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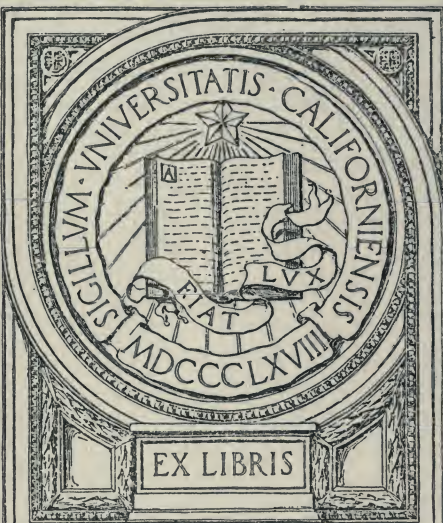
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The Industrial Development of Palestine : By
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Manchester : : : :

With a Foreword by

MAURICE J. CANNEY, M.A.

Professor of Semitic Languages and Literatures in the
University of Manchester

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The Industrial Development of Palestine



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FOREWORD

IT is hardly an exaggeration to say that the eyes of all men are turned towards Palestine. For millions of people indeed—Jews, Christians and Moslems—the newly awakened country has the most sacred associations. What will be its future, now that it has been liberated from a cruel tyranny and is free to develop its resources? Can it be made self-supporting? Has it goods and gifts to offer in return for those it may receive? Knowledge on such points is urgently needed, but has not so far been easily obtainable. In the essay which is here published, and which I have been allowed to read in manuscript, it is made common property. The writer describes the work that the Jews have already accomplished in recent years in Palestine, and sketches the work that it is possible for them to do in the years to come. And if the title of such an essay might suggest that the subject is a dry one, this proves to be a totally wrong impression. The writer has handled his task in such a way that his essay will be read with pleasure as well as with profit. He is a specialist; but has succeeded not only in giving in small compass a large amount of valuable information, but also in presenting his material in a very interesting form.

MAURICE A. CANNEY.

Canney

The Industrial Development of Palestine

THE problem of the industrial development of Palestine by Jewish colonization has hitherto played a secondary part in Zionist considerations. The reason for this comparative neglect is obvious. In a country which is primarily agricultural industries can scarcely develop until the agricultural development of the country has reached a stage at which a surplus of agricultural products is brought on the market in exchange for industrial products. However astounding may be the fruits of so short a period of colonization as that of the Jewish settlement in Palestine, it would be futile to ignore the fact that it has not yet reached a stage at which an extensive development of industries could be justified by the demands of the Jewish colonies or of the country generally : nor is it likely that the period of Palestinian reconstruction which will follow the end of the war will bring about a rapid change of these economic conditions. But as the necessity for wider schemes becomes generally recognized, the part which industry will have to play in the grand work of the resettlement of our people on our ancient soil will demand our earnest and far-seeing considerations and preparations. Such a wider examina-

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tion of the problem will lead us in particular to the recognition of the basic condition of all attempts at the industrialization of Palestine: they cannot be built on any more or less veiled philanthropic or semi-philanthropic methods. Palestine can no longer be regarded as a separate, secluded philanthropic experiment of the Jewish people if we mean it to become a source of strength to our national existence. It must be able to compete with its agricultural and industrial products in the world market. It may be a question whether a limited system of protectionism is avoidable in the initial stages, but the aim must be to base the industrial development of the country on such secure foundations as to guarantee its ultimate productiveness.

Now whilst one does not wish to minimize the great importance of the colonies for the regeneration of Palestine, the urban population must obviously bear its share in contributing to the progress of the country; and if the country is to become the national home of the Jewish people, then its Jewish urban population cannot be allowed to remain, as at present, partly or wholly dependent on philanthropy, but must be made vigorous and self-supporting. Hence the problem of finding employment for the unproductive urban population is one of the immediate tasks of Palestinian colonization. It is evident that in this connection the industrialization of the country will play an important part, for that is the only means by which we can lay the foundations of an economically strong Jewish population in the towns. If, then, the urban Jews are to become an important

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economic asset amongst the different sections of the inhabitants, we must immediately make their position secure and lay the foundations for future progress and development. Hand in hand, therefore, with the agricultural development of the country its resources must be explored and made the basis for industrial progress and advancement.

