

WAGES PAID AT MAIDSTONE IN QUEEN
ELIZABETH'S REIGN.*

TRANSCRIBED BY

REV. C. EVELEIGH WOODRUFF, M.A.

RATES OF WAGES sett forth by the Quenes highnes proclamacon, accordyng to the tenor & forme of the Statute in that case ordeyned & made in her Ma^{ties} high courte of parlyament holden at Westm' in the fyfth yere of her most Gracyouse Reigne, and proclaymed at the towne of Maydeston the thursdaye beyng markett daye & the xxiiijth day of September in the seid fyfth yere of the Reigne of o^r seid most dredde souereign ladye Elizabeth by the grace of God Quene of Englande ffrance & Ireland Defendor of the ffaith and in the yere from the Incarnacon of oure lorde Jesus Christ m^cccccclxiiij Robert Balfer then beyng Mayor of the seid Towne of Maydeston.

Labourers by the daye from Easter till Michaelmas w^t mete & drynke iiij^d & finding hym self ix^d. ffrom Michaelmas till Easter w^t mete & drynke ij^d & fyndyng hymself vj^d.

Mowers by the daye w^t meate & drynke vj^d fyndyng theym selfs xj^d.
Mowers by the acre w^t owte meate & drynke otes v^d, grasse xj^d,
barley vj^d.

Mowers of grasse in mershe grownde x^d w^t owte mete & drynke xv^d.

Mowers by the acre w^t meate & drynke in Tenett in the seid Counte,
otes & barley iiij^d w^t owte mete and drynke viij^d, laying uppon
bands byndyng & copping the acre of otes viij^d, barley x^d.

Reapers by the daye. The man reaper w^t meate and drynke vj^d,
and fyndyng hymself xj^d.

The woman reaper, w^t meate and drynke iiij^d, and fyndyng her self vj^d.

Reapers by the Acre. The reapyng byndyng & copping of wheate
& Rye by the acre in the upland, w^t owte vittells ij^s w^t meate &
drynke xiiij^d.

And in the marshe w^t owte vittells ij^s iiij^d, and w^t meate & drynke
in the marshe ij^s.

* Transcribed from the original preserved amongst the Records in the Kent Archaeological Society's Rooms at the Maidstone Museum.

- The reapyng, byndyng, & copping of pease, & tares, w^t owte meate & drynke xx^d the acre, and w^t meate & drynke xij^d the acre.
- Threshers by the quarter, w^t meate & drynke for the quarter, and making cleane of wheate & Rye iij^d, otes & barley ij^d ob, and fyndyng theym selves for the quarter, and making cleane of wheate & Rye x^d, otes & barley v^d.
- Dytchers owte of the whole grownde, every rodd of iiij foote at the toppe, two foote in the bottome & iiij foote deepe xij^d.
- Dytchers owte of the whole grownde, every rodde of iiij foote in the toppe, two foote and a half depe, and one foote in ye botome, v^d, and a forth in other dytches after this rate.
- ffor clensyng & skouring of olde dyches, half the rate of the newe dyches.
- Teanyng for plashyng, & teanyng of a quycke hedge, the rod j^d ob, and for dead hedge the rod j^d ob.
- Pale, ffor setting of pale w^t one rayle, and even at the head, the rodde v^d, and not even at the head the rodde iij^d.
- Rayle, ffor setting of syngle rayles w^t postes, the rodde j^d ob, and double rayles the rodde ij^d.
- ffagottes, ffor fellyng cuttyng, making, & byndyng of ostry fagottes the hundreth x^d of lasshe baven the hundreth xiiij^d, of brushe baven the hundreth xij^d, Bylletts the thowsande x^d, Talwood the hundreth viij^d.
- Coles, ffor fellyng, cuttyng, and blockyng of a dosen of coles, conteynyng xxiiij^{ti} sakes ij^s, and for making of coles the dosen xvij^d.
- Carpenters, the chief carpenter with meate & drynke vij^d and w^t owte meate & drynke xij^d.
- Artificers, Brycklayers, the cheif bricklayer, Tyler, & Sawyer, from Easter till Michaelmas, with meate & drynke vj^d, and w^t owte meate & drynke x^d, and in wynter season w^t vittells v^d, & w^t owte vittells ix^d. Master Ploughwryghts, as the Carpenters.
- Of the seconde sorte, everye seconde of all the seid Artificers ffrom Easter to Michaelmas, w^t vittells v^d and w^t owte vittells ix^d, and in wynter season w^t vittells iij^d, and w^t owte vittells viij^d.
- Prentyse, the best prentyse of an Artificer for the sommer season, with vittells iij^d, w^t owte vytells vij^d, in wynter season w^t vittells iij^d w^t owte vittells vj^d.
- Sawyers, the Sawyer for the C bordes w^t owte vittells xx^d, and for slytting worke the C xxij^d.
- The Thetcher by the C with his vittells x^d, and w^t owte his vittells xx^d.
- Master Mylwryght, by the daye in sommer, with meate and drynke x^d w^t owte meate and drynke xv^d.

