

TABLE VI. TOTAL OUTPUT OF COAL IN CERTAIN
COUNTRIES IN 1927

(Metric tons, in thousands)

Country and district	Saleable coal	Coal consumed by the mine	Coal distributed to employees	Commercially disposable coal
Belgium	27,551	2,652	563	24,336
Czechoslovakia	14,016	1,453	235	12,328
France	51,626	4,172	1,279	46,175
Germany :				
Ruhr	117,994	6,667	1,343	109,984
Upper Silesia	19,378	558	227	18,593
Saxony	4,032	495	86	3,451
Great Britain	245,004	14,191	5,458	225,355
Netherlands	9,323	406	63	8,854
Poland	38,084	3,105	640	34,339
Saar	13,596	1,040	361	12,195

(To be continued)

Allowances in Kind given to Farm Labourers in the United States

Information on agricultural wages has been collected by the United States Department of Agriculture since 1866, and has usually been based on figures for cash wages *plus* value of board. The total sum thus calculated has generally worked out at wages lower than those given in manufacturing industry.

It has, however, been felt in some quarters that the methods of calculation adopted have been too rough and ready, and that the real value of the remuneration given to farm workers failed to be arrived at. In these circumstances the Federal Department of Agriculture decided to collect more exact information. Two questionnaires were circulated throughout the country, dealing with permanent and temporary labour respectively; correspondents were asked to

state: (a) the amount of cash wages, (b) the value of payments given in kind.¹ A report giving preliminary results has recently been published.²

PERMANENT WORKERS

The most dependable information was obtained in the case of the 2,117 permanent workers covered by the answers to the questionnaire. The average period that had been worked by these workers was fairly long, 29 months by the unmarried workers, and 36 by the married workers (who were slightly over half the total number). It is perhaps worth noting that each married worker supported on an average 3.1 dependants. Information was asked for the year 1925.

The results obtained in the case of these permanent workers strongly support the thesis which was the starting-point of the whole enquiry, namely, that the value of farm wages in the United States has currently been underestimated. The quarterly wage reports issued by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates for 1925 give monthly farm wages as \$47.84 without board, whereas the monthly wages as averaged out on the basis of the answers to the questionnaire were \$45.78 in cash and \$31.99 in kind, or together \$77.77; even in the 109 cases where no wages in kind of any description were given the average cash wage was \$58.68, or nearly 25 per cent. above the average published by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates. An explanation of this last striking discrepancy is not given.

It appears from the above figures that some form of wages in kind is an integral part of remuneration for nineteen out of twenty agricultural workers in permanent employment in the United States, and that, for these nineteen workers, on an average two-fifths of their remuneration is given in this form. More detailed figures are as follows.

¹ The number of answers received is not given. It is stated that correspondents were asked to give the "farm value" of payments in kind, which may be assumed equal to the local selling value to the farmer. There is no statement of how a cash value was arrived at of such items as accommodation, or "use of employer's horses or mules", "use of employer's tools or vehicles", etc.

² UNITED STATES. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS: *The Perquisites and Wages of Hired Farm Hands. A Preliminary Report*. Washington, 1929. 28 pp. (typescript).

PERCENTAGES OF 2,117 PERMANENT AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN 1925
RECEIVING VARIOUS ALLOWANCES IN KIND, AND VALUE OF ALLOWANCES

Item	Percentage of			Value of allowance as percentage of aggregate remuneration
	Single workers	Married workers	All workers ¹	
	receiving specified item			
Accommodation :				
Board, room, washing	90.1	16.9	51.1	20.7
House rent, fuel	3.9	82.4	45.9	5.8
Foodstuffs :				
Milk, dairy, poultry products	1.7	49.8	27.8	2.7
Meat, meat products	1.5	28.7	16.1	0.8
Flour, meal	0.7	9.9	5.5	0.1
Vegetables, fruit	2.6	45.1	25.4	1.0
Miscellaneous	0.6	5.2	3.1	0.1
Permission to keep livestock	13.6	76.6	47.3	—
Feed for own livestock	9.2	44.1	28.0	2.0
Pasture for own livestock	7.8	47.5	29.2	1.0
Space for garden	5.4	84.9	48.1	—
Use of employer's horses or mules	32.0	82.5	59.4	1.8
Use of employer's tools or vehicles	33.2	78.7	57.6	2.3
Space for garage	48.4	66.9	58.4	—
Miscellaneous perquisites	21.7	25.1	23.6	1.2
No wages in kind	3.2	1.7	2.5	—

¹ Includes persons single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated from their families, and those whose marital status was unreported.

The figures include both those who received only one item in each group of allowances and those who received more than one; e.g. the figures in the first row include those who received board only, or board and lodging, or board, lodging, and washing. Many workers, of course, received allowances of more than one type.

Board is given predominantly to single men, house rent to married men; the number of married men receiving allowances in food is considerable, but the value of those allowances as a proportion of the total wage is not very great. Nevertheless, the total value of all allowances (apart from the right to keep livestock, and space for garden or garage) amounts to 39.5 per cent. of the aggregate remuneration of the 2,117 workers reported on. In any case, it is clear that, apart from board and lodging, the allowances go mostly to married men. Thus over three-quarters of the married workers kept livestock ¹, and over 80 per cent. had a garden. In general,

¹ Nearly all kept poultry; half kept pigs or cows; one-fourth kept horses or mules. The average number of livestock kept per worker using this right was 55.8 head of poultry, 2.8 pigs, 1.4 cows, 1.3 horses or mules.

it is stated that the value of allowances brought up the remuneration of married men to a higher average level than the remuneration of unmarried men, as the following figures show.

