

for riding he was ideal. It was only later that horses were introduced and to some extent displaced the ass.

There were many varieties of sheep and goats. Their milk was drunk or made into curds and cheese. Their flesh was the usual feast day meal. The tendons and hides were used in many cases. The wool was plucked out until the Cassite period; later, iron shears were invented to make this work lighter and easier.

It would require many months to read even a portion of the tablets dealing with agriculture which are available. These include many contracts providing for the payment of wages, for the leasing of land, or the sale of products. The large estates kept complete accounts of the expenses and returns. The royal records and the mythical stories contain many references to agriculture. From the law codes much information regarding this essential phase of life of the ancient Babylonians can be gleaned. It may not be as romantic as the more unusual phases of the civilization but it is of great importance to the history of the people and for the understanding of the part that they played in the development of human civilization.

Finis.

A. A. MacRae.