Master Mylwryght by the daye in wynter, w^t meate & drynke viij^d, w^t owte meate and drynke xiiij^d.

Plasterer in sommer, with meate & drynke vj^d, w^t owte meate & drynke xj^d. In wynter w^t meate & drynke vj^d, w^t owte meate & drynke xj^d.

Plummer, for laying & castyng the hundreth w^t meate & drynke ij^s. ffor com'en worke by the daye, w^t meate & drynke viij^d, w^t owte meate & drynke xiiij^d.

Glasyer by the daye, w^t meate & drynke vj^d, w^t owte meate & drynke xj^d.

Carver & Joyner in sommer by the daye, w^t meate & drynke vij^d, w^t owte meate & drynke xij^d; his servant in sommer, w^t meate & drynke v^d, w^t owte mete and drynke x^d. In wynter w^t meate & drynke vj^d, w^t owte meate and drynke xj^d; his servant in wynter w^t meate & drynke iiiij^d, w^t owte meate & drynke ix^d.

Shipwryght, the master hewer, by the daye, w^t meate & drynke xij^d, w^t owte meate & drynke xvij^d.

The Able Clyncher, by the daye, w^t meate & drynke x^d, w^t owte meate & drynke xj^d.

The Holder, by the daye, w^t meate & drynke vj^d, w^t owte meate & drynke xj^d.

The Master Calker, by the daye, w^t meate & drynke x^d, w^t owte meate & drynke xv^d.

The Meane Calker, by the daye, w^t meate & drynke viij^d, w^t owte meate & drynke xiiij^d.

MEN SERVANTS THE YERE.

The Baylyffe of husbandry which taketh charge, w^t his liverye l^s and w^t owte his liverye lvj^s viij^d.

The best servant w^t his liverye xl^s and w^t owte his liverye xlvj^s viij^d.

The seconde sorte of servant, w^t his lyverey xxxiiij^s iiiij^d and w^t owte his lyverey xl^s.

BOYES BY THE YERE.

Everye boye from xiiij yeres of age untill xvij yeres xx^s, or ells meate, drynke & cloth & vj^d a quarter.

WOMEN SERVANTS BY THE YERE.

The beste sorte w^t owte lyvery xxvj^s viij^d. The seconde sorte w^t owte lyverey xx^s.

SERVAUNTS TO ARTIFICERS BY THE YERE.

- Clothyer, his forman iij^{li} vj^s viij^d. The Jorneyman liij^s iiij^d.
 Weaver, his forman iij^{li}. The com'on servant l^s.
 ffuller, the mylman, otherwise called the Tucker of clothes iiij^{li}.
 The byrler liij^s iiij^d.
 Shereman, the best servant iij^{li}. The com'on servant xl^s.
 Dyer, the Wrynger, otherwise called the under Dyer iij^{li}.
 Hosyer & Tayler, the forman iij^{li}. The com'on sower xvj^s viij^d.
 Shomaker, the best servant iij^{li}. The com'on sorte xlvj^s viij^d.
 Tanner, the market man iij^{li}. The com'on servant liij^s iiij^d.
 Pewterer, the fforman iiij^{li} vj^s viij^d. The com'on servant xlvj^s viij^d.
 Baker, the fforman al's setter and seasoner iij^{li} vj^s viij^d. The com'on
 servant liij^s iiij^d.
 Brewer, the head Brewer iij^{li} vj^s viij^d. The com'on servant liij^s iiij^d.
 Glover, the waterman iiij^{li}. The shopman xl^s.
 Cutler, the fforman liij^s iiij^d. The com'on servant xl^s.
 Blacksmyth, the best servant liij^s iiij^d. The com'on servant xl^s.
 Curryer, the best vidz that can worke welle or drye, and also coler
 iij^{li} vj^s viij^d. The com'on sorte xl^s.
 Sadler, the best servant l^s. The seconde sorte xl^s.
 Spurrier, his servant xl^s.
 Turner, his servant xl^s.
 Capper, the best servant xlvj^s viij^d. The seconde sorte xl^s.
 Hatter, hat-maker, as the Capper.
 Bowyers, ffletchers, the best servant liij^s iiij^d. The seconde
 sorte xxxiiij^s iiij^d.
 Arrowhed makers, his man xlvj^s viij^d.
 Butcher, the forman liij^s iiij^d. The seconde sorte xl^s.
 Cooke, his man xl^s.
 Corne Myller, the grynder lj^s iiij^d. The loder liij^s iiij^d.
 Whelewryght, the best servant iij^{li}. The seconde sorte xl^s.
 Lymeburner, his man xl^s.
 Lynnen weaver, the best servant xl^s. The seconde sorte xl^s.
 Cowper, the best servant iij^{li}. The seconde sorte xlvj^s viij^d.
 Earth Potter, his servant man xxxiiij^s viij^d.

The causes and consyderacons why the seid Justices & Sherryffe have taxed the wages & rates abovesaid so high is only the scarcitie and dearth of corne, grayne, victualls, & other necessaries, which at this instant are in the seid Countie so scarce and deere that poore men are not able at reasonable pryces to attayne theyr necessities.

God save the Queen.