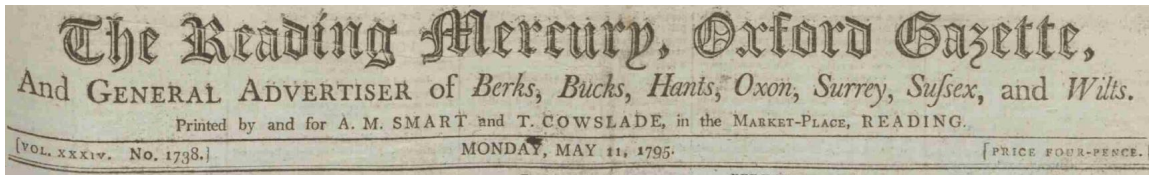


The Speenhamland System of Poor Relief
The Reading Mercury, Oxford Gazette, May 11th, 1795



BERKSHIRE, TO WIT

At a General Meeting of the justices of this County, together with several discreet persons assembled by public advertisement, on Wednesday the 6th day of May, 1795, at the Pelican Inn in Speenhamland (in pursuance of an order of the last Court of General Quarter Sessions) for the purpose of rating Husbandry Wages, by the day or week, if then approved of,

PRESENT,

Charles DUMDAS, Esq. in the Chair,

Rev. John Craven,	Henry Deane, Esq.
Rev. George Watts,	John Whitcomb, Esq.
Rev. Jas Morgan, D. D.	William Walker, Esq.
Edward Thornhill, Esq.	Wm. Henry Price, Esq.
John Blagrove, Esq.	W. Wiseman Clarke, Esq.
Rev. Henry Sawbridge,	John G. Ravenshaw, Esq.
Rev. — Wilson,	Thomas Slack. Esq.
Rev. Edward Townsend,	John Crost, Esq.
Rev. Richard Coxe,	

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

That the poor state of the Poor does not require further assistance than has been generally given them.

RESOLVED,

That it is not expedient for the Magistrates to grant that assistance by regulating the Wages of Day Labourers, according to the directions of the Statutes of the 5th Elizabeth and 1st James: But the Magistrates very earnestly recommend to the Farmers and others throughout the county, to increase the pay of their Labourers in proportion to the present price of provisions; and agreeable thereto, the Magistrates now present, have unanimously resolved that they will, in their several divisions, make the following calculations and allowances for relief of all poor and industrious men and their families, who to the satisfaction of the justices of their Parish, shall endeavour (as far as they can) for their own support and maintenance.

That is to say,
When the Gallon Loaf of Second
Flour, Weighing 8lb. 11ozs. shall cost
1s.

Then every poor and industrious
man shall have for his own support
3s. weekly, either produced by his
own or his family's labour, or an
allowance from the poor rates, and
for the support of his wife and every
other of his family, 1s. 6d.

When the Gallon Loaf shall cost 1s.
4d.

Then every poor and industrious
man shall have 4s. weekly for his
own, and 1s. and 10d. for the support
of every other of his family.

And so in proportion, as the price of
bread rise or falls (that is to say) 3d.
to the man, and 1d. to every other of
the family, on every 1d. which the
loaf rise above 1s.

By order of the Meeting,
W. BUDD, Deputy Clerk of the Peace.

BERKSHIRE, TO WIT.

AT a General Meeting of the Justices of
this County, together with several discreet per-
sons assembled by public advertisement, on Wednesday
the 6th day of May, 1795, at the Pelican Inn in Speen-
hamland, (in pursuance of an order of the last Court
of General Quarter Sessions) for the purpose of rating
Husbandry Wages, by the day or week, if then ap-
proved of,

PRESENT,

CHARLES DUNDAS, Esq; in the Chair,	
Rev. John Craven,	Henry Drane, Esq.
Rev. George Watts,	John Whitcomb, Esq.
Rev. Jas. Morgan, D. D.	William Walker, Esq.
Edward Thornhill, Esq.	Wm. Henry Price, Esq.
John Blagrave, Esq.	W. Wiseman Clarke, Esq.
Rev. Henry Sawbridge,	John G. Ravenshaw, Esq.
Rev. ——— Wilton,	Thomas Slack, Esq.
Rev. Edward Townsend,	John Croft, Esq.
Rev. Richard Cox,	

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,
That the present state of the Poor does require fur-
ther assistance than has been generally given them.

RESOLVED,
That it is not expedient for the Magistrates to grant
that assistance by regulating the Wages of Day La-
bourers, according to the directions of the Statutes of
the 5th Eliz. and 1st. James: But the Magistrates very
earnestly recommend to the Farmers and others through-
out the county, to increase the Pay of their Labourers
in proportion to the present Price of Provisions; and
agreeable thereto, the Magistrates now present have
unanimously Resolved, That they will, in their several
divisions, make the following calculations and allow-
ances for relief of all poor and industrious Men and
their families, who to the satisfaction of the Justices
of their Parish, shall endeavour (as far as they can) for
their own support and maintenance:

That is to say,
When the Gallon Loaf of Second Flour, weighing
8lb 11 ozs. shall cost 1s.

Then every poor and industrious Man shall have
for his own support 3s. weekly, either produced by
his own or his family's labour, or an allowance from
the poor rates, and for the support of his Wife and
every other of his family, 1s. 6d.

When the Gallon Loaf shall cost 1s. 4d.

Then every poor and industrious Man shall have 4s.
weekly for his own, and 1s. and 10d. for the support
of every other of his family.

And so in proportion, as the price of Bread rises or
falls, (that is to say) 3d. to the Man, and 1d. to every
other of the family, on every 1d. which the Loaf rises
above 1s.

By Order of the Meeting,
W. BUDD, Deputy Clerk of the Peace.