

directed toward rain, the gift of the Heavens," and only "when rain falls in the land is there a harvest." In order to do away with the "drought" all sorts of methods were used. especially there is a certain stone used in rain magic. Assurbanipal, Sennacherib and Esnehaddon were the first in Assyria to build great canals in order to produce more grain.

Next to the irrigation, the plowing was the most important work of the peasant. Tiglath-pileser I, had many plows made in Assyria, and the theft of this necessary work tool was punishable in the Code of Hammurabi by a fine of five shekels of silver (description of plows) Generally two oxen pulled the plough, but certain other animals were used. If the peasant did not have his own animals he rented some but he was required to replace those if anything happened to them while they were in his possession.

In addition to the plough, it was necessary to break up the ground with some other instruments which are described here.

We have various sources of information as to the amount of seed which was used for special occasions.

After seeding the peasant had various duties to attend to He was not sure not matter how hard he worked that his wfforts would be rewarded with a large harvest. Wild animals and birds had much to do and it was necessary to take measures against them. In the case of small pieces of land the tenant took over the obligation "to driver away the gazelles and to scare off the ravens" but in large holdings "there were ten special watchmen against ravens." Still worse was the plague of the locusts for sometimes in springs, such a swarm of locusts came that it ate everything away and made the field completely barren. In comparison to this the other troubles which beset the farm work, such as insects and similar things were less harmful. The tenant also had great losses which hi had to bear himself when "The Weather God inundated the field or a flood tore them away" and finally there were bad men who