

Extract from:

Goltz, Dr. Theodor Frhr. v. der: Die Lage der ländlichen Arbeiter im Deutschen Reich. Berlin: 1875, pp. VIII-XII, 14-15, 174-175

This book is the publication of a study about the situation of agricultural workers everywhere in Germany after the instruction of the Congress deutscher Landwirthe [Congress of German Farmers]. Differing from the original the questions are followed directly by the replies and not organized in tabular form.

Translation by Uta Härtling, 2003.

Greifswald county:

The questions of questionnaire A. were:

I. Free day labourers (without contract).

A. male day labourers.

1) What is the wage of male free day labourers in cash, when they work during the whole year?

in summer without meals

21.6 Groschen¹

with meals

16.6 Groschen

in winter without meals

11.8 Groschen

with meals

6.8 Groschen

if they work only at certain times:

in summer without meals

24.7 Groschen

with meals

18.5 Groschen

in winter without meals

11.8 Groschen

with meals

6.8 Groschen

2) What kinds of goods do the male day labourers get and how much would this be in cash per year? meals (including beverage); presents for going to the fair, at christmas etc.; land for flax, potatoes etc.; other gifts and supports, and which?

meals: 67.5 Thaler

other gifts and supports: 5 Thaler

3) How much would a male day labourer earn per day working in piecework?

33.3 Groschen

B. female day labourers.

1) What is the wage of female free day labourers in cash, when they work during the whole year?

in summer without meals

15.6 Groschen

with meals

10.6 Groschen

¹ 30 (Silber-) Groschen = 1 (Reichs-) Thaler

1 Thaler = 0.727 \$

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in winter without meals

8.7 Groschen

with meals

3.7 Groschen

if they work only at certain times:

in summer without meals

15.3 Groschen

with meals

11.5 Groschen

in winter without meals

8.7 Groschen

with meals

3.7 Groschen

2) What kinds of goods do the female day labourers get and how much would this be in cash per year? meals (including beverage); presents for going to the fair, at christmas etc.; land for flax, potatoes etc.; other gifts and supports, and which?

--

3) How much would a female day labourer earn per day working in piecework?

20 Groschen

2. day labourers with a contract (Dienstleute, Instleute).

1) What is the wage a day labourer of the estate gets for his and his family's work per year?

200 Thaler (without land)

2) What kind of goods does the family get and how much would this be in cash?

--

3) What is the income the family has from the use of the goods they get?

--

II. servants (Gesinde, Knecht, Magd).

A. male servants on the estates (where the administrator usually does not take part in the work).

1) What kinds of male servants are employed and what is their annual wage? a. supervizing servants (for example Oberknecht, Voigt, Baumeister, Kämmerer, Oberschäfer) 1, 2, 3; b. male servants (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); c. boys (1, 2)?

a.

1 – 75 Thaler

2 – 65 Thaler

b.

1 – 42.5 Thaler

2 – 38 Thaler

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C.

1 – 25 Thaler

2) What goods do the male servants get in addition to their wage, given in money? meals (including beverages), presents for going to the fair, at christmas etc. (including clothes); land for flax, potatoes etc.; other gifts and supports (including the premiums for health insurance), and which? gratuities?

meals: 100 Thaler

Presents: 7.5 Thaler

B. female servants on the estates (compare A.).

1) What kinds of female servants are employed and what is their annual wage? a. supervizing servants (for example Ausgeberin, Wirthschafterin) 1, 2; b. female servants (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)?

a.

1 – 97.5 Thaler

2 – 70 Thaler

b.

1 – 36.5 Thaler

2 – 28.7 Thaler

3 – 23.5 Thaler

2) What goods do the female servants get in addition to their wage, given in money? meals (including beverages), presents for going to the fair, at christmas etc. (including clothes); land for flax, potatoes etc.; other gifts and supports (including the premiums for health insurance), and which? gratuities?

meals: 100 Thaler

presents: 5 Thaler

land: 4 Thaler

C. male servants on the farms (on such properties where the owner in his family usually take part in the work).

1) Which kind of male servants are employed and what is their annual wage? a. male servants (1, 2, 3); b. boys (1, 2)?

a.

1 - 32 Thaler

b.

1 – 20 Thaler

2) What goods do the male servants get in addition to their wage, given in money? meals (including beverages), presents for going to the fair, at christmas etc. (including clothes); land for flax, potatoes etc.; other gifts and supports (including the premiums for health insurance), and which? gratuities?

meals: 100 Thaler

presents: 3 Thaler

land: 3 Thaler

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D. female servants on the farms (compare C.).

1) What kinds of female servants are employed and what is their annual wage (1, 2, 3, 4)?

1 – 19 Thaler

2) What goods do the female servants get in addition to their wage, given in money? meals (including beverages), presents for going to the fair, at chistmas etc. (including clothes); land for flax, potatoes etc.; other gifts and supports (including the premiums for health insurance), and which? gratuities?

meals: 90 Thaler

presents: 2 Thaler

land: 6 Thaler

III. Do the servants or day labourers receive a share of return of the farm/estate or of parts of the production (for example: cattle breeding, dairy, distillery, cultivation of tobacco, vineculture)? What kind of share is it, and how much is it?

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IV. How much is then the complete yearly income of a. a day labourer family with land of their own or rented land? b. a family without land? c. a family who lives on the estate and has a contract?