Let us now examine briefly the economic conditions of the Jewish urban population of Palestine. There are about thirty towns in the country with a population of over 2,000 inhabitants, but hardly any of these towns can be described as centres of industry.

The Jewish inhabitants reside chiefly in six towns—Jerusalem, Jaffa, Haifa, Safed, Tiberias and Hebron.

Jerusalem has a large number of artisans, nearly all of whom are drawn from the Jewish section of the population, yet owing to the fact that until recently there was little demand for their labour and the city had hardly any export trade, many were often unemployed.

In Jaffa and Haifa, the two great future ports, the conditions of the Jews are on the whole satisfactory. But when we come to consider the economic conditions of the three remaining towns we meet with the utmost disappointment. Tiberias is the poorest, and its seven thousand Jewish inhabitants, out of a total population of nine thousand, live almost entirely upon charity. Similarly Safed, with its nine thousand Jews, forming half of the total population, and Hebron, with its thousand Jewish inhabitants, can

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only be regarded as stagnant cities without any economic progress or development. Amongst these Jews a few artisans are to be found here and there, but the great majority depends entirely upon the *Chalukah*. It will thus be realized that a very large proportion of the urban Jews are partly or wholly dependent for their livelihood upon the charitable assistance which they receive from their co-religionists abroad. And the first step towards the practical development of the country must be to make these Jews an economic asset. Once these *Chalukah* Jews become a productive element similar to the colonists, the Jews will be assured of a position of great economic importance in the country.

The terrible poverty which exists among these urban Jews is not due to their reluctance to engage in industry, but exists first of all because of their being unskilled in any form of employment, and secondly on account of certain factors over which they have no control. In fact, taking into consideration the disorganized, chaotic condition in which most of these communities find themselves, it is surprising that they have even succeeded so far.

The lack of any great attempts on the part of the Zionists to provide for the needs of these Jews by industrializing Palestine hitherto, was not due to negligence, but to the conditions of the country under the previous administration. The difficulties which presented themselves in the past may be divided under the following headings :

(1). The country had no need for industrial products, because the purchasing capacity of the

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poverty-stricken Jewish population was exceedingly limited and that of the Arabs even more so. Whilst in other countries the Jewish artisan finds employment by providing for the needs of the non-Jewish population, in Palestine the Arabs, who formed the majority of the population, were themselves able to supply their exceedingly limited requirements.

(2). The lack of means of communication prevented the introduction of industries into the country. Numerous instances can be cited where attempts to introduce industries failed owing to the heavy cost of transport.

(3). But the most important cause was the heavy direct and indirect taxation of the Turkish Government. Until a few years ago it was impossible for any form of industrial enterprise to flourish in Turkey, owing to the fact that a tariff of eight per cent. was levied not only on foreign imports but also on goods manufactured in the Empire, when transmitted from one province to another. It can easily be understood how under such a system attempts at the development of industries in any part of the Turkish Empire were from the outset doomed to failure. This absurd system might have resulted in the total abstention of foreign capital from investment in the industrial development of the country, had not the same system furnished a means of redressing its own absurdities by granting individual industrialists the possibility of escaping its paralysing effects by means of licensed exemptions from these inland customs. But it must be noted that these

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exemptions were only obtainable at great inconvenience and expense. However, since the Turkish revolution these inland customs have been entirely abolished, whilst the tariff on imports from abroad has gradually been raised to eleven per cent. A further increase was impossible under the Turkish *régime*, owing to the "Capitulations," under which Turkey, in agreement with the Powers, has fixed a tariff limit of eleven per cent. on all imports into the country. It is obvious that these measures of the Young Turks could not provide an adequate basis for the industrialization of their Empire, and the problem of providing for the protection of the newly growing industries in Palestine remains one of the great tasks of a future enlightened administration.

Now that we have considered the chief causes of the poverty and economic stagnation of the town population of Palestine, we will proceed to consider the methods by which their conditions can be improved. We have seen that this poverty is not due to the reluctance of the people to engage in any skilled industry, but to their inability to do so. Our first aim, therefore, must be to introduce manual-training and technical schools into the country, where the people can obtain instruction in some form of handicraft. The institutions interested in the welfare of Palestinian Jewry have already realized this, and a number of technical schools have been opened, which, although working on different lines, are contributing in no small measure towards training the people in some form of employment, by means

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of which they are enabled to earn an independent living.

