

"tore plants out ~~by the~~ of the field" or the enemy might come and "eat the harvests of the land."

If all these dangers were successfully overcome, the farmer who had faithfully done his work could hope for a good harvest in the late spring (approximately in April and May.) Up to this time, the tenants own work and that of a few slaves was enough but at this time, many hands were necessary. Therefore, for this time wage earners were much sought after and in addition to the natives, all sorts of foreigners came to the land and worked for wages and food during the season.

For harvesting the grain, a sickle was used with which the ears were cut off rather short. Later the straw was cut separately and the stubble was burnt.

The heads were put on the backs of asses or on carts and brought into the threshing floor where they were threshed out by having oxen, asses and small animals walk back and forth over them. Since one did not generally have enough animals of his own to perform this work ~~satisfactorily~~, it was necessary to rent from the neighbors. The "Threshing sledge" which is common in the Orient was known in ancient times but was very seldom used. The grain which had now been broken up into bits was hurled into the air so that the wind would separate itself from the chaf and in addition to this it was also necessary to seive it in order to cleanse it from the dirt. Of the first fruits, the divinities received their part and the ~~new~~ remainder was divided between the ownder and the tenant. Also there were various taxes which had to be paid first/

For preservation of the grain there were storehouses. The poor peasant was not generally able to build such a storehouse for himself. Therefore he had to rent one or he kept his harvest in someone elses house. The rule was very severe in the case of a man with whom grain was deposited taking some of it himself. He was required to re-
(Says
turn double of what he took. In spite of this it was often done. Meissner)