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**A SHORT HISTORY  
OF  
ENGLISH AGRICULTURE**

**BY**

**W. H. R. CURTLER**

**SPECIMEN**

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## PREFACE

'A HUSBANDMAN', said Markham, 'is the master of the earth, turning barrenness into fruitfulness, whereby all commonwealths are maintained and upheld. His labour giveth liberty to all vocations, arts, and trades to follow their several functions with peace and industrie. What can we say in this world is profitable where husbandry is wanting, it being the great nerve and sinew which holdeth together all the joints of a monarchy.' And he is confirmed by Young: 'Agriculture is, beyond all doubt, the foundation of every other art, business, and profession, and it has therefore been the ideal policy of every wise and prudent people to encourage it to the utmost.' Yet of this important industry, still the greatest in England, there is no history covering the whole period.

It is to remedy this defect that this book is offered, with much diffidence, and with many thanks to Mr. C. R. L. Fletcher of Magdalen College, Oxford, for his valuable assistance in revising the proof sheets, and to the Rev. A. H. Johnson of All Souls for some very useful information.

As the agriculture of the Middle Ages has often been ably described, I have devoted the greater part of this work to the agricultural history of the subsequent period, especially the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries.

W. H. R. CURTLER

*May 22, 1909.*

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## LANDMARKS IN ENGLISH AGRICULTURE

1086. Domesday inquest, most cultivated land in tillage. Annual value of land about 2*d.* an acre.
- 1216-72. Henry III. Assize of Bread and Ale.
- 1272-1307. Edward I. General progress. Walter of Henley.
1307. Edward II. Decline.
1315. Great famine.
1337. Export of wool prohibited.
- 1348-9. Black Death. Heavy blow to manorial system. Many demesne lands let, and much land laid down to grass.
1351. Statute of Labourers.
1360. Export of corn forbidden.
1381. Villeins' revolt.
1393. Richard II allows export of corn under certain conditions.
1463. Import of wheat under 6*s.* 8*d.* prohibited.
- End of fifteenth century. Increase of enclosure.
1523. Fitzherbert's *Surveying and Husbandry*.
1540. General rise in prices and rents begins.
1549. Kett's rebellion. The last attempt of the English peasant to obtain redress by force.
1586. Potatoes introduced.
1601. Poor Law Act of Elizabeth.
1645. Turnips and clover introduced as field crops.
1662. Statute of Parochial Settlement.
1664. Importation of cattle, sheep, and swine forbidden.
1688. Bounty of 5*s.* per quarter on export of wheat, and high duty on import.
1733. Tull publishes his *Horse-hoeing Husbandry*.
1739. Great sheep-rot.
1750. Exports of corn reached their maximum.
1760. Bakewell began experimenting.
- 1760 (about). Industrial and agrarian revolution, and great increase of enclosure.
1764. Elkington's new drainage system.
1773. Wheat allowed to be imported at a nominal duty of 6*d.* a quarter where over 48*s.*



## viii LANDMARKS IN ENGLISH AGRICULTURE

1777. Bath and West of England Society established, the first in England.
1789. England definitely becomes a corn-importing country.
1793. Board of Agriculture established.
1795. Speenhamland Act.  
About same date swedes first grown.
1815. Duty on wheat reached its maximum.
- 1815-35. Agricultural distress.
1825. Export of wool allowed.
1835. Smith of Deanston, the father of modern drainage.
1838. Foundation of Royal Agricultural Society.
1846. Repeal of the Corn Laws.
- 1855-75. • Great agricultural prosperity.
1875. English agriculture feels the full effect of unrestricted competition, with disastrous results.
- „ First Agricultural Holdings Act.
- 1879-80 Excessive rainfall, sheep-rot, and general distress.

## APPENDIX I

### AVERAGE PRICES FROM 1259 TO 1700<sup>1</sup>

#### CORN PER QUARTER.

	WHEAT.	BARLEY.	OATS.	RYE.	BEANS.
1259-1400	5s. 10 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	4s. 3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	2s. 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	4s. 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	4s. 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.
1401-1540	5s. 11 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	3s. 8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	2s. 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	4s. 7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	3s. 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.
1541-82	13s. 10 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	8s. 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	5s. 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	—	9s. 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.
1583-1700	39s. 0 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	21s. 4d.	13s. 10d.	—	22s. 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.

