a scarcity of married casual labourers, that is, men who earn their entire livelihood by working for different farmers, or by taking other odd jobs. In the small towns there are often some men of this class. At hay time and harvest, casual labour is frequently in considerable request for mowing and cutting. On the other hand, this class of men not infrequently find it difficult to obtain sufficient work in the winter months.

Except where there are market gardens near large towns, women are not much employed at out-door work for wages, though the wives and daughters of small farmers frequently assist on the farm. At busy seasons, however, in some districts, women are engaged, generally by the day, for such work as haymaking and harvest, weeding and hoeing, turnip lifting, potato picking and flax pulling. A good many girls are engaged in the farmhouses for farm-house work.

Extra cash payments

Generally speaking there are very few extra cash payments made to ordinary labourers. In many districts there is no piecework given at all, and in others the practice is usually a very limited one. Piecework is more generally undertaken by casual men than by those regularly attached to a staff of a farm. The following operations are sometimes done by piecework – cutting and saving turf, mowing, making fences, making drains, grubbing up furze, stone breaking and occasionally thinning turnips. Mowing and saving hay by piecework is generally done by casual labourers, who are often engaged at it for a number of weeks, and in some districts they are in considerable request. They also do cutting at corn harvest in some districts by piecework. Ploughmen sometimes do ploughing and

^{*} See p.138 of British Parliamentary papers, Accounts and Papers 54, Statistical tables, Agriculture (Great Britain and Ireland), 1905, XCVII.

herds occasionally do shearing and cut and save hay by piecework. In some districts it used to be common practice for herds to be bound by the terms of their agreement to cut and save a certain quantity of hay each year, but since the introduction of machinery, the custom is dying out.

It is frequently the case that no extra wages are given at hay and corn harvest to the men who are regularly attached to the staff of a farm, though in a good many districts a rather higher rate than the ordinary summer wages is paid, amounting perhaps to an extra 2s 6d to 3s a week. In more populous districts for instance in county Dublin, the extra wages paid range from 4s to 9s a week. It is the custom in some districts to pay a bonus for harvest of from 10s to 30s.

In the case of men in charge of cattle and horses, where they take part in hay and corn harvest, it is the custom in some districts to pay them nothing extra, on the ground that they have regular work all year round. But when they are paid, they usually get the same as the ordinary labourers.

Allowances in kind

With the exception of those labourers who agree to have their food provided for them in the farmhouses on working days, in lieu of a higher wage, ordinary labourers are not usually given payments in kind, but, when they are, the payments generally consist of some milk, turf (peat), or the right to cut turf. In a few districts a little coal is provided, and in some cases free grazing for an animal. Some employers give potato-ground free, and sometimes manured and tilled as well, but more frequently the labourer pays a comparatively low rent for it. Many labourers hire land from farmers "con-acre," as it is called, mainly for the cultivation of potatoes. The rent charged for "con-acre" varies according to the quality of the soil, and to the arrangements as regards manuring and tillage, e.g., whether done by farmers or the labourer.

It is not a general custom to give ordinary labourers free cottages, but it is more frequently done in Ulster and Leinster than in Munster and Connaught. In some districts in County Limerick those who have free cottages agree to work all year round at a fixed sum. In parts of County Clare there is a custom for labourers to get cottages rent free, in return for which they guarantee to give a certain number of days when required, which generally amount to about thirty during the year. They also get about half an acre of land, and sometimes the grazing of a cow. In such cases the wages were often as low as 6s a week without any food.

Herds are usually provided with cottages free, and married men in charge of cattle and horses often get them, though not as frequently as herds. In addition to getting free cottages, herds often get other payments in kind, such as tillage and grazing land, turf, hay, milk, the right to graze a certain number of animals, including cattle, horses, sheep, and to run out pigs and geese. In some districts in the province of Connaught, and also in parts of County Clare (Munster), they are often paid entirely or almost entirely in kind. Married men in charge of horses and cattle are not infrequently given turf, milk and potato land.

Cottage rents in most rural districts in Ireland range from 6d to 1s 6d a week, 1s being the most usual, but nearer the towns they sometimes run up to 2s.

According to returns furnished to the Department at the end of 1899 by Local Government Board Inspectors giving the weekly rental generally paid by agricultural labourers for cottages in 143 Poor Law Unions in Ireland, the rents in 22 of these Unions varied from 6d to 1s a week; in 65 unions the rent was generally 1s., and in 56 unions the rents were 1s and above, the maximum rent being over 1s 6d in 11 unions.

Local Government Board Inspectors and others in reply to questions addressed to them in 1904 show that 1s a week is the most usual rent paid.

According to a House of Commons return* there were in March, 1904, 17,411 cottages built under the Labourers' Acts, and 2,063 under construction, distributed as follows

Table 1

Province	Number of Labourers' cottages	
	Built	In course of construction
Ulster	905	255
Munster	9,254	1,149
Leinster	7,005	583
Connaught	247	76
Total	17,411	2,063

The annual report of the Local Government Board for Ireland for the year ended 31 March 1902, shows the average rents of cottages built under the Labourers Acts in each rural district. On this basis it is computed that the average rent for these cottages, taking the whole of Ireland, was 10 ½ d per week.

The land attached to those houses is generally half an acre or an acre, about 65 per cent of the garden allotments with houses under the Labourers Acts are half an acre in extent.

II – Wages and Earnings

Wages and earnings of ordinary labourers

It has already been explained that in a number of the poorer districts in Ireland agricultural labourers as a class scarcely exist, and that, in many parts owing to the small size of the farms, which are mainly worked by the farmer and his family, the number of agricultural labourers regularly attached to the staff of a farm is comparatively small. Consequently, the difficulty of obtaining information, which could be described as representative, as to the annual earnings of farm labourers in these districts is great. But in many other parts of Ireland where the farms are larger, although a considerable number of agricultural labourers are employed, the task of securing accurate information as to their earnings is one by no means an easy one, on account of the absence of labour books. Figures can, indeed, be obtained from many owners of estates who farm on their own account; but the wages paid by employers of this type are frequently somewhat higher

* Labourers' Cottages (Ireland) [H.C. 188 of 1904]

than those paid by neighbouring farmers, and, in addition, more allowances in kind are often given.

The method by which information has been obtained has already been fully explained and, for reasons stated, it has not been found possible in many cases to give annual earnings for a county based entirely on figures actually taken from books, and consequently some estimates have had to be made, particularly as to amounts of allowances in kind given. But since representative employers in different parts of each county have given full particulars of the weekly rates of cash wages of their labourers, and the total yearly cash earnings, with details as to how they are made up, and also the allowances in kind, and since information given by the Local Government Board Inspectors as to the precise allowances usually made in most of the Poor Law Unions in Ireland is available, it is believed that the figures given in the tables below are practically correct.

Owing to the general absence of piecework and of opportunities of earning much in the way of extra payments in harvest time, the annual earnings of farm labourers who are not fed in the farmhouses do not, generally speaking, much exceed the total amount received in weekly cash wages. In estimating the annual earnings, the value of cottages, where given free of rent, has for all counties been computed at 2/ 12s. In all cases in the table below, the wages and earnings are those of men in receipt of men's full wages.

