

a field to cultivate and then did not produce a crop he had to pay to the owner an amount equal to the proportionate share of the average production of the adjoining fields. In case he did not cultivate the field he was required, in addition, to plow the field thoroughly before returning it to the owner. (Sections 42 and 43)

Many of the documents found in the temple archives deal with the arrangements involved in the managements of the large temple estates. In the documents from the temple archives of Nippur, published in volumes 14 and 15, of the series of the Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania are many documents of this character. The management of those estates required an entire staff of bookkeepers and the constant oversight of those who worked them for the temple or who rented them from it.

The smaller holdings were worked by the peasants, either alone or with the help of their family. In some cases they held slaves or hired free wage earners in the harvest period. Often the peasant found it necessary to borrow from the moneyed class in order to provide seed. The most important part of the work of the peasant consisted in the watering of the land. Various methods were used for raising the water from the river and distributing it as needed. The various levees had to be opened and closed so as to water the various fields in turn and this required a good deal of ability and care. Next to irrigation the plowing was most important. The Code of Hammurabi makes the theft of a plow punishable by a fine of five shekles of silver. (Section 55) The plow was generally drawn by two oxen. If the peasant did not have his own animals he rented some, but he was required to