The first institution to open such schools was the Alliance Israelite Universelle, which was founded for the protection and improvement of Jews in Eastern Europe. Under its auspices a manual-training school was opened in Jerusalem in 1882; whilst since then other such schools for boys have been opened at Jaffa, Beyrout and Safed. The school at Jerusalem, which was founded as a memorial to Baron Lionel de Rothschild, draws its pupils from all sections of the population. Jews, Moslems and Christians benefit by the instruction, which is given free of charge. There are seven workshops attached to the school, where the following industries are taught—carpentry, metal-working, weaving, dyeing, sculpture, hair-net making, etc. It must be noted, however, that whilst all the schools controlled by this institution have met with the utmost success from a purely educational point of view, they have contributed in only a very small degree towards the Jewish revival in Palestine. French is the medium of instruction throughout these schools, and the education given is not with the primary object of training artisans who will contribute towards the industrial development of the country, but rather with the aim of encouraging its pupils on completion of their training to emigrate and establish themselves in some industry in other lands.

In 1910 the *Chalukah* authorities established

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a manual-training school ("Darche Chayim") for boys who leave the Rabbinical seminaries. The school, which has achieved great success, combines a good Talmudic education with a training in various forms of handicraft.

The Haifa Technical School, which had almost reached its completion on the outbreak of war, will also, when opened, contribute considerably towards the training of skilled artisans.

Another institution which is destined to play a most important part in the industrial development of the country is the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts, in Jerusalem. This school is maintained by the *Bezalel*, a society for the promotion of various forms of industry in Palestine. It was founded in 1906, and Professor Boris Schatz, a Bulgarian Jewish sculptor, has since then been at the head of the institution. Its objects are two-fold—first, to train the inhabitants of the country in some industry or profession by means of which they will be able to earn their own livelihood; secondly, to develop a specifically Jewish form of art which will be representative of the Neo-Hebraic spirit gradually arising in the country. The creation of this new Jewish type of art has produced a most profound effect on all sections of the population. And in contrast to those of the Alliance Schools, the pupils trained in this institution are already contributing in no small degree towards the industrialization of the country. Hebrew is the only medium of instruction. Attached to the school are eight workshops, in which various industries, including filigree work,

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lace-making, carpet-weaving, metal-work and lithography are taught. Its progress and success may be gathered from the following statistics. In 1908 the value of the goods made in its workshops was 20,000 francs, in 1912 it was 250,000. The number of its pupils increased from 100 in 1908 to 430 in 1911. In 1913 the workshops attached to the school were reorganized and placed under the management of a committee of experienced business men, and as a result of this the sale of its products has risen enormously during the last few years. Most successful exhibitions of the products of the institution have been held in many of the large cities of Europe and America, and have been the means of bringing to the notice of the Western world the excellent type of work in which the school is engaged. It was also intended to extend the work of the school by establishing colonies on which Bezalel-trained artisans would be settled and given the opportunity of setting up independently in their own craft. A successful experiment of this nature was made in 1910, when a number of Bezalel workmen, consisting chiefly of Yemenite Jews, who had been trained in filigree work, were settled at Ben Shamen, one of the newer Jewish colonies near Lydda. Unfortunately, the outbreak of war prevented similar projects from being undertaken.

The industries which have already been introduced into Palestine, and those for which there is a possibility in the near future may be divided

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under the following headings: (1) Domestic industries. (2) Industries dependent on the products of the Colonies. (3) Industries independent of the products of the Colonies. (4) Industries based on the mineral resources of the country.

DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES

OWING to the large number of people who are unskilled in any form of manual labour, the simpler kinds of domestic industries might be popularized in the country at the very earliest opportunity. At present these industries which consist chiefly of weaving, spinning, silk and lace making and the manufacture of various objects from olive wood, which are purchased by tourists and pilgrims, are only in their initial stages. Many of the Christian inhabitants are employed in wood-carving and metal work; whilst sacred mementos from bituminous limestone and mother-of-pearl are made by the Christian Arabs at Bethlehem. It is to be greatly regretted that these simple occupations have not been more extensively introduced amongst the older Jewish inhabitants of the country. For the introduction of these industries into Jewish centres would be the means of providing employment for a large number of the older Jews, who are now wholly or partly dependent upon the *Chalukah*. The Palestinian women must be made more skilled and competent in the industries in which they are already engaged. Hitherto, most of the women immigrants had no

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other occupation but sewing or knitting, and apart from stocking knitting, at which they usually did well, they produced inferior goods, and there was therefore little demand for their work. But the domestic industry with a great future before it is the manufacture of hand-made lace. The great advantage of this work is due to the fact, that, owing to a new method which was introduced into the country by the Society of Jewish Women for Cultural Work in Palestine, the lace can be made with only one needle, and only a very short period of training is necessary in order to obtain absolute efficiency. In the Island of Teneriffe about 20,000 women gain their livelihood by this industry, whilst also in Belgium and Saxony a large proportion of the female labour is engaged in this form of employment. It may be of interest to note that the Austrian Government, in order to relieve the economic distress of some of the poorer provinces of the Empire, has established numerous technical schools where this new method of lace-making is taught. And after a short course of instruction at these institutions, thousands of women, who had previously no means of support, have been enabled to obtain their livelihood. Training schools for instruction in this form of employment were opened in 1909 at Jaffa, Jerusalem, Tiberias and Safed, and there are already about 400 women in Palestine earning a comfortable living by this kind of work.]

The Ica (Jewish Colonization Association) has also been encouraging domestic industry by

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supplying knitting machines to poor Jewish families, who pay for them in instalments. About fifty such machines have been distributed in Jerusalem, and hitherto the experiment has proved highly successful.

The pupils of the Alliance School in Jerusalem are taught hair-net making; whilst the girls at the Evelina de Rothschild School receive instruction in knitting and sewing.

INDUSTRIES DEPENDENT ON PRODUCTS OF THE COLONIES

THE districts round Gaza, the plain of Esdraelon and the Hauran, possess splendid wheat fields, whilst the largest part of the land east of the Jordan is one of the finest wheat-producing districts in the world. It may be realized, therefore, that, when cultivated by modern scientific methods, the country will become one of the great granaries of the world, and will at the same time open out huge prospects for the milling industry. At present, however, this industry is only in its initial stage of development, and owing to the lack of mills, the finer qualities of flour have to be imported into the country. It is of interest to note that at present most of the flour mills in Palestine are owned by Jews. This is true, not only of the mills which are in Jewish districts, but even of those in parts of the country very sparsely inhabited by Jews, such as Jabneh and Beer Sheba.

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The possibility of obtaining wheat and eggs cheaply will probably develop the macaroni industry. Considerable quantities of macaroni are now exported from Palestine to Egypt and Syria.

The barley which grows on the plain of Gaza, is the finest of its kind for brewing purposes, whilst *Durra* (millet), which is extensively cultivated, could be used for starch making and spirit distilling.

The vine may be regarded as the staple product of the hills and mountains and is cultivated extensively in Palestine. One can understand, therefore, how the wine industry which owes its origin and development to the munificence of Baron Edmund de Rothschild, has become one of the principal sources of wealth in the country. The Baron provided the early colonists with wine cellars and with all the most up-to-date machinery for the manufacture as well as the preservation of wine. His chief ambition was to develop the wine industry in Palestine, and he particularly selected Rishon-le-Zion in preference to the other colonies for his experiment. He planted more than one and a half million vines in the colony; and a hundred and four huge vats each holding sixty thousand pints, were constructed. Then came a terrible crisis. The supply of Palestinian wines had considerably exceeded the demand, and had it not been for the Baron a most serious situation would have arisen. He now handed over the administration of the colonies to the Jewish Colonization Association, the area devoted

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to Viticulture was reduced considerably, and various kinds of fruits such as olives and almonds were planted in place of the vines. In four years the wine industry had been reduced by about two-thirds. Three hundred and fifty vine planters formed themselves into a syndicate known as the "Co-operative Society of the Great Cellars of Rishon-le-Zion and Zichron-Jacob." This syndicate now took over the cellars and undertook the management of the business by itself. Since then the demand for Palestinian wines has increased enormously, as is evidenced by their increasing exportation to various parts of the world. One can feel confident that the wine industry of the colonies has a great future before it. In all Jewish homes wine is used for sanctification purposes, and one can understand how wine made from the produce of Jewish soil, cultivated by the toil of Jewish labourers, is becoming most popular in all Jewish circles. Jaffa, surrounded by wine-producing colonies on all sides, will become the great wine port of Palestine.

