

£6 in lieu. The paying of ploughmen in grain is nearly confined to this county—all the hinds upon a farm receiving the same "gains." The foreman paid a few extras. During last century, from the absence of fences and sown grass, horses were herding during the day upon the wastes and pastures, and at night were confined to the stable, and often fed with thistles pulled during the day by the hinds. The pulling of a back-load of thistles out from among the growing crops was considered a day's work, and was their usual summer occupation. During winter the ploughmen, and even the farmers' sons, instead of going to school, had to trash in the morning and, afterwards to follow the plough during the day. This is a common practice yet in the west upland districts of Scotland. The want of fuel was severely felt. Furze, and, where possible to obtain it, turf formed the chief supply. Now the farmer carts for the hinds and cottars generally as many coals as they choose to pay for. The whole gains of a hind could not exceed £12 to £14, now even with the present prices it must be about double this sum. At that time tea was never to be seen in a cottar's house, now it generally forms a part at least of the afternoon repast. The boys that drive the plough got from 20s. to 30s. per half-year, and were fed in the house, sleeping in the stable—now they get, when so engaged, from £3 to £5. They often underwent great hardships, and little regard was paid to stated hours of labor. In the last century, at cock-crowing, three o'clock A. M., they got up and foddered all the stock. Artisans were paid at proportionately low rates. The payment of a tailor per day was then 4d., with food, now it is 1s. 6d., with food. Smiths, wrights, in proportion, being both paid in grain—generally oats. Day laborers received 8d. per day, now 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d.; females (but seldom employed) 4d., now from 8d. to 10d. Baron Hepburn, writing in 1793, states "I remember since laborers received 5d. during winter, and 6d. during summer, harvest excepted. When we reflect upon the price of clothing, food, &c., the wonder is how they maintained themselves and families. Harvest laborers were usually engaged for the whole harvest, extending generally to three weeks at 10s. with food—now they are engaged by the week at from 6s. to 10s. The hands employed were generally people of the district, with a few stray Highlanders. Few Highlanders come now, although harvest wages for six or eight weeks may amount to from £2 to £3. The strong national dislike to the Irish now prevents the Highlanders from coming. Previous to the introduction of the Irish, the Highlanders were extremely difficult to manage, and at the time of the feeing markets, held weekly at Linton during harvest, a small detachment of military had to be kept ready in the

neighborhood, with special constables—now, neither are required. Reapers were sometimes so scarce during the war that military had to be got from Edinburgh to cut down the crops—now the number of Irish is so great that they are seldom all employed even at the busiest time of harvest. Their introduction into the county is comparatively recent. About forty years ago two Irishmen came for harvest work, and remained all harvest work, and remained all harvest at Waughton. They have rapidly increased, till not less than 12,000 are annually employed within the county, accompanied by women and children at least to another 1,000, who live by begging.

About the middle of the eighteenth century a few potatoes were introduced, supposed to be from Ireland. At first the cultivation was confined to the gardens, and were not grown to any great extent. When the cultivation extended to the field the great want of manure restricted their cultivation, and the demand for them was comparatively limited. The taste of the people at first was rather against their extensive use: but they soon began to appreciate them as an article of diet.

Mr. John Dudgeon, of Tynningham, and Thomas Russell, a market gardener at Waughton, were the first who grew them to any extent. Towards the end of the last century the disease termed curl affected them. It was soon discovered that this could be prevented by changing the seed from a high district to a low one. It is somewhat remarkable, that still the period of the potato rot a change of seed was always found necessary; now the disease termed curl is comparatively unknown, and little attention is bestowed on changing from one district to another.

Neither the climate nor soil of East-Lothian is the best suited for the growth of the potato, the former being considered too dry, and the latter containing too much clay. Its cultivation up to the period of the rot had not been found profitable, except that of the coarser varieties for fattening stock, and comparatively few even of these were grown.

About 1830, some farmers commenced to grow them extensively for the Newcastle and London market, but in the end it proved unprofitable. The expense of rising them with the uncertainty of the rates obtained partially caused this. It is only since furrow draining and the more extended introduction of portable manures, that potatoes have come to be considered by the best farmers as a profitable crop.

The railway which now intersects the county, affords an easy access to the Edinburgh and Glasgow markets—added to this for the last four years, the disease has been almost unknown in this county, while, on the western coast, the potato crop continues