In the following table the maximum and minimum summer and winter rates of weekly cash wages in 1902 of the ordinary labourers regularly attached to the staff of a farm who have no food provided in the farmhouses on working days, are given for each county, also the predominant rates of weekly cash wages and the estimated total weekly earnings, including all extra cash payments and the value of allowances in kind. In counties where the predominant rate of wages in winter is lower than in the summer it has been reckoned, for the purpose of arriving at the average rate for the whole year, that the ratio of summer to winter weeks is as 3 to 2. The earnings of this class have been selected for the purposes of the map facing page 1.[§]

[§] Unfortunately, it is currently not possible to reproduce this map in electronic form.

Table 2

Wages and earnings of ordinary labourers

County	Range of weekly cash wages		Predominant rates of weekly cash wages			Estimated total weekly earnings *
	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Average of Summer and winter	
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	
Ulster						
Antrim	11 6 to 15 0	11 6 to 15 0	12 6	12 6	12 6	12 11
Armagh	10 0 to 14 0	9 0 to 12 0	11 0	10 0	10 7	11 6
Cavan	9 0 to 12 0	7 6 to 11 0	10 0	9 0	9 7	10 4
Donegal	7 6 to 10 0	7 6 to 10 0	9 0	9 0	9 0	10 1
Down	11 0 to 15 0	11 0 to 15 0	12 6	12 6	12 6	13 0
Fermanagh	9 0 to 11 0	7 6 to 11 0	9 0	9 0	9 0	9 11
Londonderry	10 0 to 11 0	10 0 to 11 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	11 3
Monaghan	8 0 to 12 0	8 0 to 12 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 9
Tyrone	9 0 to 12 0	9 0 to 12 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 10
Munster						
Clare	9 0 to 12 0	9 0 to 10 0	9 0	9 0	9 0	9 7
Cork	9 0 to 12 0	9 0 to 12 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 10
Kerry	9 0 to 11 0	9 0 to 11 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 3
Limerick	9 0 to 12 0	8 0 to 11 0	10 0	9 0	9 7	10 4
Tipperary	10 0 to 12 0	9 0 to 12 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 5
Waterford	9 0 to 13 0	9 0 to 13 0	11 0	10 0	10 7	11 1
Leinster						
Carlow	10 0 to 12 6	9 0 to 12 0	11 0	10 0	10 7	11 3
Dublin	12 0 to 15 0	10 0 to 15 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 9
Kildare	9 0 to 12 0	9 0 to 12 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 7
Kilkenny	9 0 to 12 0	9 0 to 12 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 6
King's County	8 0 to 11 0	8 0 to 10 0	10 0	9 0	9 7	10 5
Longford	8 0 to 12 0	8 0 to 11 0	10 0	9 0	9 7	10 9
Louth	8 0 to 12 0	8 0 to 12 0	10 0	9 0	9 7	10 8
Meath	8 0 to 12 0	8 0 to 12 0	10 0	9 0	9 7	10 7
Queen's County	9 0 to 12 0	9 0 to 12 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 8
Westmeath	9 0 to 10 0	8 0 to 10 0	10 0	9 0	9 7	10 3
Wexford	9 0 to 10 0	9 0 to 10 0	10 0	9 0	9 7	10 4
Wicklow	9 0 to 12 0	9 0 to 12 0	11 0	10 0	10 7	10 4
Connaught						
Galway	9 0 to 12 0	7 6 to 12 0	10 0	9 0	9 7	9 9
Leitrim	8 0 to 12 0	7 6 to 9 0	9 0	8 0	8 7	9 3
Mayo	8 0 to 12 0	7 0 to 11 0	9 0	8 0	8 7	8 9
Roscommon	7 0 to 12 0	7 0 to 12 0	9 0	8 0	8 7	9 1
Sligo	7 0 to 10 0	7 0 to 10 0	9 0	8 0	8 7	8 11

* Including value of allowances in kind

The rates of cash wages of casual men are often higher than those paid to the men regularly attached to the staff of the farm, more particularly in the summer. In a number of districts casual men are paid 3s to 3s 6d a day, at hay and corn harvests, and up to 4s and 4s and 6d in parts of Ulster and Leinster. On the other hand, in a number of districts where employment is scarce, casual men are paid lower rates of wages in the winter than the regular men, and often eke out a very precarious existence if they are married men having to pay rent for a cottage.

The following table shows for each county the total estimated weekly earnings in 1902 of men regularly attached to the staff of a farm, and providing their own food, arranged in order from highest to lowest: -

Table 3

County	Estimated total weekly earnings (including value of allowances in kind)	County	Estimated total weekly earnings (including value of allowances in kind)
	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>
Over 12s per week		Over 10s and under 11s per week – contd.	
Down	13 0	Kilkenny	10 6
Antrim	12 11	Tipperary	10 5
Dublin	12 9	King’s county	10 5
Over 11s and under 12s per week		Cavan	10 4
Armagh	11 6	Limerick	10 4
Wicklow	11 4	Wexford	10 4
Carlow	11 3	Kerry	10 3
Londonderry	11 3	Westmeath	10 3
Waterford	11 1	Donegal	10 1
Over 10s and under 11s per week		Over 9s and under 10s per week	
Tyrone	10 10	Fermanagh	9 11
Cork	10 10	Galway	9 9
Monaghan	10 9	Clare	9 7
Longford	10 9	Leitrim	9 3
Queen’s County	10 8	Roscommon	9 1
Louth	10 8	Under 9s per week	
Kildare	10 7	Sligo	8 11
Meath	10 7	Mayo	8 9

In Connaught, not only are rates of wages low, but there is practically no piecework, very little harvest money, if any, and very few allowances in kind. Very similar conditions prevail in the Western counties of Ulster, namely Donegal and Fermanagh.

The following table shows the difference between wages and earnings in each county, beginning with the county where the difference is greatest, in the case of men regularly attached to the staff of a farm, and providing their own food.

Table 4

County	Average weekly cash wage	Excess of estimated weekly earnings over average cash wages	County	Average weekly cash wage	Excess of estimated weekly earnings over average cash wages
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. .d.</i>		<i>s. .d.</i>	<i>s. .d.</i>
Londonderry	10 10	1 3	Leitrim	8 7	0 8
Longford	9 7	1 2	Westmeath	9 7	0 8
Donegal	9 0	1 1	Queen's county	10 0	0 8
Louth	9 7	1 1	Carlow	10 7	0 8
Meath	9 7	1 0	Clare	9 0	0 7
Fermanagh	9 0	0 11	Kildare	10 0	0 7
Armagh	10 7	0 11	Roscommon	8 7	0 6
King's county	9 7	0 10	Kilkenny	10 0	0 6
Tyrone	10 0	0 10	Waterford	10 7	0 6
Cork	10 0	0 10	Down	12 6	0 6
Cavan	9 7	0 9	Tipperary	10 0	0 5
Limerick	9 7	0 9	Antrim	12 6	0 5
Wexford	9 7	0 9	Sligo	8 7	0 4
Monaghan	10 0	0 9	Kerry	10 0	0 3
Wicklow	10 7	0 9	Galway	9 7	0 2
Dublin	12 0	0 9	Mayo	8 7	0 2

It has already been explained that, generally speaking, ordinary labourers do not earn much extra in cash over and above their regular weekly wages, as little or no piecework is done by men in constant employment, and the extra payments for hay and corn harvest are generally comparatively small, if any. It will be seen in the preceding table that, in 10 of the 32 counties, the average weekly earnings did not exceed the average of the summer and winter rates of weekly cash wages by more than 6*d* while the excess amounted to 1*s* or more in five counties only.

