

In any development process, which, of course, implies structural change, it would be expected that the area cultivated with wheat and *durra* would decrease as intensive methods were introduced, or, alternatively, output would increase with the same amount of land. In the case of Arab peasants, neither occurred. This is in spite of the overall growth and development of the agricultural branch in Palestine as a whole.

Thus, what this situation points to is the extreme unevenness of the process of growth and development in Palestine, both between the Jewish European and Palestine Arab populations, and within the latter as will be more fully argued later. What this also meant was that only a small number of peasants gained from this process. This, in turn, gives more credence to those bankers who held that the peasants' debt was still "considerable" as compared to bankers who thought that it was "negligible" in the 1940s as a result of the increase in cereal prices.¹³³

4.3 Animal Husbandry

Animal husbandry in Palestine, as in other primarily agricultural societies, was an integral part of the Arab rural economy. Animals were the major source of protein (meat, eggs, and dairy products) and of fertilizers (manure) in the mainly extensive system. They were also used for transportation and more importantly for agricultural work (e.g., plowing and threshing). In addition, they were a source of supplementary income whenever surpluses of proteins were sold on the market or

¹³³Ibid., 365-6.