250-350 Thaler

For which region or district can the following replies be regarded as accurate?

Kreis Greifswald

Remark: *The day labourers on the estates [labourers with a yearly contract] generally have to employ a labourer to work at the estate [Hofgänger, Scharwerker]. Under 1c it was explicitly said that only the income of wife and husband were taken into account.*

The questions of questionnaire B. were:

1) For which region or district can the following replies be regarded as accurate?

Kreis Greifswald (New Western Pomerania)

2) Is the cultivation of plants for trade (hops, wine, tobacco, hemp, sugar beets etc.) predominant and which kind or of grains or pastoral agriculture?

cultivation of grains

3) Are large estates or middle or small farms predominant? Is the land united or parceled out?

large, united

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4) Which types of the following agricultural workers are existing, and which predominate in number? a. farmhands [Knecht, Magd], b. day labourers with land of their own or rented land [Tagelöhner], c. free day labourers without land, d. workers with a fixed contract living on the estate [Dienstmann, Instmann], e. other workers (children, siblings)?

d.

5) Which of these five kinds of agricultural workers is financial in the best situation?

d.

6) What is the average size of the property of the land-owning day labourers (in hectares or ares)? And what is the value of it?

-- / --

7) How many of the day labourers lease land? How much? What is the rent per hectare?

nein

8) Are there sufficient workers available at all times of the year? And do the day labourers find work all year long if they want?

nein / ja

9) Do workers from other regions come at certain times (for example during the harvest)? At which times? From which regions? Under which conditions? Or: Do some of the workers leave at times to work in other regions (migrant workers)? At which times? How long? Where to?

workers from the Warthe river and Posen at harvest time, in exchange for the 15th part

10) How many hours is the daily working time in summer? In winter?

10-11 / 7-8

11) Is it easy to get the workers to do overtime in urgent cases? Which specialized payment do they get for this?

it is getting more difficult lately

12) On how many days is worked per year?

300

13) Are the wages for the farmhands paid per week, quarter, or year, and for which period are they usually contracted?

a) yearly

b) 1 year

14) Did the wages (daily, weekly or annually paid) rise during the last 10 or 20 years? By how many percent approximately? Since when?

100 – 300% / esp. during the last 3-4 years

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15) Do the wives of the agricultural day labourers regularly work for wages?

hardly ever

16) Do the adult children of the agricultural workers work in agriculture before they establish their own household? Or do they take on other jobs and what kind of jobs?

the former yes

17) To which extent are children used for agricultural work? Beginning at which age?

hardly ever, at the age of 10-14 years

18) At which age do the agricultural workers (male/female) usually marry?

a. 20-24 years

b. 17-20 years

19) How much income does the family of an agricultural worker's family with five members need annually (food, clothing, housing, heating costs, light, taxes, contributions for church and school) – expressed in money?

very different

20) Do the workers have fire insurances for their mobile property and for which average value?

no

21) Are there livestock insurance societies on a mutual basis among the workers, or in the communities, where the land is parceled out?

on some of the estates

22) Are there any societies for social support, health care, or funeral cost support in existence among the agricultural workers?

no

23) Are there any consumer societies and do the agricultural workers take part in these?

no

24) Are there any banks or credit societies in the region, the towns, or on the estates? Do the agricultural workers take part in these?

Kreis banks, hardly ever used

25) Do the workers show a tendency to save money for the later purchase or leasing of land? Does this tendency also show among single workers or only after marriage?

no

26) Is there always an opportunity to buy or lease land?

always for buying

27) Is it common in this region that workers are contracted for a certain sum or a part of the yield to do all the work or an important part of it during the whole year on a

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certain piece of land or a certain kind of plant (vine, tobacco, hemp, root crops etc.)?

Which plants and for which payment?

no

28) Is it common that workers work at times as agricultural day labourers and at other times in different lines of business (for example: forestry, mining, road construction, factories, homework, building and construction trade etc.)? And in which?

no

29) How is the financial, educational, and moral situation of the agricultural workers in comparison to the same factors among other workers?

financially much better

30) Is there an influence of workers of other lines of business on the agricultural workers to be felt, and of which kind is it?

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31) Did the whole situation of the agricultural workers improve during the last 10 or 20 years? As follows a. referring to their moral (are there for example less offences against the Sixth Commandment (illegitimate births!), theft (in the fields and woods!), alcoholism etc. than before? b. referring to their education c. referring to their ability to work efficient and their actual efficiency d. referring to their financial situation (here it has to be emphasized whether the workers generally live under better conditions, feed and clothe better, and whether they are more economical than before)?

a. c. no, just the opposite

d. yes, very much

32) Has the socialist agitation already begun among the workers, and with what kind of success?

very successfully

33) Are there any infant schools (day nurseries, playing schools, kindergartens), and are they used by the agricultural workers?

no

34) Do the children of the agricultural workers, who have grown out of school, get further education (esp. working schools)? The boys? The girls? Are these lessons held on Sundays or workdays and at which time of the day?

very seldom on winter evenings

35) Are there any libraries for the people and are they used by the agricultural workers?

no

36) Do many workers emigrate? Which is the supposed cause for their emigration? Which kinds of the under 4 named groups of workers predominate in emigration? Do they emigrate mainly to the cities or to foreign countries?

yes, increasing strongly