Various liquors free from alcohol and exceedingly popular among the Moslem inhabitants of Egypt and Palestine are also prepared by the Jewish colonists.

The olive is one of the most characteristic trees of Palestine and flourishes everywhere, and the olive-oil produced from Palestinian olives is of very high quality. Hence the manufacture of oil and soap from olives has become one of the most important industries of the country. The importance of the Palestinian soap industry may

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be realized from the fact that in 1910 Jaffa alone exported £158,000 worth of soap. Oil mills and soap factories are to be found throughout the whole country, and especially in those districts where there are olive groves. There are ten soap factories in Jaffa, eight in Lydda and Ramleh. There are also Jewish soap factories in Jerusalem and Haifa. The "Athid" Co. which has a soap factory at Haifa built another oil and soap works in the Jewish colony, Ben Shamen, in 1907. Hitherto most of the oil factories were owned by Arabs who worked them with the most crude and unscientific methods. Large quantities of oil, which by means of modern scientific processes could have been manufactured into salad oil of the finest quality, were made into cheap soft soap and exported. In 1911 three Jewish oil mills were opened at Jaffa, Haifa and Lydda. In these mills the residué of the olives after the oil has been extracted by the Arabs is again used for various industrial processes. Round Er-Rame and Safed considerable quantities of salad oil are now manufactured. Oil is also made from sesame, and the residue of the sesame after the oil has been extracted from it is made into sweets, of which the Arabs are very fond. Volatile oils are also manufactured in ever increasing quantities. In Rishon-le-Zion oil is made from geraniums; whilst near Artuf a factory for the manufacture of oil from thyme was built a few years ago by a Jewish colonist.

Palestine is rich in the variety of its flora. In early spring the hills and plains abound in

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flowers, and large sections of the country appear like a vast natural parterre. On the hills are vast quantities of aromatic shrubs which fill the air with fragrance; and the rose, geranium and wild thyme flourish everywhere in abundance. There is thus every opportunity for the development of the perfume industry—an employment which would be particularly suitable for women and children. Already a beginning has been made and attar of roses and other perfumes are now manufactured from the flower gardens of Galilee. At present there are two perfume factories in the country, one in Jaffa and the other at Artuf. It may be of interest to note that a number of Jewish colonists add considerably to their earnings by spending their leisure in gathering flowers for the manufacture of perfume.

The plain of Esdraelon is particularly suited for the cultivation of beetroot, and the sugar cane thrives in the Jordan valley. The possibility of cultivating both cane sugar and beetroot should therefore open out great prospects for the sugar industry. The ruins of sugar mills show that this was one of the important industries of the country during the period of the Crusades. The country now imports about £100,000 worth of sugar annually.

Various kinds of fruits flourish in Palestine, and the possibility of obtaining sugar and fruit simultaneously will advance the fruit preserving industry.

It must be remembered, however, that there is every possibility of the development of industries

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for which the country does not appear at present to offer any special facilities. The Egyptian cigarette industry offers a good example in this connection. The cultivation of tobacco is actually prohibited in Egypt, and tobacco, paper and boxes for packing are all imported. Even the workmen employed in the preparation of Egyptian cigarettes are chiefly Jews and Italians. Yet the manufacture of cigarettes is now one of the most flourishing Egyptian industries. Is there not every likelihood, therefore, that this industry will also succeed in Palestine, where tobacco is already being cultivated with considerable success? Some years ago a start was made in Upper Galilee, and with the assistance of an expert, the planters, beginning on a small scale, have achieved highly successful results. But the industry has had little chance of development hitherto, owing to the heavy taxation imposed upon it by the Turkish Government, which was afraid that it would compete with the state monopoly. In many of the industrial centres of Europe and America a large number of Jews are engaged in the tobacco industry, whilst Russian Jews have invented and patented cigarette-making machines. There is every reason to hope, therefore, that this industry will develop considerably in the future. Factories will be built and the sorting, manipulating and fermenting of tobacco will become one of the important industries of Palestine.

