

98. ment that the "Advances to Settlers" Act was brought in that, together with very much lower rates of interest, and the peevish industry, the farmer was very much more secure in his home. However, when one comes to consider in these later days, there does not seem to be by any means the same self-reliance as in those early settlers. There was no sympathetic governments to which every one could run, when the least bit of hardship had to be endured. They battled away on their own. And it was surprising when one comes to think of it how many managed to pull through.

There was one thing however that it is only right to mention, that in that far away time the families were very much larger, and it was not a very general custom that the boys on the farms to get anything for their labour beyond their food and clothing. What a difference now. The general current wage for a working man was £1 per week & keep. £5 extra for harvest, payable generally at the end of the year. Those who were

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inclined to be industrious, would get a week's holiday at the end of the year. ~~Buy~~ a new outfit of clothes & bank the rest, perhaps £40 or so a year. Then go back again to the same farm. The ordinary daily wages was five shillings per day. In harvest time one shilling an hour.

Reverting back to the farming and harvesting operations, and the large amount of grain that was grown. In our district alone, there were several who would have from fifteen to twenty thousand bushels and I remember on one occasion of four threshing mills in operation at the one time. The cost to the farmer for threshing was at so much per bushel, generally from three pence to four pence per bushel. In the earlier period it required ten men to operate the mill. The farmer had to provide the meals for the engine driver and feeder, the rest of the hands had to find themselves and do their own cooking, and find their own accommodation, when the whistle blew