The following are some of the instances of actual cash earnings of ordinary labourers in 1902, taken by certain employers from their books. The figures refer to the whole of the ordinary labourers regularly employed on the farms, and therefore include men who have been absent from illness or any other cause, but they do not include odd men or casual men.

Table 5 – A

Labourers provided with food by employers

County and Poor Law union	No. of ordinary labourers attached to the staff of the farm in 1902	Rates of weekly cash wages in 1902		Total amount of cash paid in 1902		Average weekly cash earnings throughout the year	Allowances in kind
		Summer	Winter	To all Labourers shown in column 2	Average amount per head		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
		<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	
Cavan							
Bawnboy	2	6 0	5 0	32 0 0	16 0 0	6 2	Food, free house, potato ground, milk, and turf (peat)
Fermanagh							
Irvinestown	2	6 0	6 0	31 4 0	15 12 0	6 0	Food, free house, potato ground, and turf
Tipperary							
Clogheen	4	9 0	6 0	76 0 0	19 0 0	7 4	Food to all; milk to one man, and horses to till his ground.
Waterford							
Dungarvan	6	6 0	6 0	84 0 0	14 0 0	5 5	Food, free house and garden, ½ acre of potato ground and manure for ¼ acre, grass of two goats and, in one case, grass of donkey.
Kildare							
Athy	2	6 0	6 0	35 10 0	17 15 0	6 10	Food to both: potato ground to one man, and turf to the other.
Kilkenny							
Thomastown	2	5 6	5 6	28 12 0	14 6 0	5 6	Food, free house and garden, grass of goats and donkey
Wexford							
Enniscorthy	1	5 0	5 0	13 0 0	13 0 0	5 0	Food, free house, ½ acre of potato ground, firing, milk, and butter milk.
Wicklow							
Rathdrum	2	6 0	6 0	31 4 0	15 12 0	6 0	Food.

Table 5 – B

Labourers finding their own food.

County and Poor Law Union	No. of ordinary labourers attached to the staff of the farm in 1902	Rates of weekly cash wages in 1902		Total amount of cash paid in 1902		Average weekly cash earnings throughout the year	Allowances in kind
		Summer	Winter	To all labourers shown in column 2	Average amount per head		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
		<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	
Antrim							
Lisburn {	1	12 6	12 6	67 18 0	33 19 0	13 1	} Free house
{	1	13 0	13 0				
Armagh							
Armagh	3	10 0	10 0	80 0 0	26 13 4	10 3	Free house and potato ground
Cavan							
Bawnboy	3	9 0	7 6	63 14 2	21 4 9	8 2	One quart of milk a day to one man.
Donegal							
Letterkenny	5	10 0	10 0	130 0 0	26 0 0	10 0	Free house, one rood of potato ground, and other land.
Down							
Newtownards {	5	12 0	12 0	153 8 0	30 13 7	11 10	Free house to two men
{	3	15 0	15 0				
Londonderry							
Coleraine	2	10 0	10 0	78 0 0	26 0 0	10 0	Free house and garden, ½ acre of potato ground, and free cartage of turf (peat)
Cork							
Skibereen	4	9 0	9 0	93 12 0	23 8 0	9 0	Free house, ½ acre of potato ground ploughed and manured, and grass of two sheep and lambs, or one heifer.

Table 5 – B (cont'd)

Labourers finding their own food.

County and Poor Law Union	No. of ordinary labourers attached to the staff of the farm in 1902	Rates of weekly cash wages in 1902		Total amount of cash paid in 1902		Average weekly cash earnings throughout the year	Allowances in kind
		Summer	Winter	To all labourers shown in column 2	Average amount per head		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
		<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	
Limerick							
Croom and Newcastle	8	8s to 9s	8s to 9s	170 0 0	21 5 0	8 2	Free house and garden to all; grass of cow and fuel to some
Dublin							
Balrothery	2	12 0	12 0	67 1 0	33 10 6	12 11	Free house, ½ rood of potato ground manured and tilled, one ton of coal, and firewood.
Kilkenny							
Thomastown	2	9 0	9 0	47 16 0	23 18 0	9 2	Free house and garden to one man; grass of goats and a donkey to both.
King's county							
Roscrea	9	8 0	8 0	179 12 0	19 19 1	7 8	To four men only; - free house, potato, ground, turf (peat) and grass of cows and donkey
Westmeath							
Mullingar	4	9 0	9 0	97 0 0	24 5 0	9 4	To two men only; - free house, one rood of potato ground and turf.
Wexford							
Gorey	3	9 0	9 0	73 4 0	24 8 0	9 5	Free house, potato ground, and fuel.
Wicklow							
Rathdrum	4	12 0	12 0	126 16 0	31 14 0	12 2	Free house, quart of new milk a day, and firewood to two

							men. To one man, 15 cwt. Of potatoes
Mayo							
Killala{	12	8 0	7 0	240 16 0	20 1 4	7 9	None
{	2	10 0	10 0	52 0 0	26 0 0	10 0	Free house.
Roscommon							
Roscommon	3	9 0	9 0	70 0 0	23 6 8	9 0	None

Wages and earnings of hired men

The rates of wages paid in 1902 to the men who are hired and lodged and boarded in the farmhouses are given below for each county in Ireland. It has already been stated that the custom of boarding and lodging men in the farmhouses exists to the greatest extent in Ulster, though in almost every county, this class of men is to be found.

It has not been found possible (as was also the case in Wales) to ascertain what is the predominant rate paid to the hired men in each county, as the range of wages is frequently so wide. Too strict a comparison should not be made between the minimum and maximum in one county and another, because in one case the figures may refer to extreme rates paid, which may possibly be quite exceptional, and in another case such extreme rates may have been omitted. It should, however, be added that the figures have been obtained from gentlemen whose knowledge of the districts for which the figures are given is great, and that in their opinion the rates quoted are representative.

The yearly earnings of the hired men have been obtained by adding the sum of 5s a week to represent the value of board and lodging, there being no other cash payments or allowances in kind in the case of this class of men. The selection of any particular sum as the value of the board and lodging of the hired men throughout Ireland is open to objection, because any figure so selected must of necessity be sometimes too high or too low according to varying circumstances, but after consultation with a number of authorities, the figure named has been selected as fairly representative.

