

average value of sheep and goats imported was £P 109,107 for 1930-1933 and increased to £P 310,116 for 1934-1937.¹⁴¹ For cattle, there was an increase from an annual average for 401 for 1930-1933 to an annual average of 25,976 for 1934-1937. There were substantial increases in imports perhaps to compensate for the decrease in livestock, especially the 1930-1934 period.

Similarly, the figures on the number of animals slaughtered from 1926 to 1934 show no disproportionate increase that may account for the decrease in the number of live animals.¹⁴²

The dependence on rain reflects the fact that the livestock owned by the Arab peasants were fed mainly by natural grazing, and, that, in years of low rainfall, animals faced starvation in large numbers lacking the availability of green fodder that, as discussed earlier, was beyond the means of the great majority of the Palestinian Arab peasants. In more general terms, this correlation reflects the major role that nature plays in shaping and conditioning the lives of agriculturists who practice an extensive system of production.

In addition to the role of the amount of rainfall, it appears that the fluctuations in the number of animals may have been affected by the periodic outbreak of different animal diseases.¹⁴³ However, no figures are available on the

¹⁴¹Calculated from *ibid.*, 62-3; no complete figures are available for the 1926-1929 period.

¹⁴²*Abstract 1936*, 33.

¹⁴³For a description of the different animal disease and efforts to control them, see *Survey I*, 327-31, and Brown, "Agriculture," 182-5.