INDUSTRIES INDEPENDENT OF THE PRODUCTS OF THE COLONIES

THE vast immigration which will take place after the war will make building one of the most important industries in the country. The building of bridges and canals, the creation of a proper irrigation system and the construction of houses and factories will provide employment for thousands of labourers. There will also be a great demand for building material of all kinds, which Palestine itself can well supply. Pavement stones could be made from the limestone and sand which are very plentiful throughout the country. There are already factories where bricks are made from cement, and sand. The country also provides all the material necessary for the manufacture of cement, and the opening of cement factories would considerably assist the development of the building industry. The great mounds of earth marking the remains of ancient cities testify to the prevalent use of clay bricks as building material. In the neighbourhood of the Jewish colony Moza (on the Jerusalem-Jaffa road) and at Ramleh a very fine kind of clay is found which forms splendid material for making bricks.

The necessity of importing timber will of course be a great hindrance, but it may be of interest to note that steps are being taken to remedy this deficiency in some measure. In the colony of Chedera the eucalyptus trees, which were originally

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planted in order to drain the marsh lands, are now used for building purposes. It is at present premature to say whether it will be possible to extend this experiment on a large scale.

Stone-cutting is a rapidly growing industry in Palestine and has been taught at the Bezalel school in Jerusalem.

From discoveries which have been made in Palestine as well as from Biblical data it appears that the making of pottery was a flourishing industry amongst the Ancient Hebrews. The potter at his wheel is a common biblical expression, symbolizing divine power, and the process of burning and glazing vessels is referred to in the Bible. The different kinds of clay which have recently been found in the country afford every ground for the hope of the revival of this industry. At Gaza a considerable amount of earthenware is now manufactured from the clay obtained in the neighbouring districts. Beds of Kaolin, from which porcelain is made, are also said to exist in the country.

Many years ago Baron Edmund de Rothschild built a glass factory at Tantura (Samaria), which had to be closed down after a short time, owing to the unscientific methods by which it was worked. Conditions have now changed, and there is already a demand for all kinds of glassware in the country. Owing to the risk of breakage and the high cost of transport it will most probably be found advisable to have all the bottles needed for the wine of the colonies made in the country itself. At present there is a factory at Hebron, where bottles and

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all kinds of cheap glass-ware are made ; whilst bangles, chiefly worn by the native women, are also made there from coloured glass.

One may look forward with confidence to the development of the textile industry in Palestine. At present one quarter of the imports of Jaffa consists of textile wares. For some time cotton has been cultivated in the tropical districts of Beth Shan and the Jordan valley, but shortage of labour and lack of machinery have prevented the development of the industry hitherto.

It may also be advisable to commence the manufacture of wool on a large scale. Jaffa imported annually before the war £240,000 worth of woollens, and exported considerable quantities of sheep's and camels' wool. The country, therefore, offers all facilities for the development of the spinning industry and for the sale of the products. It has been suggested that the manufacture of cloth on a large scale would attract to the country a large number of Jewish tailors, as a result of which Palestine, owing to its geographical position, might become the centre of the clothing industry for the Near East.

It may be possible, also, to develop the silk manufacturing industry. Many years ago a factory for the manufacture of silk floss was established at Rosh Pinah (near Safed). The factory bought the cocoons from the neighbouring colonies and the silk was shipped to Marseilles and Lyons, but owing to the lack of all means of communication the factory had to be closed. There are many silk factories in the North of Palestine.

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Palestine has always been a centre of the tanning industry. At present hides are exported in large quantities and re-imported as saddlery. Good tanning materials are obtainable in the country, so that with suitable labour these hides could be manufactured in the country itself.

Fishing was an important occupation in Palestine in ancient times. From New Testament references it appears that the Lake of Gennesaret formed a good fishing ground, whilst the Jordan was also well stocked with fish. Different kinds of fishing implements are referred to in the Bible. Acre was the great fish market, and this gave rise to the proverb "Carrying fish to Acre," equivalent to the English proverb "Carrying coals to Newcastle." Judging also by the length of coast line there is every chance for the development of the fishing industry.

