

unsettled trade was reported in potatoes, and farmers appeared to be holding back their wheat (Yorkshire Gazette, 22 August 1891; 15 August 1914).

In 1891 Thomas Atkinson was the 42 year old tenant farmer at Naburn Grange. He and his wife, Elizabeth, 40, had six children: John (14), George (12), Marry (10), Fanny (8), Thomas (6) and Charles (4). A niece, Elizabeth Wide (18 months) also lived with them. They also had two farm servants living-in : Anthony Kidd (22) and Arthur Fletcher (15). Elizabeth Barker (15), born in Stillingfleet, was a general domestic servant.

On 8 May 1906 George Atkinson, now 27, moved to Holmes House, outside the parish. His account book gives a flavour of life as a farmer with a loss of £13 for the period May to October 1906. We learn that two men are paid 4s each for haymaking on 14 July; and four men 4s 6d each for thrashing on 1 September. Payment for cutting 15 acres of clover, grass, grass bottoms and the Ings - at two shillings per acre - amounts to £1 10s, on 6 October. Irishmen are paid £18 1s on 27 October for harvesting 17 acres 32 perches at 21s per acre; and Rooke is paid 7s 6d for nine gallons of ale! A sense of the importance of the railway is gleaned with £5 11s 6d to the NER account in May. Nearly £4 is paid to NER for coal in September; and 18s 3d for carriage of manure in October (Atkinson 1906).

The Farm Workers' Manifesto of the Yorkshire Executive of the Agricultural Workers' Union offers a glimpse of the conditions and demands of agricultural workers. In 1914 there was concern that the cost of living had steadily risen over the preceding decade, with wages having improved little, and long hours continuing to be the norm. The Union sought a minimum wage of 23s per week, and an equivalent advance for hired men. It wanted a 60 hour working week, with overtime at 6d an hour. "... three months notice should be given when a labourer is required to leave his cottage; .. all unexhausted improvements in his garden shall be valued and paid for a week before the outgoing tenant's notice expires...".

The Union decided on a strike to secure their demands - or destruction of crops left rotting on the ground. However, with declaration of war, the threat of a strike was set aside despite concern that a rise in food prices would enhance farmers' profits at the expense of the workers (Yorkshire Gazette, 8 August 1914).

LIVING CONDITIONS

An 1893 report examined conditions in the York Rural Sanitary District and exposed a very unsatisfactory water supply. A number of wells are polluted due to proximity to privies, middens, foldyards and pigsties. Sanitary conditions varied from village to village, Escrick in advance of many. Inspector T. W. Thompson reports of Naburn:

For slop water disposal the village is drained by 3 unventilated pipes, 2 of which unite at the apex of the triangle and discharge their crude contents into a beck by the roadside. The other "sewer" running along the base of the triangle...silted up at the outfall, and having burst higher up was discharging on the river bank.