In the table below is shown the minimum and maximum wages and earnings of the hired men lodged and boarded in the farmhouses in receipt of men's full wages in each county: -

Table 6

County	Yearly rates of cash wages	Estimated total earnings (including value of board and lodgings)	
		Per annum	Per week
	£	£	<i>s. d.</i>
Ulster			
Antrim	14 to 28	27 to 41	10 5 to 15 9
Armagh	14 to 28	27 to 35	10 5 to 13 6
Cavan	12 to 20	25 to 33	9 7 to 12 8
Donegal	14 to 20	27 to 33	10 5 to 12 8
Down	16 to 24	29 to 37	11 2 to 14 3
Fermanagh	16 to 20	29 to 33	11 2 to 12 8
Londonderry	14 to 20	27 to 33	10 5 to 12 8
Monaghan	16 to 22	29 to 35	11 2 to 13 6
Tyrone	14 to 20	27 to 33	10 5 to 12 8
Munster			
Clare	10 to 14	23 to 27	8 10 to 10 5
Cork	12 to 18	25 to 31	9 7 to 11 11
Kerry	12 to 18	25 to 31	9 7 to 11 11
Limerick	12 to 18	25 to 31	9 7 to 11 11
Tipperary	12 to 16	25 to 29	9 7 to 11 2
Waterford	12 to 20	25 to 33	9 7 to 12 8
Leinster			
Carlow	12 to 15	25 to 28	9 7 to 10 9
Dublin			
Kildare	12 to 16	25 to 29	9 7 to 11 2
Kilkenny	12 to 18	25 to 31	9 7 to 11 11
King's County	11 to 15	24 to 28	9 3 to 10 9
Longford	11 to 15	24 to 28	9 3 to 10 9
Louth	12 to 18	25 to 31	9 7 to 11 11
Meath	12 to 16	25 to 29	9 7 to 11 2
Queen's County	12 to 16	25 to 29	9 7 to 11 2
Westmeath	10 to 14	23 to 27	8 10 to 10 5
Wexford	12 to 15	25 to 28	9 7 to 10 9
Wicklow	13 to 15	26 to 28	10 0 to 10 9
Connaught			
Galway			
Leitrim	12 to 16	25 to 29	9 7 to 11 2
Mayo	10 to 14	23 to 27	8 10 to 10 5
Roscommon	10 to 14	23 to 27	8 10 to 10 5
Sligo	10 to 14	23 to 27	8 10 to 10 5

Wages and earnings of shepherds, herds and men in charge of horses and cattle.

It has already been stated that, as shepherds, herds and men specially in charge of horses and cattle are employed only on the large farms or estates, it has not been possible to make such extensive enquiries as to their earnings as in the case of ordinary labourers, and they usually get, especially the married men, more payments in kind, such as cottages, turf (peat), coal, potato land, and milk. Herds frequently get numerous allowances in kind, and, in addition to those mentioned, they frequently get grazing land for a certain number of animals, including cattle, horses, donkeys, sheep and a run for pigs and geese; also hay and tillage land.

In Connaught, herds, who are often put in charge of a farm, are frequently paid almost entirely in kind. Their payments vary considerably according to their responsibilities.

An employer in the Swinford Poor Law Union of County mayo, who has a herd to look after cattle and sheep, pays him no wages in cash, but this man has a free house, with five acres of land, and free turbary (the right to cut turf), also free grazing with the employer's cattle for three cows and their calves up to one and a half years of age. The employer estimates the annual value of these allowances at £40 a year. Six herds in the Castlebar Poor Law Union under the same employer get no regular cash wages, but they get paid for extra work. Their allowances in kind are as follows; - four acres of land for tillage, and grass and hay for four "soms."* In the Westport Poor Law Union of Mayo, four herds under the same employer get £13 a year each, three acres of land, grass and hay for two "soms," a mare, and a foal until a year old. In the Boyle Poor Law Union of Roscommon, a herd on a certain farm gets no cash wages, but two acres of land and the grass of two cows.

In the report published in 1900,[§] a number of examples of the total yearly earnings, including allowances in kind were given of shepherds, herds and men in charge of cattle (including cattlemen, horsemen, carters, and ploughmen) and men in charge of horses (including horsemen, carters and ploughmen). In the present report, some particulars as to the earnings of these classes on farms in certain counties in 1903 are now given in the following table: -

* A "som" in that part of the county comprises a cow, a half-year old calf and a weanling calf.

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Table 7

County and Poor Law union	Occupation	No. of men	Rate of weekly cash wages	Allowances in kind
			<i>s. d.</i>	
Down				
Downpatrick {	Shepherd	1	12 0	} Free House
{	Herd	1	15 0	
{	Assistant Herd	1	12 0	
Fermanagh				
Enniskillen	Herds	4	No cash wages, but 2 s. a day for extra work	About 2 acres of manured land for potatoes and corn, and keep of 2 cows and calves (until one year old)
Tyrone				
Dungannon	Shepherd	1	14 0	Free house and garden
Cork				
Mallow	Cattlemen	2 {	11 0	} Free house, potato ground, firewood and ½ ton of coal.
		{	10 0	
Limerick				
Croom	Herds	3	10 0	Free house, potato ground and keep of a cow
Tipperary				
Nenagh {	Herd	1	8 6	} Free house, and grass and hay of cow to both; also ½ acre of manured potato ground to herd
{	Horsemen	1	12 6	
Kildare				
Athy	Herd	1	13 0	Free house, milk, and coal
King's county				
Roscrea {	Herd	1	6 0	} Free house, and garden (2 acres), grass of 2 cows and horse, run for calf, pigs, &c.
{	Horsemen	1	10 0	
Longford				
Granard	Herds	2 {	10 0	} Free house and garden to both; one gets grazing for cow, and other for 4 sheep
		{	9 0	
Meath				
Navan	Herds	3	9 0	Free house and garden (1/2 stat. acre), 2 tons of coal,

				grass, of cow and calf (until one year old)
Queen's county				
Mountmellick {	Herd	1	15 0	}None }
	Cowmen	2	11 0	
Mayo				
Castlebar	Herds	6	No cash wages but paid for extra work	Four acres of land for tillage, grass and hay for 4 "soms" (i.e. 4 cows, 4 half-year old calves and 4 weanling calves)
Roscommon				
Boyle	Herd	1	No cash wages	Grass of two cows and 2 acres of land
Castlerea {	Cattleman	1	12 0	}Free house } } }
	and shepherd			
	Horseman	1	12 0	

III – Particulars of the conditions of labour on farms in certain counties in 1902 and 1902-03

The following particulars are from a farm in Donegal, in the Poor Law of Strabane: -

The size of the farm is about 400 acres of which about 50 acres are permanent pastures, the rest being arable. About 40 acres are cut for Hay.

There are 6 milking cows, 12 pedigree cows rearing their calves, 80 to 100 other cattle, and 150 to 200 sheep. There are 8 farm horses.

The men regularly employed on the farm are two cattlemen, one man who looks after sheep, pigs and other animals as required, and seven other labourers, of whom from three to five act as horsemen, working the horses and feeding and attending them in stables. There are also five lads. The engagements of the men are for 12 months, the term of service commencing either on 1 May or 1 November. A month's notice has to be given on either side before term time. All the men and lads are given regular employment throughout the year, and are paid if absent on account of illness. They get an occasional holiday, their wages being paid them.

Five to ten women are employed periodically, and five to ten men in Spring and at Harvest.