#### LIVE STOCK.

	OXEN.	COWS.	CART HORSES.*	SHEEP.	LAMBS.	PIGS (GROWN).	BOARS.
1259-1400	13s. 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	9s. 5d.	16s. 4d.	1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d.	8d.	3s.	4s. 7d.
1401-1540	moderate increase	14s.	unaltered	moderate increase	9d.	unaltered	6s.
1541-82	55s.	32s.	great increase	3s. to 4s. 6d.	2s. to 3s.	6s. 8d. to 8s.	—
1583-1700	100s.	60s.	1580-1640 £5 to £10 1640-1700 £8 to £15	10s. 7d.	—	great increase	

#### POULTRY AND EGGS.

	HENS.	DUCKS.	GEESE.	EGGS.
1259-1400	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	2d.	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d. per 120
1401-1540	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d. "
1541-82	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	10d.	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d. "
1583-1700	8d.-1s.	9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	2s.	3s. 3d. " "

  

	WOOL.	CHEESE.	BUTTER.	HAY.	HOPS.
	Per lb.			Per load.*	Per cwt.
1259-1400	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d. per 7 lb.	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d. per 7 lb.	3s. 8d.	—
1401-1540	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d. per 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> lb.	1d. per lb.	unaltered	14s. 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.
1541-82	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.	1d. "	3d. "	9s. 6d.	26s. 8d.
1583-1700	9d.-1s.	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d. " "	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d. "	26s. 4d.	82s. 9d.

<sup>1</sup> Summarized from Thorold Rogers' prices in his *History of Agriculture and Prices*, with some alterations.

\* Affri, 13s. 5d., cart-horses, 19s. 4d. A good saddle horse about 1300 was worth £5. By 1580 it was worth £10 to £15, by 1700 £20 to £25.

## LABOUR.

	Reaping wheat per acre.	Reaping oats per acre.	Mowing per acre.	Labourer per day without food.
1261-1350	5½d.	4½d.	5½d.	2d.
1351-1400	8½d.	8½d.	7d.	3d.
1401-1540	9½d.	8½d.	8½d.	4d.
1541-82	— <sup>1</sup>	—	—	6½d.
1583-1640	—	—	1s. 7d.	8½d.
1640-1700	—	—	1s. 8d.	10d.

## PRICE OF LAND PER ACRE.

	To Rent.		To Buy.
	Arable.	Grass.	
1261-1350	4d.-6d.	1s.-2s.	12 years' purchase
1351-1400	6d.	2s.	"
1401-1540	6d.	2s.	15-20 years
1541-82	slight increase		unaltered
1583-1640	great increase		20 years
1641-1700	5s.	8s.	"
1770		10s.	30 years

## APPENDIX II

TABLE SHOWING EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR FROM AND INTO ENGLAND, UNIMPORTANT YEARS OMITTED

	Exports. Quarters.	Imports. Quarters.		Exports. Quarters.	Imports. Quarters.
<i>England.</i>			1776	210,664	20,578
1697	14,699	400	1780	224,059	3,915
1703	166,615	50	1786	205,466	51,463
1717	22,954	none	1787	120,536	59,339
1728	3,817	74,574	1789	140,014	112,656
1733	427,199	7	1791	70,626	469,056
1750	947,602	279	1796	24,679	879,200
			1801	28,406	1,424,765
<i>Great Britain.</i>			1808	98,005	84,889
1757	11,545	141,562	1810	75,785	1,567,126
1758*	9,234	20,353	1815	227,947	384,475
1761	441,956	none	1825	38,796	787,606
1767	5,071	497,905	1837	308,420	1,109,492
1770	75,449	34	1839	42,512	3,110,729
1775	91,037	560,988	1842	68,047	3,111,290

<sup>1</sup> A decided increase, but prices fluctuate so much, that it is hard to strike an average.

The above figures are taken from M<sup>c</sup>Culloch's *Commercial Dictionary*, 1847, p. 438, and agree roughly with those given by M<sup>c</sup>Pherson, *Annals of Commerce*, iii. 674, and iv. 216 and 532.