Large quantities of fish-preserves are now imported into Palestine. But the possibility of obtaining olive-oil and fish simultaneously should lead to the manufacture of fish-preserves.

The packing and exportation of oranges has created the necessity for the manufacture of various kinds of boxes made from wood chiefly imported from Galicia and Roumania. In 1913 1,200,000 orange boxes were made in Palestine.

The papyrus which flourishes throughout the Jordan valley would furnish the material for the manufacture of paper.

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Jews have always taken a profound interest in all kinds of typography. The fact that the early Jewish printers referred to their craft as "sacred work" (*Avodath Hakodesh*) is sufficient evidence of the importance which they attached to their calling. Palestine as the future cultural centre of the whole of the Nearer East, with its University in Jerusalem, will no doubt be the radiating point from which a considerable amount of literature—secular and religious—will emanate. This will create an impetus for the development of the printing industry. At present there are four large printing establishments in the country, three in Jerusalem and one in Jaffa. But with the growth of the population and the development of modern Hebrew culture a considerable amount of Hebrew literature will be produced, not only for circulation in the country itself, but also for the Jews of the Diaspora. Jerusalem will, therefore, probably become the centre of the printing industry for the Nearer East and also for Hebrew books required by the Jews of the Diaspora.

Owing to the country's lack of coal it will probably be found impossible to manufacture on an extensive scale the agricultural implements required for the Jewish colonies. In fact it seems that the manufacture of all kinds of machinery will be difficult and expensive. It may be of interest to note, however, that there are a number of iron-smelting factories in Palestine already. There are two such factories in Haifa providing employment for about fifty workmen, whilst a factory opened in Jaffa a number of years ago

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supplies many of the agricultural implements required by the Jewish colonists.

Various kinds of wooden articles, and ornaments of mother-of-pearl, bituminous limestone and carved bone are made at Damascus, whilst brass and copper articles, mother-of-pearl beads for rosaries and sacred mementos of all kinds are made at Bethlehem. All these articles have a considerable sale on account of their cheapness and sacred character.

Many parts of Europe such as the Riviera and Switzerland owe their fortunes to the tourist industry. In spite of the difficulties of travelling and the lack of good hotels, the numerous sanctuaries and historical monuments of Palestine have attracted about 18,000 visitors every year. It may be of interest to note that the climate of the coastal regions of Palestine is similar to that of Southern France, and that the Jericho region was an important winter resort in the time of Herod. The establishment of seaside resorts along the coast, and on the shores of Lake Tiberias, where there are hot sulphurous springs valuable for the treatment of rheumatism, would help directly towards the industrial development of the country. All kinds of sacred objects and mementos would have a considerable sale at these resorts.

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INDUSTRIES BASED ON MINERAL RESOURCES

THE mineral and chemical resources of Palestine are enormous, and when fully explored and worked will form the basis of a considerable number of new industries. Extensive mineral treasures have been discovered on both sides of the Dead Sea and the Jordan, and there are extensive beds of asphalt of a superior quality round Hasbeya. Much success has already been achieved in spite of the difficulty of obtaining permission to work these beds owing to their being the private property of the Sultan. The price of asphalt is 40–50 francs per kilogramme, and 300,000 kilogrammes were exported in 1902 to Hamburg and Bremen alone. With scientific methods and good transport facilities vastly better results will be obtained. Iron-ore is found near Sidon and there are deposits of red and yellow ochre east of the Jordan. The Dead Sea has rightly been described by Laurence Oliphant as “a mine of unexplored wealth.” The water, which contains 24·46 per cent. of salts, occasionally throws out large masses of asphalt, many pits of which exist also in the desert of Judah as well as deposits of mineral salt, sulphur and chalk phosphates. The waters of the Dead Sea also hold in solution chlorate of potassium, chlorate of magnesium, bromide of magnesium and iodide of potassium. The immense fields of phosphate east and west of the Jordan only need better means

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of communication to ensure their development and will then prove of the utmost value for the artificial preparation of manure. Professor Blankenhorn has discovered also beds of phosphate round Ramoth-Gilead, and the American Standard Oil Company is said to have obtained concessions for working these some years ago. There are deposits of chalk and plaster in the valley of the Jordan and the mountains of Judah, and there are said to be coal and iron beds at Ma'an in the south east.