The hours of work in summer are from 7am to 6pm, with an hour off for dinner and in winter from light to dark. The horsemen are engaged about half an hour extra in the morning and half an hour after leaving off work in the evening, feeding and grooming their horses. An hour is allowed off for dinner, but the employer says that this is often extended to an hour and a half. On Sundays the men are occupied about three hours with the animals, summer and winter.

No piecework is given, no extra money payments are made at hay and corn harvest to the regular men. The three men in charge of animals usually have a bonus of 20 s. half yearly.

The wages, earnings, and allowances are as follows: -

Table 8

Class of farm labourer	Rates of weekly cash wages per man	Average weekly cash earnings per man	Allowances in kind
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	
Seven ordinary labourers and horsemen	9 0	9 0	Free house, half rood of potatoes, and two tons of coal
Three men in charge of cattle &c.	10 0	10 9	Free house, half rood of potatoes, and two tons of coal

The lads are paid 1s to 1s 6d a day and get no allowances. Extra men employed in spring and at harvest are paid 2s to 2s 6d a day and 15s to 20s an acre (Cunningham)* for mowing or pulling flax.

Rents of farm labourers' cottages in this neighbourhood are 1s to 1s 6d a week, but men who are engaged by the year get them free.

The following particulars are from a farm in Omagh Poor Law Union of Tyrone: -

The acreage of the farm is 128 acres of which 80 acres are in grass; 26 acres are cut for hay. There are 12 milking cows and 21 other cattle. There are 4 farm horses.

The number of men regularly employed are two hired half yearly, who are lodged and boarded in the farm house and look after horses; and two men paid weekly on a six months notice. There is also a lad hired half-yearly, and lodged and boarded in the farmhouse.

These men are given regular employment, but are not paid if absent on account of illness or on Roman Catholic holidays. Some extra men are employed at hay and corn harvest, and for pulling and handling flax.

The hours of work are from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The men begin to feed their horses before 6 a.m. and in the evening they feed them before 7 p.m.

The time allowed for meals is an hour for breakfast, from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; an hour for dinner, from noon to 1 p.m.; and half an hour at tea at 3.30 p.m.

On Sundays the two hired men are occupied one and a half hours in summer and about two hours in winter.

The wages, earnings, and allowances in kind are as follows: -

* The Cunningham acre is equal to 1.291 statute acres.

Table 9

Class of farm labourers	Half yearly rate of wages per man.	Allowances in kind.
	<i>£ s. d.</i>	
Two hired men	10 10 0	} Board and lodging.
One lad	5 10 0	

Table 10

Class of farm labourers	Rates of weekly cash wages per man	Average weekly cash earnings per man	Allowances in kind.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	
Two ordinary labourers	7 0	7 0	Breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper. Free house, potato ground, and horse work; also turf (peat)

Extra men are paid 1s 6d a day in summer and 1s a day in winter.

Rents of cottages of farm labourers in this district vary from 1s to 1s 6d a week. The men usually get potato ground, free bog, carting furl, and manure.

The following particulars are from a farm in the Castlerea Poor Law Union of Roscommon: -

The size of the farm is 330 acres, of which 313 are permanent pasture. About 40m acres are cut for hay. There are 7 milking cows, 120 other cattle, 225 sheep, and 3 horses for farm purposes.

The men regularly employed on the farm are seven ordinary labourers, four lads, and two herds. Two of these seven men are horsemen, who do general work if required. The seven men and four lads are on a monthly notice, and they are paid weekly. They are given regular employment, and paid if absent on account of illness unless absent for a long period. The two herds are engaged by the year, with a months notice.

Four or five extra men are employed between May and November at fencing, cutting weeds, haymaking, and cutting and saving turf (peat).

The hours of work in summer are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and in winter from light to dark. Horsemen begin a half hour earlier, and are occupied half an hour to an hour later in the evening.

The men have from 9 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. off for breakfast, and from 12.30 p.m. to 1.15 p.m. for dinner.

Two men are engaged on Sundays, about two hours in summer and about three hours in winter. The herds on Sunday have to look after the animals under their charge, but the time thus occupied cannot be stated.

No extra money is paid to the regular men for hay or corn harvest. A little piece work is given during the winter months for making and scouring drains, cutting fences, and stone breaking.

The Wages, earnings, and allowances are as follows: -

Table 11

Class of farm labourers	Rates of weekly cash wages per man	Average weekly cash earnings per man	Allowances in kind.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	
Five ordinary labourers	12 0	11 7	} Cottage and } garden, half an } acre of land, and } turf bank.
Two horsemen	12 0	11 7	
Four lads	10 0	10 0	

Table 12

Class of farm labourers	Rates of cash wages (monthly)	Allowances in kind.
	<i>£ s. d.</i>	
Two herds	2 5 0	} House and garden, two } acres of land, and grass of } three cows.

Extra men are paid 12s a week, and 9s an acre for mowing.

The usual rent paid for cottages by farm labourers in the neighbourhood is 13s a quarter.

The following particulars are from two farms in county Kildare, in the Poor Law Union of Athy, in the occupation of the same farmer: -

One is a grass farm of 110 acres. The other farm is 210 acres, all tillage except 10 acres.

The grass farm has 50 cattle, 40 sheep and 4 young horses. The tillage farm has 25 cattle, 120 sheep, and 9 farm horses.

There are ten men regularly employed, who are paid by the week, and also a herd. A month's notice has to be given on either side.

These men have regular work all year round, and are paid if absent on account of illness.

Five extra men are employed threshing corn. Extra labour is employed, both men and women, for harvest work, and women are also employed for two or three week's turnip hoeing at 1s 6d a day. Extra men and women are paid 4s a day. The employer always works with the men himself.

The hours of work in the summer are from 7 a.m. till 6 p.m. with an hour off for dinner from 12 to 1, and from 7 a.m. till dark in winter with an hour off for meals.

The only piecework given is at turnip pulling. £1 extra is paid to the men for harvest.

The wages, earnings, and allowances are as follows: -

Table 13

Class of farm labourers	Rates of weekly cash wages per man	Average weekly cash earnings per man	Allowances in kind.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	
Five men	10 00	10 4 ½	Except two men, all have free houses, potato ground and some get free milk, and are allowed turnips for 2 pigs, and keep what fowl they like. One man pays 16s a year for house and 3 ½ roods of land, and the other 1s for house and garden
Five men	9 00	9 4 ½	
One herd	10 00	10 00	Free house, a cow kept free and allowed to keep fowls.

The extra labour on the farm costs about £37 a year.

The following particulars are from a farm in Queen's county, in the Poor Law Union of Abbeyleix: -

The total acreage is 745 acres, of which 140 are arable and 310 permanent grass, and the rest bog and plantations. There are 80 acres cut for hay. There are 12 milking cows, 130 to 150 other cattle, 333 sheep, 8 farm horses, in addition to 13 brood mares, colts and foals.

The number of farm labourers regularly employed is seventeen. Of these, four look after horses and one is a yardman. In addition, there is a shepherd, and also a boy. These men are engaged by the week and given regular work. If absent on account of illness they are generally paid half wages, but not for Roman Catholic holidays, or when they absent themselves for other purposes.