• After 1842, exports played a very small part, and imports continued to increase; in 1847, 4,612,110 *quarters* of wheat and flour came in; and the following figures show their growth in recent times:—

AVERAGE OF ANNUAL IMPORTS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR IN CWTs.

1861-5	...	...	...	34,651,549
1866-70	...	...	...	37,273,678
1871-5	...	...	...	50,495,127
1876-80	...	...	...	63,309,874
1881-5	...	...	...	77,285,881
1886-90	...	...	...	77,794,380
1891-5	...	...	...	96,582,863
1896-1900	...	...	...	95,926,376
1901-5	...	...	...	111,638,817

With regard to the exports and imports of all kinds of corn, large quantities were exported in the first half of the eighteenth century. In 1733, 800,000 quarters were sent to France, Portugal, Spain, and Italy,<sup>1</sup> and exports reached their maximum in 1750 with 1,667,778 quarters, but by 1760 had decreased to 600,000, and after that fell<sup>2</sup> considerably; in 1771, for instance, the first year of the corn register, they only amounted to 81,665 quarters, whereas imports were 203,122. The figures of the imports were swollen by the large quantities of oats which came into England at this time. The following years are typical of the fluctuations in the trade:—

	Exports.	Imports.
1774	47,961	803,844
1776	376,249	444,121
1780	400,408	219,093
1782	278,955	133,663
1783	104,274	852,389
1784-8	large excess of imports, mainly oats	
1789	652,764	478,426

the last year when exports of all kinds of corn exceeded imports.<sup>3</sup>

To sum up, according to these figures, England's exports of wheat regularly exceeded her imports from 1697 until 1757, with the exception of the years 1728-9; then they fluctuated till 1789, the last year in which exports of wheat exceeded imports, and as the same year is the last time when our exports of all kinds of corn exceeded our imports, England at that date ceased to be an exporting country.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Pherson, *Annals of Commerce*, iii. 198.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* iii. 674; iv. 216, 532.

<sup>3</sup> The excess of exports of wheat in 1808 was accidentally due to the requirements of the army in Spain.

## APPENDIX III

AVERAGE PRICES PER IMPERIAL QUARTER OF BRITISH  
CORN IN ENGLAND AND WALES, IN EACH YEAR FROM  
1771 TO 1907 INCLUSIVE, ACCORDING TO THE RETURNS  
OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

YEARS.	WHEAT.		BARLEY.		OATS.	
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1771	...	48 7	...	26 5	...	17 2
1772	...	52 3	...	26 1	..	16 8
1773	...	52 7	...	29 2	...	17 8
1774	...	54 3	...	29 4	...	18 4
1775	...	49 10	...	26 9	...	17 0
1776	...	39 4	...	20 9	..	15 5
1777	...	46 11	...	21 1	..	16 1
1778	...	43 3	...	23 4	...	15 7
1779	...	34 8	..	20 1	...	14 5
1780	...	36 9	...	17 6	...	13 2
1781	...	46 0	...	17 8	...	14 1
1782	...	49 3	...	23 2	...	15 7
1783	...	54 3	...	31 3	...	20 5
1784	...	50 4	...	28 8	...	18 10
1785	...	43 1	...	24 9	...	17 8
1786	...	40 0	...	25 1	...	18 6
1787	...	42 5	...	23 4	...	17 2
1788	...	46 4	...	22 8	...	16 1
1789	...	52 9	...	23 6	...	16 6
1790	...	54 9	...	26 3	...	19 5
1791	.	48 7	...	26 10	...	18 1
1792	...	43 0	..	27 7	...	16 9
1793	...	49 3	...	31 1	...	20 6
1794	...	52 3	...	31 9	...	21 3
1795	...	75 2	...	37 5	...	24 5
1796	...	78 7	...	35 4	...	21 10
1797	...	53 9	...	27 2	...	16 3
1798	...	51 10	...	29 0	...	19 5
1799	...	69 0	...	36 2	...	27 6
1800	...	113 10	...	59 10	...	39 4
1801	...	119 6	...	68 6	...	37 0
1802	...	69 10	...	33 4	...	20 4
1803	...	58 10	...	25 4	...	21 6
1804	...	62 3	...	31 0	...	24 3
1805	...	89 9	...	44 6	...	28 4

