

In the 1890s Henry Webb would have been earning a daily wage of 4/6d, and working eight hours a day. It was the custom in the Black Country to pay wages at a nearby public house, usually run by the mine's 'butty'. A Tipton miner described how the system worked in the 1860s:

*“Ye see ivvery butty keeps a public-house, and we must go there o’ Saturdays to be paid, and there he keeps us waitin’; and some gets tired o’ waitin’, an’ begins to drink, an’ mebbie they drinks three or four shillin’ afore we gets our money. Then sixpence is stopped from ivvery man all round ivvery week, ‘cause, ye see, ivvery man is expected to drink a quart at pay-time whether he wants to or no. Then if a new man have bin took on at the pit, a shillin’ is stopped from he for fut-ale (paying the footing), an’ sixpence a-piece is stopped from all the rest on us for that. An’ so, ye see, wi’ them sixpences, and what we drinks while we be kept waitin’, there’s some on us ain’t got much to take out o’ sixteen shillings a week.”*