

Coal Mining and the Victorians

Using Evidence: Example of Statistical Information

This table (see over for a larger print), with a further three families, appears on pages 218 and 219 of the Report of Children's Employment: Mines 1842 Volume 7. The information was collected by sub-commissioner J.C Symons.

APPENDIX H.
220.—AVERAGE OF WAGES and CONSUMPTION OF FOOD for Eight Weeks in the Families of Six Colliers in Flockton, a parish in Yorkshire chiefly composed of Colliers.

Names.	Employment.	Wages per Week.	Rent of House.	Number of Rooms.	Size of House.	Beds.	Ventilation of Rooms.	Furniture.	Books.	Garden.	Remarks.																								
George Wood and Jane Wood	Collier In Land in Harvest	£. s. d. 0 14 8 0 6 1	s. 1	Kitchen Back ditto 2 Chambers	ft. ft. 4 by 5 3 by 3½ 4 by 5	3 very good; hung in winter	Excellent; through draught	5 Tables Clock Arm-chair Chairs	Delf-case, with abundance of Cooking utensils.	4 Bibles 2 Testaments Questions on the Common Prayer New Testament Herbal Book Barbauld's Hymns	Beautiful order, 18 yds. by 7 yds.	This person is a steady man; delicate from asthma; has worked with one master 30 years.																							
Children of above— Sarah 17 years William 15 ,, Joseph 12 ,,	Hurrier Hurrier At School	0 7 0 0 5 6	Per Week.																																
Total earnings	1 13 3	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Butter</td> <td>1 0</td> <td>Coals</td> <td>0 4</td> <td>Oatmeal</td> <td>1 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coffee</td> <td>0 3</td> <td>Meat</td> <td>2 6</td> <td>Malt</td> <td>2 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tea</td> <td>0 7½</td> <td>Wheatmeal</td> <td>6 2</td> <td>Potatoes</td> <td>0 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sugar</td> <td>1 0</td> <td colspan="4"></td> </tr> </table> <p>This house uniformly clean. The owner and his children can read and write, and regularly attend public worship. Their food consists of milk and water, with bread to breakfast; meat and potatoes to dinner. Breakfast as 8; dinner from 2 to 5; a little bread between. Killed a pig in the winter weighing 10 stones. Window curtains both to upper and lower rooms. This family dress very well.</p>									Butter	1 0	Coals	0 4	Oatmeal	1 0	Coffee	0 3	Meat	2 6	Malt	2 1	Tea	0 7½	Wheatmeal	6 2	Potatoes	0 8	Sugar	1 0				
Butter	1 0	Coals	0 4	Oatmeal	1 0																														
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Names.	Employment.	Wages per Week.	Rent of House.	Number of Rooms.	Size of House.	Beds.	Ventilation of Rooms.	Furniture.	Books.	Remarks.																									
Simoon Metcalf and Nancy Metcalf	Collier In Land in Harvest	£. s. d. 0 14 3½ 0 5 0	s. 1	Kitchen Back ditto and Pantry 1 Bed-room	ft. ft. 5 by 7 5 by 7	3 Beds; 1 divided by a curtain for the Girls	This house has not a thorough draught, and is rather dark.	4 Tables Clock Large Book- Case and Drawers	Chairs and Delf-case 2 Testaments Common Prayer 2 Hymn-Books Barbauld's Hymns	Dr. Channing's Catechism Questions of the Testament Barbauld's Hymns	A good worker; with one master 47 years. He can read.																								
Children of the above— Joseph 25 years James 24 ,, Richards 21 ,, Marianne 17 ,, Elizabeth 14 ,, Simon 10 ,, George 8 ,,	Collier Collier Hurrier In Land In Land Hurrier At School	0 13 0 0 12 0 0 7 0 0 4 6 average for 1 yr. 0 2 1 0 5 0 0 5 0	Per Week.																																
Total earnings	3 3 10½	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Meat</td> <td>13 1½</td> <td>Sugar</td> <td>1 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Meal</td> <td>8 6</td> <td>Butter</td> <td>1 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oatmeal</td> <td>0 6</td> <td>Tea</td> <td>0 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malt</td> <td>4 2</td> <td>Coffee</td> <td>0 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Potatoes</td> <td>1 8</td> <td>Coals</td> <td>0 4</td> </tr> </table> <p>This house not uniformly neat, but much excuse to be made in the number of the family, so many men all colliers. The man and his wife attend public service, and the younger children, who can also read and write. The older sons drink much, and spend their Sabbath in lounging about. The diet much the same as that of other colliers. This family killed a pig weighing 12 stone at Christmas. This family decently dressed. They have not any garden, but a good potato-piece. The mother takes tea to dinner.</p>									Meat	13 1½	Sugar	1 4	Meal	8 6	Butter	1 0	Oatmeal	0 6	Tea	0 10	Malt	4 2	Coffee	0 3	Potatoes	1 8	Coals	0 4				
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William Child and Margaret Child.	Collier	£. s. d. 1 1 11½	s. 1 2	Kitchen Bedroom Pantry	ft. ft. 5 by 3½ 5 by 3½	3 very good; neatly hung	Thorough draught	Clock Easy Chair Delf-case Chairs	1 Bible 1 Testament Common Prayer Hymn Book	This man is steady, and very respectable in his conduct; re- gular in his religious duties. His health rather delicate.																									
Children of above— Pestus 9 years Eliza 7 ,, Erasmus 4 ,, Jamar 2 ,, Alfred 0½ ,,	Hurrier At School	0 3 6	Per Week.																																
Total earnings	1 5 5½	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Coals</td> <td>0 4</td> <td>Malt</td> <td>1 1½</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Meat</td> <td>3 6</td> <td>Potatoes</td> <td>0 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wheatmeal</td> <td>8 4</td> <td>Sugar</td> <td>1 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oatmeal</td> <td>0 6</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Tea and Coffee of hawkers.</p> <p>This house is kept as neat and clean as is possible with so many young children. The dietary consists of tea to breakfast for the women; oatmeal porridge and milk for children and man. Meat and potatoes, with Yorkshire pudding, for dinner. This family does not keep a pig. The man has worked for one master 13 years.</p>									Coals	0 4	Malt	1 1½	Meat	3 6	Potatoes	0 8	Wheatmeal	8 4	Sugar	1 4	Oatmeal	0 6										
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Questions