## APPENDIX III

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YEARS.	WHEAT.		BARLEY.		OATS.	
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1806	79	1	38	8	27	7
1807	75	4	39	4	28	4
1808	81	4	43	5	33	4
1809	97	4	47	0	31	5
1810	106	5	48	1	28	7
1811	95	3	42	3	27	7
1812	126	6	66	9	44	6
1813	109	9	58	6	38	6
1814	74	4	37	4	25	8
1815	65	7	30	3	23	7
1816	78	6	33	11	27	2
1817	96	11	49	4	32	5
1818	86	3	53	10	32	5
1819	74	6	45	9	28	2
1820	67	10	33	10	24	2
1821	56	1	26	0	19	6
1822	44	7	21	10	18	1
1823	53	4	31	6	22	11
1824	63	11	36	4	24	10
1825	68	6	40	0	23	8
1826	58	8	34	4	26	8
1827	58	6	37	7	28	2
1828	60	5	32	10	22	6
1829	66	3	32	6	22	9
1830	64	3	32	7	24	5
1831	66	4	38	0	25	4
1832	58	8	33	1	20	5
1833	52	11	27	6	18	5
1834	46	2	29	0	20	11
1835	39	4	29	11	22	0
1836	48	6	32	10	23	1
1837	55	10	30	4	23	1
1838	64	7	31	5	22	5
1839	70	8	39	6	25	11
1840	66	4	36	5	25	8
1841	64	4	32	10	22	5
1842	57	3	27	6	19	3
1843	50	1	29	6	18	4
1844	51	3	33	8	20	7
1845	50	10	31	8	22	6
1846	54	8	32	8	23	8
1847	69	9	44	2	28	8
1848	50	6	31	6	20	6
1849	44	3	27	9	17	6
1850	40	3	23	5	16	5

## HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE

YEARS.	WHEAT.		BARLEY.		OATS.	
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1851	38	6	24	9	18	7
1852	40	9	28	6	19	1
1853	53	3	33	2	21	0
1854	72	5	36	0	27	11
1855	74	8	34	9	23	5
1856	69	2	41	1	25	2
1857	56	4	42	1	25	0
1858	44	2	34	8	24	6
1859	43	9	33	6	23	2
1860	53	3	36	7	24	5
1861	55	4	36	1	23	9
1862	55	5	35	1	22	7
1863	44	9	33	11	21	2
1864	40	2	29	11	20	1
1865	41	10	29	9	21	10
1866	49	11	37	5	24	7
1867	64	5	40	0	26	0
1868	63	9	43	0	28	1
1869	48	2	39	5	26	0
1870	46	11	34	7	22	10
1871	56	8	36	2	25	2
1872	57	0	37	4	23	2
1873	58	8	40	5	25	5
1874	55	9	44	11	28	10
1875	45	2	38	5	23	8
1876	46	2	35	2	26	3
1877	56	9	39	8	25	11
1878	46	5	40	2	24	4
1879	43	10	34	0	21	9
1880	44	4	33	1	23	1
1881	45	4	31	11	21	9
1882	45	1	31	2	21	10
1883	41	7	31	10	21	5
1884	35	8	30	8	20	3
1885	32	10	30	1	20	7
1886	31	0	26	7	19	0
1887	32	6	25	4	16	3
1888	31	10	27	10	16	9
1889	29	9	25	10	17	9
1890	31	11	28	8	18	7
1891	37	0	28	2	20	0
1892	30	3	26	2	19	10
1893	26	4	25	7	18	9
1894	22	10	24	6	17	1
1895	23	1	21	11	14	6

## APPENDIX III

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YEARS.	WHEAT.		BARLEY.		OATS.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
1896	26	2	22	11	14	9
1897	30	2	23	6	16	11
1898	34	0	27	2	18	5
1899	25	8	25	7	17	0
1900	26	11	24	11	17	7
1901	26	9	25	2	18	5
1902	28	1	25	8	20	2
1903	26	9	22	8	17	2
1904	28	4	22	4	16	4
1905	29	8	24	4	17	4
1906	28	3	24	2	18	4
1907	30	7	25	1	18	10

