## THE MILKMAID AND HER PAIL

## SOLUTION:

The grid may first be solved as a relatively straightforward Drop Quote-type puzzle, in which the letters in the columns drop into the spaces below to spell words and phrases. In this case, the phrases all contain the word "chicken", which is not represented by letters. To make the phrases work out, some eggs must be imagined to have "hatched" into chickens. These eggs are indicated by asterisks in the filled in grid below. Eggs are otherwise treated as spaces between words.

Once your chickens have hatched, they can be counted. Each chicken is worth the value of the numbered row in which it appears. The total number of chickens in each 3-column area should be determined. These totals, shown below, are then converted alphanumerically to spell the answer phrase MINIMUM WAGE.


13(M) $\quad 9(\mathrm{I}) \quad 14(\mathrm{~N}) \quad 9(\mathrm{I}) \quad 13(\mathrm{M}) \quad 21(\mathrm{U}) \quad 13(\mathrm{M}) \quad 23(\mathrm{~W}) \quad 1(\mathrm{~A}) \quad 7(\mathrm{G}) \quad 5(\mathrm{E})$

