

population, determined to settle and support itself there at all costs and at its own risk.

The above brief historical sketch will show that the Jewish colonization of Palestine is not the realization of any plan or system decided upon beforehand and uniformly applied everywhere; on the contrary, what the Jews have so far created in Palestine represents the result of a host of independent efforts, inspired by different and sometimes contradictory tendencies. Yet experience and local conditions have succeeded in introducing into these efforts a certain order and uniformity, thus leading to an intelligent collaboration, conscious of the identity of the aim in view. What have been the results of these multifarious efforts? What has been the influence of the Jews on the development of Palestine during the last few decades? What part do they play to-day in the economic activity of the country?

INFLUENCE OF THE JEWS ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF PALESTINE.

In view of the opinion, often expressed by sociologists and economists, that the Jews are incapable of becoming good agriculturists, it is interesting to note that in Palestine, among all the branches of production, it is precisely in agriculture, more than in any other branch, that the Jews have shown themselves important factors in progress. In order to convince oneself of this, it is enough to compare the Arab plantations with those of the Jews. In a country where fodder, and, in consequence, cattle and manure, are scanty, the Arabs for centuries have practised a system of tillage which has seriously impoverished the soil; moreover, the yield of their crops is very meagre. Thanks to a wise use of chemical manure and the cultivation of green manures, destined to restore to the land the fertilizing elements of which the crops have robbed it, the Jews have succeeded in

increasing the productive qualities of the soil to a marked degree; while, at the same time, the employment of adequate machinery has introduced modern methods of cultivation, and has enabled them to raise the produce of various crops to quite remarkable proportions. Thus, in the cultivation of cereals, the average annual yield of the Arab fellahs is about £1 per acre, whereas in the oldest Jewish colonies it varies between £2 8s. and £3 8s. In the Arab orange-groves 350 boxes of oranges per acre is considered a very good average yield; the Jewish planters obtain far higher returns, and the writer himself had in 1912-13 an average crop of 638 boxes, and in 1913-14 an average crop of 757 boxes per acre. During the past few years Arab landowners have repeatedly had recourse to Jewish labourers for the establishment of their plantations and the pruning and grafting of their fruit-trees. In place of the primitive Arab chain-pumps, set in motion by a camel or a mule that walks round and round with its eyes blindfolded, the Jews have introduced modern pumps, worked by oil or gas motors, for the irrigation of their orange and lemon groves, and on the banks of the River Audja, not far from the colony of Petach-Tikwah, a Jewish company in 1913 instituted great water-works, which, on payment of a certain tax per dunam (the Arab unit of land-measurement), furnish the surrounding planters with the water necessary to irrigate their soil.

In order to remove the stagnant pools which breed fevers, the Jews in various places have planted clusters, great and small, of eucalyptus-trees, which have done much to make the country more salubrious, and at the same time supply timber that may be turned to divers uses.

The struggle against the foes and parasites of their crops has received constant attention from the Jewish settlers, and in this struggle they are assisted by the various scientific institutions of the country. The Jewish Health Bureau of Jerusalem supplies them