- Compare the three families by looking closely at:
 - The number of children and their ages
 - Wages
 - The house, rooms, furniture, rent paid
 - How much food was bought and prices
- Why do you think the sub-commissioner would be interested in what books the families own?
- How do you think these families were chosen?
- Why was the information recorded?
- Is the information accurate (look at the room sizes)?

Extensions questions

- Can you decide what factors the sub-commissioner thought were important to the families' well-being?
- What information is missing? What other questions could have been asked?
- Look at the remarks and longer comments. Who wrote these? Would those who wrote the remarks have been living in similar circumstances to these families?
- Compare these families with families today.

APPENDIX H.

220.—AVERAGE OF WAGES AND CONSUMPTION OF FOOD FOR EIGHT WEEKS IN THE FAMILIES OF SIX COLLIERIES IN THE PARISH IN YORKSHIRE CHIEFLY COMPOSED OF COLLIERIES.

Names.	Employment.	Wages per Week.	Rent of House.	Number of Rooms.	Size of House.	Beds.	Ventilation of Rooms.	Furniture.	Books.	Garden.	Remarks.																								
George Wood	Collier	£. s. d. 0 14 8	s. 1	Kitchen Back ditto 2 Chambers	ft. ft. 4 by 5 3 by 3½ 4 by 5	3 very good; hung in winter	Excellent; thorough draught	5 Tables Clock Arm-chair Chairs	4 Bibles 2 Testaments 2 Hymn-Books Common Prayer Herbal Book Barbould's Hymns	Dr. Channing's Catechism Questions on the New Testament Common Prayer	Beautiful order; 18 yds. by 7 yds.	This person is a steady man; delicate from asthma; has worked with one master 30 years.																							
Children of above—																																			
Sarah	Harrier	0 7 0																																	
William	Harrier	0 5 6																																	
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Simeon Metcalf	Collier	£. s. d. 0 14 3½	s. 1	Kitchen Back ditto and Pantry 1 Bed-room	ft. ft. 5 by 7		This house has not a thorough draught, and is rather dark.	4 Tables Clock Large Book-Case and Drawers	4 Bibles 2 Testaments Common Prayer 2 Hymn-Books Barbould's Hymns	Dr. Channing's Catechism Questions of the Testament	A. good worker; with one master 47 years. He can read.																								
Nancy Metcalf	In Land in Harvest	0 6 0																																	
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