



Hard Times For Ag Labs

The following is from a London paper.

Distress of the "Chase" Labourers at Bower-Chalk, Wilts.

This rural village can, we believe, boast of as much industry and virtue as many parishes in the whole country, and yet immediately as the harvest is gathered in, distress prevails here. Some of the labourers have been out of employ for several weeks. Those with families have of course applied to their respective parishes. Two active, able bodied married men, each with six children, applied a few days ago to the Wilton Union for relief. The expense of each of these families, eight in number, would in the Union be 24s. per week. The poor families would have been glad with 1s. per head out-door relief, but this or any relief out of the Union was refused them; and, consequently, their only redress were orders for admission into the Union. The "Chase" labourers used to be employed by the woodward of Lord Pembroke six months a year, and to which has now dwindled down to about two months in the year, and to which may partly be attributed their present distress.

The failure of the potato crop will add very considerably to the sufferings of these poor labourers, who, we understand, have petitioned the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert for his interference, so as to keep them from having their houses broken up, and becoming inmates of a Union. One of the sufferers says that about ten or twelve of them may now have work in the Chase, they will accept of two-thirds of the value of the "Moors" who grubbed up, and sold, and which would be a source of employment not sufficient to support human nature.

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