

any dishonesty in this connection. If grain which was stored for safekeeping suffered damage in the granary, if the owner of the granary stole part of the grain that had been given for safekeeping, or if he disputed the amount of grain that had been stored with him, the owner of the grain that had been stored with him had merely to declare on oath the amount of his grain and the proprietor of the storehouse was required to return him double. (Section 1 - 20)

We have already observed that in Southern Babylonia there were many sections of land which were not good for the growing of grain but which could be used for pasturage. In any study of the agricultural development of a nation it is advisable to pay some attention to its pasturage, to the various animals which were raised for food or which were used in the cultivation of the fields themselves. At the beginning of history we find many animals already domesticated. It is impossible to say whether this domestication took place in Mesopotamia or elsewhere. Since many of those animals occurred wild in Mesopotamia and neighboring regions it seems entirely conceivable that the domestication may have occurred there. No historical record throws any light on this problem. The first domestication of animals must have occurred long before man had learned to make written records. Much of the literature of the agricultural life of ancient Mesopotamia has to do with the care of sheep and cattle. The herdsman was either an employee of a great estate or performed the work on a small scale for himself and for others. The private men who did not have a large income could not afford to have his own