Three boys are also employed in the spring and summer at 10d to 1s a day weeding, thinning turnips and mangels, spreading manure in drills for root crops, and binding at harvest.

The hours of work in summer are from 7 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. and in winter from 7.30 a.m. to dark. The meal time in summer is from noon to 1.30 p.m. and in winter from noon to 1 p.m.

The yardman feeds the horses before the men come at 7 a.m. and it takes each of the four men who look after horses 10 to 15 minutes to get his horses ready to start work.

In the evening the horses beds are laid down, and the food put into mangers and racks before they come in from work, and on their return it takes the horse men about 20 minutes to clean the horses down.

On Sundays in the summer the shepherd, yardman, and two other men are employed two hours , morning and evening, looking after animals , and in winter the shepherd, the yard man, and four other men are employed about the same time.

There is no piecework and nothing extra is paid for hay or corn harvest or for overtime.

The wages, earnings and allowances are as follows: -

Table 14

Class of farm labourers	Rates of weekly cash wages per man	Average weekly cash earnings per man	Allowances in kind.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	
Seventeen ordinary labourers	9s to 10s	9s 6d	Free houses, ½ acre of land. Free turf bank, and those with families have grass of a cow valued at £4 a year.
One shepherd	11s 6d	11s 6d	House, two acres of land and grass of a cow.

The following particulars are from a farm in county Limerick, in the Poor Law Union of Croom; -

The size of the farm is 150 acres, of which 145 acres are grass; 60 acres are cut hay.

There are 50 milking cows, 10 cattle and 3 farm horses.

The men regularly employed on the farm are two men hired for 10 months from 1 March to 31 December, and four men engaged weekly, who are on a weekly notice.

The weekly men are employed every day unless the weather is extraordinarily bad. If absent on account of illness they are usually paid either in cash or kind.

Three women are employed milking dairy cows and feeding young calves and pigs.

Three extra men assist at hay and corn harvest at 2 s a day and two meals.

The hours of work in the summer are from 7.30 a.m. to 7 p.m., with an hour off for dinner, and in winter from light to dark, about 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. with an hour off for dinner. These hours are inclusive of any time spent feeding and grooming horses or getting them from the fields in summer.

On Sunday one man attends for about three hours.

No piecework is given or any extra payments for hay or corn harvest, but allowances are given when travelling.

The wages, earnings, and allowances in kind are as follows: -

Table 15

Class of farm labourers	Rates of weekly cash wages per man	Average weekly cash earnings per man	Allowances in kind.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	
four labourers	8 6	8 6	Two men have free house and a rood of ground and razing for goats. One man has a meal a day free.

Table 16

Hired men and women

Class of farm labourers	Yearly rate of cash wages	Allowances in kind.
Two men	£15 each for 10 months	Board and lodging.
Two women	£15 each for 10 months	Board and lodging.

One woman gets 3s 6d a week to milk cows. She is wife of one of the men employed on the farm.

Farm labourers in this neighbourhood generally get cottage free and about a rood of ground and grazing for goats.

The following particulars are from a farm in the Skibbereen Poor Law Union of County Cork: -

The size of the farm is 132 acres, of which 107 acres are grass, and 17 acres are cut for hay. The number of milking cows is 30, of other cattle, 39, and of sheep, 18. There are 4 farm horses.

There are four men regularly employed. Two of them look after the horses, and are lodged and boarded in the farmhouse. These two men are engaged by the year. Notice has to be given a month before term time. The other two men are engaged by the week and live in cottages. They have 2 meals a day given to them in the farmhouse. All four men are given regular employment throughout the year, but are not paid if absent on account of illness.

An extra man is employed thinning roots and saving hay at 2s a day. A woman is employed at harvest and threshing time at 1s 6d a day.

No extra money is paid to the regular men for harvest and no piecework is given.

The hours of work in summer are from 6.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m., and in winter 7 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. This is inclusive of the time spent feeding and grooming horses, or fetching them from or turning them out into the fields. An hour is allowed for breakfast and an hour for dinner.

Two men are occupied on Sundays for 2 hours with animals, summer and winter.

The wages, earnings, and allowances are as follows: -

Table 17

Hired men and women

Class of farm labourers	Yearly rate of cash wages per man	Allowances in kind.
Two hired men (yearly)	£18	Board and lodging.

Table 18

Class of farm labourers	Rate of weekly wages and average weekly cash earnings	Allowances in kind.
One ordinary labourer (paid weekly)	6s	Free house, half acre of potato ground manured, 2 tons of coal, and 1 pint of milk or buttermilk everyday
One ordinary labourer (paid weekly)	7s	

The usual rent paid for cottages by farm labourers in this neighbourhood is 1s a week.

IV – Rates of wages for a series of years

In the appendix (pages 220-5) are given the rates of weekly cash wages paid for a series of years on 22 farms situated in various counties, and also information as to allowances in kind. Ten of these records are for periods of 54 years (1850-1903) and upwards, and these are included in the table on page 137 [p.25-26 of this document]

Returns received for 1904 (too late for inclusion) show that these wages remained at the same level as in 1903.

Table 19

Average weekly cash wages paid in each of the undermentioned years to ordinary agricultural labourers employed on certain farms in Ireland, also the percentage fluctuations of such wages year by year, as compared with the year 1900.*

Year	Average cash wages per week		Percentage fluctuations in wages compared with standard year 1900	
	1850-1903 (10 farms)	1874-1903 (22 farms)	1850-1903 (10 farms)	1874-1903 (22 farms)
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>		
1850	5 10 ½		55.7	
1851	5 10 ½		55.7	
1852	5 10 ½		55.7	
1853	5 10 ½		55.7	
1854	5 10 ½		55.7	
1855	6 0		56.9	
1856	6 2		58.5	
1857	6 2		58.5	
1858	6 4 ½		60.5	
1859	6 5		60.9	
1860	6 7 ½		62.8	
1861	6 7 ½		62.8	
1862	6 7		60.5	
1863	6 7		60.9	
1864	6 9 ½		64.4	
1865	6 9 ½		64.4	
1866	7 0		66.4	
1867	7 1		67.2	
1868	7 2		68.0	
1869	7 3 ½		69.2	
1870	7 6		71.1	
1871	7 7		71.9	
1872	7 9 ½		73.9	
1873	7 10		74.3	
1874	7 10	7 6 ½	74.3	79.7
1875	7 11	7 7 ½	75.1	80.6
1876	8 2 ½	7 10	77.9	82.8
1877	8 3 ½	7 11	78.7	83.7
1878	8 4 ½	8 0	79.4	84.6
1879	8 4 ½	8 0	79.4	84.6
1880	8 6	8 1	80.6	85.5

* The cash wages are exclusive of extra payments for hay and corn harvests, overtime, &c., and also the value of allowances in kind.

