noticing that the legislative penalties were kept at the previous amount[25]. Approximate prices of the sale of slaves are given by the papyrus sources from the 4th century; however, *Diocletian's edict* quotes the price of 30 solidi for a slave[26].

On the subject of wages, several data have been kept till present times[27]. Although *Diocletian's edict* fixed the basic wage of an unqualified manual worker at 25 denarii daily, i.e., 1/40 solidus, other source documents mention lower values. In the year 310, a bath worker in Egypt earned 500 denarii monthly whereas in Palestine, a day's wage amounted from 6 to 7 follarin, i.e., 1/60 solidus. Similar wages result from a contract of employment from Oxyrhynchos which foresaw 100, 125 and 162 1/2 denarii, i.e., 1/65, 1/52 or 1/40 solidus according to the kind of work done. A later papyrus from Oxyrhynchos quotes 300 000 denarii (1/66 solidus) as the basis for accepting the basic wage of the amount of about 1/56 solidus ($\approx$ 0,08 g of gold)[28].

THE 5th AND 6th CENTURIES A.D.

Very little reliable data appear on the prices of grain in the 5th century and these are as follows: 1/40, 1/11, 1/60, 1/33, 1/33, 1/47 and 1/43 solidus. These prices allow us to take 1/35 solidus (0,13 g of gold) as a representative price of that period[29]. The price documents from the 6th century have a similar significance[30].

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[25] *Cod. Just.* VI 1,1—7. AS in the Old Testament his brothers sold Joseph for 20 aurei? (*Gen.* XXXVII 28).

[26] 18 sol. (BGU I 316); 12 sol. (P. Lond. II 251); 10 250 drachms = 14 sol. (P. Lond. III 977;) *Ed. Diocl.* 29,1a; 913 T. 2 000 drachms = 20 sol. (SB 8007). See W.L. Westermann, *The Slave Systems of Greek and Roman Antiquity*, Philadelphia 1955, p. 132; S. Lauffer, *Ein Sklavenkapitel in Diokletians Preisedikt*, Chiron I 1971, p. 377 f.; Strauss, *o.c.*, p. 289, 294.

[27] On wages see West, Johnson, *Byz. Egypt*, p. 194 f.; Sperber, *o.c.* p. 251, IX, 1966, p. 189—190, 194; Mrozek, *Preisverhältnisse*, p. 32. They do not fulfil the demands of representativeness: 100 den. daily for a rhabduchus (PSI 1037); 30000 den. daily (Gr. Pap. II 75); 500 den. for rhabduchus (P.O. 1626); 37000 den., 22 500 den., 18000 den., 22000 1/2 den., 23400 den. daily (BGU 21); 2 sol.-4cerat., I sol. and I sol. yearly (Kl. Form. 6, 10, 74, 105, 350); 1/2 sol. yearly for assaner (PER 146); I sol. yearly (Cass. *Coll.* IX 5,5).

[28] 1/40 sol. (*ed. diocl.* 7,1a); 1/62 sol. (P.O. 1499); Gen. Rabba 70,15; 100 den., 125 and 162 1/2 den. (PER.E. 2000); 1/66 sol. (PSI 287). Compare P.O. 1056 where I sol. = 20 000 000 den. See also West, Johnson, *Byz. Egypt*, p. 194; Sperber, *o.c.*, IX 1966, p. 189; R. Duncan-Jones, *The Economy of the Roman Empire. Quantitative Studies*, Combridge 1974, p. 366.

[29] Nov. Val. XIII 4; P. Princeton 136; An. Vales. II 74; Kl. Form. 769; St. Pal. 8,769; PSI 46; St. Pal. 10,114.

[30] 1/40 sol. (P. Cairo 67320); 1/25 sol. (Cass. Var.); 1/33 sol. (SEG VIII 355); 1/66 sol. (P.O. 1911); 1/31 sol. (P.O. 1907); 1/37 sol. (P.O. 2022); 1/33 sol. (P.O.1909, 1920); 1/44 sol. (P.O.154 = 2024); 1/40 sol. (P.O. 1960); 1/40 sol. (P.O. 2023); 1/59