

who had a very minor part of the good things of life compared to what these had. But all of the rest of the people, probably 95% of them, were living in hovels, living in hovels out on the land producing what they could, and getting what kind of a living they could out of what they produced. And that was very very little. They had practically no change of diet. They killed their pig and ate it up, but it would be a question how soon they would get another one, ordinarily the ordinary crops that they were personally able to grow had to suffice them for the year and carry them through the winter and until a new harvest came in.

I would say that 95% of the people, 98% probably in England 600 yrs. ago lived in a condition of ~~of comparative~~ compared to which most of the poorest people in America would seem to be living in luxury today. Now at that time if you had taken the luxury that Richard II enjoyed. If you had taken the fine things that he secured from all over Europe, if you had taken the somewhat less fine things that had been secured by the dozen or so dukes, and what the maybe 50 or so Earls had, and divided them up among all the people, everybody might be 1% better off, but I'm sure not more. It would have made very little difference in the whole situation. It's interesting if you go up to Boston some time, to stop at Sturbridge village, and there at Sturbridge village they have tried to show what a village ~~it~~ was like 100 to 150 years ago in America. And of course it is way ahead of what things were 600 yrs. ago. But as you compare it it with today, you are inclined to think that it's not more than 1/5 of the way from the conditions 600 yrs. ago to our conditions today. You see their roads which are thick with dirt as you go over them in a wagon with ~~the~~ the horse pulling you. The dust just ~~shakes~~ ^{makes} a tremendous storm ~~it~~ in back of you. There is absolutely nothing like paving. If you go 4 miles an hr. in your wagon, you're moving along at a pretty fair clip. There are ~~some~~ some people there that have the arts of those days which they carry off very nicely, but they amount that they are able to accomplish is comparatively small. The luxury of the average person is way ahead of what it was 600 yrs. ago but not a fifth of what it is today. Today in America 9/10 of our people are far ahead