1881	8 6	8 1	80.6	85.5
1882	8 8	8 2	82.2	86.3
1883	8 11	8 3	84.6	87.2
1884	8 11	8 4 ½	84.6	88.6
1885	8 11 ½	8 4 ½	85.0	88.6
1886	9 2	8 6	87.0	89.9
1887	9 4	8 7	88.5	90.8
1888	9 4	8 7 ½	88.5	91.2
1889	9 4 ½	8 8	88.9	91.6
1890	9 5 ½	8 9 ½	89.7	93.0
1891	9 5 ½	8 9 ½	89.7	93.0
1892	9 6	8 10 ½	90.1	93.8
1893	9 6	8 10	90.1	93.4
1894	9 7	8 11	90.9	94.3
1895	9 9	9 0	92.5	95.2
1896	9 11 ½	9 1 ½	94.5	96.5
1897	10 0 ½	9 2	95.3	96.9
1898	10 2 ½	9 2 ½	96.8	97.4
1899	10 5 ½	9 5	99.2	99.6
1900	10 6 ½	9 5 ½	100.0	100.0
1901	10 6 ½	9 6 ½	100.0	100.9
1902	10 7 ½	9 10	100.8	103.1
1903	10 8	9 11	101.2	104.9

V – Migratory labourers in England and Scotland

A large number of men, and also a good many women, go every year from Ireland to work on farms in certain counties in England and Scotland. The Department of Agriculture and technical instruction for Ireland estimate that about 20 ½ per cent of the migratory labourers are small landholders, the majority of these landholders coming from the province of Connaught. Some of the men start as early as February, and take part in the ordinary work on farms, not returning until late in the Autumn; but the majority do not start until June. They find employment during the summer and Autumn at hoeing, haymaking, harvesting, and taking up potatoes and roots, and on dairy farms in parts of Cheshire, they are engaged at milking. In this county Irishmen begin to come in February, and some stay until November or even December.

When engaged in England upon ordinary farm work, such as thinning turnips and potato lifting, they are frequently employed at piecework; and in parts of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, and Warwickshire they undertake harvest by piecework; But in the Northern counties they are generally engaged by the week or month, and in some districts they are hired at hiring fairs held specially for hay and corn harvest. In addition to cash wages they are frequently found sleeping accommodation in barns. They generally find their own food, which chiefly consists of bread, potatoes, porridge, tea and milk, and sometimes bacon, but not infrequently their employers give them fuel, milk, and porridge, sometimes potatoes, tea, and coffee, and occasionally a little beer. In some

cases, chiefly in the North, they are found all their food, particularly during harvest, and occasionally their employers give them fresh meat.

It is customary in some districts for men to work on the same farms, year after year. Some farmers in England write to the men and tell them that they want them, or sometimes they communicate with one of the older hands and ask him to secure a certain number, sending them money for their fares.

By far the greater number of migratory labourers go from the province of Connaught, and the other migratory labourers go from the province of Ulster, and most go from Donegal (chiefly from the western side of the county).

According to the report published by the Department of Agriculture and technical instruction for Ireland,* based upon information obtained at the homes of the migratory labourers by the enumerators of agricultural statistics, 13,703 went from the province of Connaught in 1904, and of these 70 per cent were natives of the county of Mayo; 2,950 went from Ulster, and of these 80 per cent were natives of Donegal; 514 went from the province of Munster, and 692 from the province of Leinster. This makes a total for Ireland of only 17,589. Of this number it is stated that 71.7 per cent sought work in England, 20.5 per cent in Scotland, and 7.8 per cent in Ireland. But the report also gives figures showing that 21,198 migratory labourers were booked on the Midland Great Western and Great Southern and Western Railway systems to Dublin. It also shows, on the authority of returns from the various provincial ports collected by the Emigration Enumerators, that 12,272 left certain specified ports between 1 January and 31 August, 1904.† This number, added to the returns furnished by the railway companies, makes a total of 33,470 for the whole of Ireland.

The report states that: “this number is very much greater than the number of migratory labourers shown in the tables compiled by the enumerators of agricultural statistics. In considering this difference it must be borne in mind that a large number of the agricultural labourers who migrate annually to Great Britain pay two visits, and this is an element which it is impossible accurately to eliminate from emigration and railway returns.”

The men from the west of Ireland generally go to the Northern and Midland counties of England, but some young women go from Mayo, mainly from the island of Achill, by sea to Scotland. Very few of the men who go to England go further south than North Cambridgeshire. Those from Mayo, and also from Galway, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim and Cavan, chiefly go to Lancashire, Durham, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Lincolnshire, and North Cambridgeshire. Some also go to a few districts in the counties of Cumberland, Shropshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Middlesex and Hertfordshire. A very few are said to be sometimes found in parts of Worcestershire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Surrey and Sussex. In former years it is said that they came in considerably larger numbers to some of the counties referred to; and reports from Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Kent and Herefordshire, state that they used to come there, but have now ceased to do so,

* CD. 2322 of 1904.

† A Steam Packet Company, which furnished the board of trade with a return giving the certain information as to the number of migratory labourers who left Mayo by steamer in 1903 for Liverpool and Glasgow, stated that the number given by them was approximate only, as no distinction is made in the bookings between migratory labourers and ordinary passengers.

chiefly owing to the introduction of machinery at harvest, and also owing to smaller acreage of grain crops grown. It is not uncommon to find men going to several counties in succession during the season. For instance, a number go to Derbyshire for temporary employment there, but have now ceased to do so, chiefly owing to the introduction of machinery at harvest, and also owing to the smaller acreage of grain crops grown. It is not uncommon to find men going to several counties in succession during the season. For instance, a number go to Derbyshire for temporary employment before the corn is ripe in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. A good many men manage to get two harvests by going further north when they have completed one in a more Southern county.

The migratory labourers from Donegal chiefly go to Northumberland or Scotland. A few start for Scotland early in the year. Some, both men and women, arrive in time for potato planting in Ayrshire, the Lothians, and a few other districts where potatoes are largely grown, but the majority do not migrate until the summer, some starting in June for turnip thinning, haymaking and lifting early potatoes, while many start in August for Harvest. Some remain for potato lifting, chiefly in the great potato-growing districts of the Lothians, and the counties of Forfar and Perth, and a few men still stay longer for storing turnips.

Irish labourers in Scotland are usually engaged by the day, though sometimes they do piecework. At harvest their engagement is usually a weekly one, though sometimes it is for an agreed period for the whole harvest, i.e., four or five weeks.

The counties in Scotland in which both Irish men and women are employed are Ayr, Wigtown, Lanark, Midlothian, East Lothian, West Lothian, Forfar, Perth, and the Eastern Border counties of Berwick, Roxborough, Peebles, and Selkirk. They are most largely employed in the counties of Edinburgh, Haddington and Linlithgow, where a large extent of land is devoted to corn growing. Next to Lothians they are most largely employed at harvest near Glasgow and in the Eastern Border counties.

In the county of Ayr, where large quantities of early potatoes are grown, a considerable number of Irish men and women are employed in the months of June, July, and August lifting them. They are employed in large companies by the dealers, who purchase the growing potatoes in the ground. The dealers often communicate with a man in Ireland (whom the labourers call a "gaffer"), who collects and takes a gang of young women over for this work. The "gaffer" accompanies them from farm to farm, and makes all arrangements as to travelling, &c. In many districts the same men often seek work on the same farms for a number of years in succession.