## APPENDIX IV

### MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

GREGORY KING, at the end of the seventeenth century, estimated the acreage of England and Wales at 39,000,000—not at all a bad estimate, the area, excluding water, according to the Board of Agriculture Returns of 1907, being 37,130,344. The different estimates by Grew, Templeman, Petty, Young, Halley, Middleton, and others varied between 31,648,000 and 46,916,000 acres. The last, that of Arthur Young, was actually adopted by Pitt for his estimate of the income-tax.<sup>1</sup>

Caird in 1850<sup>2</sup> estimated the cultivated lands of England at 27,000,000 acres (in 1907 they were 24,585,455 acres), cultivated thus:—

Permanent grass	...	...	...	13,333,000
Arable	...	...	...	13,667,000

the latter being divided as follows:—

	Acres.	Bushels, per acre.	Produce, quarters.
Wheat	3,416,750	27	11,531,531
Barley	1,416,750	38	6,729,562
Oats and rye	2,000,000	44	11,000,000
Clover and seeds	2,277,750		
Beans and peas	1,139,000	30	4,271,250
Turnips, mangolds, and potatoes	2,116,750		
Rape and fallow	1,300,000		

<sup>1</sup> C. Wren Hoskyns, *Pamphlet on Agricultural Statistics*, p. 19.

<sup>2</sup> *English Agriculture in 1850-1*, p. 521. Cf. above, p. 331.



Davenant, at the end of the seventeenth century, made the following estimate showing the importance of wool in English trade<sup>1</sup>:—

Annual income of England	...	£43,000,000
Yearly rent of land ... ..	...	10,000,000
Value of wool shorn yearly...	...	2,000,000
„ woollen manufactures	...	10,000,000

Thus the rents of land formed nearly one-fourth the total income of the country, and wool paid one-fifth of the rents.<sup>2</sup>

In the eighteenth century a great quantity of wool was smuggled out of England in defiance of the law; in the space of four months in 1754, 4,000 tods was 'run' into Boulogne.<sup>3</sup>

#### FOREIGN AND COLONIAL WOOL IMPORTED INTO ENGLAND.<sup>4</sup>

	lb.		lb.
1766	1,926,000	1820	9,775,000
1771	1,829,000	1830	32,305,000
1780	323,000	1840	49,436,000
1790	2,582,000	1850	74,326,000
1800	8,609,000	1855	99,300,000
1810	10,914,000	1857	127,390,000

#### PRICES OF LABOUR IN SURREY IN 1780.<sup>5</sup>

	s.	d.
Day labourer, per day, in winter	1	4
„ „ „ in summer	1	6
Reaping wheat, per acre	7	0
„ „ „ and according to the crop up to	12	0
Mowing barley, per acre	2	6
„ oats, „	1s. 6d.	to 2 0
„ grass „	2	6
Hand-hoing turnips, per acre, first time	6	0
„ „ „ second time	3	0
Thatching hayricks, per square of 100 ft.	1	0
Washing and shearing sheep, per score	3	0
Ploughing light land, per acre	5	0
„ „ „ stiff „	7s.	to 10 0
Common hurdles, each	5	0

<sup>1</sup> Smith, *Memoirs of Wool*, i. 157.

<sup>2</sup> In 1908 the rental of agricultural land was 3½ per cent. of the total income of the country. See *The Times*, May 13, 1909.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* ii. 264.

<sup>4</sup> Cunningham, *Industry and Commerce*, ii. 693. Cf. above, p. 328.

<sup>5</sup> Trusler, *Practical Husbandry*, p. 153.

## OCCUPIERS OF LAND.

In 1816 there were said to be 589,374 occupiers of land in Great Britain<sup>1</sup>—

With incomes under £50	...	...	...	...	114,778
Between £50 and £150	...	...	...	...	432,534
Over £150	...	...	...	...	42,062
					<u>589,374</u>

In 1907 there were 510,954 occupiers of one acre and more.