AVERAGE MONTHLY VALUE OF EARNINGS OF PERMANENT
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, 1925

Item	Single workers	Married workers	All workers ¹
	\$	\$	\$
Cash wages	42.29	49.81	46.31
Allowances in kind	29.87	30.93	30.34
All wages (cash and kind)	73.28	81.30	76.78 ²

¹ Includes persons single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated from their families, and those whose marital status was unreported.

² This figure differs slightly from the total figure mentioned above, as the latter included data for all reports, complete or incomplete, whereas the present table is based on complete reports only.

Nevertheless, this is not true of the whole country. In New England and the Far West the computed value of the unmarried man's total remuneration works out highest, as board there is of high value and few other allowances in kind are given; the married workers' wages are predominantly in cash.

But this does not mean that the payment of wages in the form of allowances in kind tends as a rule to raise the total wage. On the contrary, the important statement is made that where a small part of the total remuneration is paid in kind the total remuneration is high, while where a large part is paid in kind the total remuneration is low (South Atlantic and South Central States). The differences in total remuneration paid in different parts of the country are best seen by contrasting the extremes of \$55.72 combined value of wages in cash and in kind (\$52.59 to single and \$57.29 to married men) paid in the East South Central States (Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi) and \$104.98 (\$95.29 to single and \$117.99 to married men) paid in the Pacific States (Washington, Oregon, California). In individual States a combined wage value as low as \$44.50 for single and \$45.50 for married men, and as high as \$148.00 for single and \$129.25 for married men, may be found. As a rule the low-value wage consists as to about one-half of allowances in kind, and the high-value wage of irregular proportions, but often of a good deal more cash than kind. It is possible that in the absence of valuation of allowances other than board by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates may lie the explanation of the lower average national wage computed by it and mentioned above; but whether or no this is the case, it is clear that very different wages, and very different proportions of wages in cash and in kind, are paid in different parts of the country.

TEMPORARY WORKERS

The information about temporary workers may be summarised briefly. Data were collected for 1926 covering over 200 occasions when such workers were employed, the total number of workers being over 1,000; women's labour and juvenile labour were excluded. The average period worked by each worker was about one month.

The records show that the majority of temporary workers (85.2 per cent.) received allowances in kind, which constituted nearly a quarter (23.1 per cent.) of the value of their aggregate earnings. The average daily cash wage was \$3.18, but it differed enormously in different cases, ranging from \$12.00 to as low as \$0.60. The average value of daily allowances was \$0.97, ranging from \$3.74 to nothing. The average value of all daily earnings, cash wages and allowances combined, was \$4.20, ranging from \$13.35 to \$0.75¹.

The allowances given were almost exclusively board, lodging (with or without the addition of fuel, light, or washing), food, transport, or use of horses and vehicles.

PERCENTAGES OF 1,150 TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN 1926 RECEIVING VARIOUS ALLOWANCES IN KIND, AND VALUE OF ALLOWANCES

Item	Percentage of workers receiving specified item	Average value of allowance to each worker receiving it
Lodging :		\$
Furnished	46.2	0.46
Unfurnished	15.5	0.38
Fuel	18.3	0.14
Light	14.6	0.06
Washing	22.6	0.12
Food produced on farm	8.4	0.27
,, ,, elsewhere	1.4	0.22
Table board	74.1	0.91
Transport	12.9	0.24
Other use of horses and vehicles	11.8	0.25
Miscellaneous	3.3	0.24
All allowances	85.5	0.97

¹ A few reports, complete as to cash earnings only or as to allowances only, were excluded from the calculation of average total earnings.

Interesting information is added on methods of payment of temporary workers.

PERCENTAGES OF TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS PAID
BY DIFFERENT METHODS IN 1926

Nature of work	Percentage of all temporary workers recorded							
	Paid time rates				Paid piece rates			
	Per hour	Per day	Per week	Per month	By measure	By weight	By area	Per head
Market garden crops	19.6	43.1	2.0	0	31.4	3.9	0	0
Small fruit	13.7	8.2	0	0	69.9	8.2	0	0
Orchard fruit and nuts	28.3	37.0	0.4	0	28.7	5.6	0	0
Grain and field crops	12.6	61.2	— ¹	1.0	13.0	10.3	1.8	0
Livestock	0	28.6	0	14.3	0	0	0	57.1
Miscellaneous	23.2	38.4	0	38.4	0	0	0	0
All crops	13.4	59.1	— ¹	1.1	14.6	9.4	1.7	0.2

¹ Less than 0.1 per cent.

Allowances in kind to temporary workers are much more frequent in the Western States than in the Eastern.

Taking the United States as a whole, one-half of all temporary workers came from the vicinity of the farm where they worked, one-fifth from further away but within ten miles, and a few from farmers' or workers' families settled on the farm itself. However, the West North Central, Mountain, and Pacific States drew a third or more of their workers from a distance.