Employers frequently find accommodation for the men, and also for the women, in barns or temporary bothies, though, if the farms are near towns, the Irish labourers often find their own lodgings. In the bothies, they usually have the use of wooden bedsteads, blankets, and coals. The employers sometimes supply milk and potatoes, and the men and women buy tea, bread, and oatmeal extra, but frequently the farmers provide all food, which may consist of tea, bread, butter, eggs, fish, and sometimes meat.

In recent years the introduction of the self-binding machines has considerably decreased the employment of Irish hands at harvest, both in Scotland and England.

In 1901 the Department addressed an inquiry to certain employers in England and Scotland respecting the earnings of Irish labourers of the class referred to, employed on their farms during the season of that year. It was not found practicable to summarise the information obtained owing to the variety in the periods of employment, conditions of

work, and allowances of food, on different farms. The examples given below of amounts earned on certain farms, may, however, prove interesting as illustrating the conditions under which the Irish labourers work in different counties.*

England

Northumberland – An employer in Northumberland gave particulars respecting the employment of Irishmen from Donegal on his two farms. Five men were employed on one of the farms from 13 August to 14 September, 1901 and their cash earnings amounted to £5 12s each (or an average of 23s 1 ½ d a week). They were provided with sleeping accommodation in an outhouse and given food consisting of bread and cheese before commencing work at 6 a.m.; porridge and milk for breakfast and supper; and beef and potatoes for dinner. They also had an allowance of beer twice a day when carting corn. On completing their engagement these men went on to Scotland for work. On the other farm six Irish labourers were employed. Five of them worked from 26 August to 22 September and earned £3 12s each (17s 3 d a week), while the other man was employed from 2 September to 22 September, and received £2 14s (18s a week). The harvest on this farm was late and the men were not able to command such high rates of wages as those employed on the earlier farm, the pressure of harvest work in the district being relieved. On the other hand, they were able to secure a harvest engagement in the neighbourhood, before commencing work on the farm referred to. The allowances of food were the same as those on the first farm and free lodgings were found for the men. It was stated that some of the Irish labourers employed on these farms worked all the other part of the year in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, for masons, &c., but the bulk of them came over about June and July to help with the hay in Ayrshire.

Another employer who had 12 Irishmen employed at singling turnips, harvesting, &c., stated that their time was not continuous; “one week they might be working for me and another for someone else.” They were sometimes paid time wages and sometimes they were on “contract.” It was stated that wages in 1901 were about 6d a day higher than the average for the preceding few years.

With reference to piecework, a correspondent in this country writes that at turnip thinning, a good man can earn for a days work of about 10 hours, 4s., out of which he feeds himself, the farmer providing sleeping accommodation and blankets.

Lancashire – On a farm near Warrington, four men from the County of Mayo were employed from 1 March to 10 October at 18s each per week, with 10s extra for harvest. Their total cash earnings amounted to £29 6s each and in addition they were provided with sleeping accommodation in a “Paddy house,” fuel, and refreshments during harvest. On leaving this farm some went to Ireland for their own harvest, while others went to other farms in England for potato digging.

On a farm in the Garstang Union three men from Mayo were employed digging early potatoes at 5s a day each, with sleeping accommodation free but, finding their own food. One of these men earned £6 between 10 July and 10 August, and the other two earned £4 each between 24 July and 10 August. Each of these men worked elsewhere at

* It may be of interest to note that Irish labourers travelling from Westport, Co. Mayo, to Liverpool *via* Dublin, in 1901 paid 12s or 13s for the single journey. The fare by boat from Westport or Ballina to Glasgow was 5s for the single journey.

hay harvesting before commencing work on this farm. Two of them, after 10 August, went to work on other farms, while one returned to Ireland.

An employer in South Lancashire had an Irish labourer working for him who arrived from Waterford on 1 January, 1901, and stayed until 11 December and then found employment in a chemical works in the neighbourhood. His total cash earnings whilst employed on the farm amounted to £47 11s., or an average of about 20s 6d per week. During the period of his engagement he visited Ireland and returned to work after three weeks' stay. Four others were also engaged on this farm, but for shorter periods. They were provided with sleeping accommodation, fuel, and refreshments during harvest. Their cash earnings while employed on this farm were as follows:-

Table 20

	Period of employment	Total cash earnings	Average weekly earnings
		£ s d	s d
J.M.	1 April to 7 July	11 12 0	15 6
W.L.	7 June to 3 August	7 4 0	17 3
J.R.	17 June to 16 November	19 0 0	17 3
A.B.	8 August to 16 November	11 3 0	15 4 ½

The man J.R. came from Mayo to this farm and returned to Ireland on completing his engagement. The other three men worked on farms in England, either before or after the above-mentioned periods.

Cheshire – The information from Cheshire related to 32 Irish labourers, mostly from Mayo and Sligo, engaged by seven employers. In all cases sleeping accommodation was provided, and some food and drink at harvest and other busy times. In a few instances some food was allowed daily during the whole period of service. Fuel for cooking was also given in most cases. Many of the men came over very early in the year and some of these stayed through the winter. On one of the farms two men were employed from March to October, when they returned to Ireland. Each of these men was paid £25 10s. During this period, or an average of £16s 6d a week. Another employer engaged one of his men in January, and this man had received £46 10s at the end of December, at which time he was still at work. His earnings averaged about 18s a week. On the same farm a man who commenced work on 1 June received £23 12s (or 18s a week) in cash between that date and 30 November, when he returned to Ireland. Three Irishmen, employed on another farm, commenced work on 1 January, and stayed until the end of the year. Their total cash earnings for the year 1901 amounted to £45 12s each (or about 17s 6d a week).

Yorkshire – Four men from Mayo found employment on a farm in the East Riding after working for some time in Lancashire and the West Riding. One of them stayed 4 ½ months and received altogether £15 in cash, being at the rate of 15s 3d a week. The others stayed for four weeks only. They all had free lodging in a granary and the use of fire in the saddle room. Three left for Ireland on completing their engagement, while one sought employment in the towns of the West Riding. A fifth man came to this farm in October as

winter beastman at 18s a week (keeping himself). His engagement terminated at the end of March, 1902.

Warwickshire – An employer in Warwickshire furnished details of the earnings of 12 Irishmen employed by him during the season of 1901. He writes – “We farm about 3,000 acres, and find the Irish labour useful, as the men come at a busy time and leave again before winter. We lend them money as soon as they come, which they send back to Ireland. They live very cheaply, and send nearly all their earnings home.” The following table shows in detail the cash earnings of five of the twelve labourers.

Table 21

Earnings of Patrick C-, his brother and three sons, from fortnight ending 17 May to fortnight ending 23 August 1901.

Description of work	Amount earned
	<i>£ s d</i>
Hoeing wheat	1 13 3
Hoeing kale	11 12 3
Hoeing oats	1 16 0
Weeding wheat	3 5 3
Hoeing potatoes	3 11 6
Singling Mangolds	6 18 7
Cutting and tying wheat	16 13 10
Cutting peas	5 10 3
Day work, 26 days at <i>2s 2d.</i>	2 16 4
Day work, 35 days at <i>2s 6d.</i>	4 7 6
Work undefined	0 15 0
Total payments to men, 6 May – 23 August	58 19 9
Average per man	11 15 11
Average per week	0 14 9