## MULHALL'S CALCULATION OF AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGES IN ENGLAND.

	Bailliff.	Shepherd.	Labourer.	Woman.	Boy.
1800	£20	£16	£12	£8	£6
1850	40	25	20	10	8
1880	52	36	30	15	10

The average annual cost of living of an agricultural family of five was in 1823 £31, in 1883 £37.

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT BY A. YOUNG OF PRICES AND WAGES IN ENGLAND FROM 1200 TO 1810 ON THE PRINCIPLE OF REPRESENTING FACTS IN 1810 BY THE NUMBER 20, AND THE FACTS OF THE PRECEDING PERIODS BY THE PROPORTION BORNE BY THEM TO THAT NUMBER.

Periods.	Wheat.	Meat.	Wool.	Labourers' wages.	Horses.
1200-99	5½	...	...	3½	...
1300-99	6½	...	...	4½	...
1400-99	3	...	...	5½	...
1500-99	6	...	...	5½	...
1600-99	9½	...	...	8	...
1700-66	7½	7½	12	10	15½
1767-89	11	11½	15½	12½	17½
1790-1803	13	16½	16½	16½	19½
1804-10	20	20	20	20	20

Thus wheat in 1804-10 had risen 233 per cent. since the sixteenth century.

## THE LABOURER'S WAGES.

The following table, published by Mr. Barton in 1817,<sup>2</sup> shows the depreciation of the labourer's wages in purchasing power between 1742 and 1808:—

Period.	Weekly pay.	Price of wheat.	Wages in pints of bread.
	s. d.	s. d.	
1742-52	6 0	30 0	102
1761-70	7 6	42 6	90
1780-90	8 0	51 2	80
1795-9	9 0	70 8	65
1800-8	11 0	86 8	60

<sup>1</sup> *Farmer's Magazine* (1817), p. 6. Statistics at this date, however, must be taken with caution. They were usually estimates. Cf. above, p. 334, for holdings in England.

<sup>2</sup> *Parliamentary Reports, Commissioners* (1881), xvi. 305.

In answer to inquiries sent by the Poor Law Commissioners in 1834 to 900 parishes in England the average weekly wages of labourers were—  
in summer,

		s.	d.
	in 254 parishes, with beer or cider	10	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	522 „ without beer or cider	10	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
in winter,	in 200 „ with beer or cider	9	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	544 „ without beer or cider	9	11 $\frac{1}{2}$

	£	s.	d.
The annual average inclusive earnings of the labourer himself were stated at ... ..	27	17	10
and of his wife and children .. .. .	13	19	10
	<u>41</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>8</u>

It will thus be seen that the wife and children provided a third of the income. The majority of the parishes said the labourer could maintain his family on these wages.

Here is the weekly budget of a labourer with an average family in 1880<sup>1</sup> :—

	Cr.	s.	d.		Dr.	s.	d.
Wages ... ..	15	0	Rent ... ..	1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Garden ... ..	1	6	Bread ... ..	6	0		
Extras ... ..	1	0	Bacon ... ..	2	6		
			Tea and sugar .. ..	1	3		
			Cheese ... ..	1	6		
			Butter ... ..	1	6		
			Fuel ... ..	1	3		
			Candles and soap ... ..	0	6		
			Clothes ... ..	1	6		
			Schooling ... ..	0	3		
			Sundries ... ..	0	6		
	<u>17</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>18</u>	<u>4<math>\frac{1}{2}</math></u>		

There is no fresh meat, and it is hard to say where any economy could be practised.

CONTRACT PRICES OF BUTCHER'S MEAT PER CWT. AT GREENWICH HOSPITAL, 1730-1842.<sup>2</sup>

Year	£	s.	d.	Year	£	s.	d.	Year	£	s.	d.
1730	1	5	8	1790	1	16	10	1825	2	19	6
1740	1	8	0	1800	3	4	4	1830	2	3	6
1750	1	6	6	1810	3	12	0	1835	2	0	7
1760	1	11	6	1815	3	8	0	1840	2	14	0
1770	1	8	6	1820	3	10	4	1842	2	12	8
1780	1	12	6								

<sup>1</sup> *Parliamentary Reports, Commissioners* (1881), xvi. 310.

<sup>2</sup> McCulloch, *Commercial Dictionary* (1852), p. 271.

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