There are petroleum wells near Hebron, and judging by the geological formation of the country petroleum should be found in many other parts of Palestine also.

From this brief outline of the industries which exist in Palestine at present and which will probably be introduced in the future, it will be realized that the country offers good scope for industrial development. The deterioration from which it has suffered for centuries was merely due to negligence. Various reforms must be immediately introduced. The administrative chaos which has hitherto hindered all progress must be replaced by an enlightened progressive government which will help and stimulate the growth of commerce and industry. With the re-afforesting and re-cultivation of the hill terraces, the planting of eucalyptus trees in the marshy districts so as to allay fever, with the repair of the system of aqueducts and cisterns, with the construction of roads, railways, canals and harbours, and finally with

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the development of the industries, details of which have already been outlined, Palestine will regain its ancient prosperity and become one of the great commercial centres of the world. There will be no dearth of labour such as that which has hindered the development of new countries like Canada and Rhodesia, for the Jewish people will only be too ready to take advantage of the opportunity of regenerating the land and itself at the same time.

It has been argued, however, that seeing that the Jewish working men in the industrial areas of Western Europe and America are only engaged in a very narrow range of industries, Jews are unfitted for the industrial development of a country. A brief consideration of the industries in which Jews are chiefly employed and an analysis of the causes of their drifting into these, will dispel any difficulties we may have in this connection.

Many Jews are cigar and cigarette makers, some are cutters and polishers of diamonds, others manufacture canes for walking sticks and umbrellas; but the vast majority are engaged in one department or another of the clothing industry as tailors, waterprooferers and bootmakers. Most of the Jews who are engaged in these industries have come from Eastern Europe in order to escape oppression, and the persecution of centuries has left its mark upon them so that very few possess even a moderate degree of muscular vigour. A large proportion of the Jewish immigrants have been men for whom any form of employment involving severe muscular exertion was impossible. A second

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reason determining their Hobson's choice of a calling has been that most of these people were almost, if not completely, devoid of proficiency in any trade. The only opening for a man too weak to perform "coarse labour" and unskilled in any craft is to be found in those forms of manufacture in which, as is especially the case in the clothing industries, only a brief period of apprenticeship is necessary in order to enable the workman to make himself sufficiently efficient to earn his living.

In Palestine, however, all these difficulties will disappear. With the establishment of healthy Jewish quarters in all the towns after the model of Jaffa, the physical vigour of the Jewish working man will improve immensely.

Although the Jew had been divorced from the soil for centuries, the Jewish agricultural labourers in Palestine have already shown such superior manual skill that they are entrusted by the Arab landowners with the creation of new plantations. Is it not, therefore, reasonable to hope that, given an opportunity, the Jew will be able to develop a number of new industries in Palestine in which he is not at present employed? It may be noted that such industries as mantle making, ladies' tailoring, and the manufacture of cheap clothing were actually introduced into this country by Jewish emigrants. One of the witnesses before the Royal Commission on Alien Emigration (1902-3) stated that whilst various branches of needle industries had been in existence in England for some time, the Jew, by introducing steam-driven

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cutting and sewing machines, changed the form of this domestic industry into a highly specialized kind of factory labour. So that even in the Diaspora the Jew has contributed much towards industrial progress and advancement, and if only given the opportunity he would succeed in making Palestine one of the great centres of the world's commerce and industry.

The wandering, homeless Jew appeals to the world that has just emerged from a death-struggle for liberty and justice to restore the country without a people to the people without a country. Having become rich with human experience by wandering about from land to land and from people to people he will build up in the heart of the world a civilization that will act as mediator between East and West.

Obstinate optimism and invincible persistency are the distinguishing features of the Jew in all ranks of life, but in no type of Jew are these characteristics so clearly defined as in the Jewish working man. To all the deadly influences of town-life the Jewish working man, condemned to pass his days in the cramped atmosphere of a ghetto, has been exposed for centuries. Yet from his breast hope was never absent for one moment. It may appear to him that the future has nothing in store but the joyless monotony of never ceasing toil. But if there is no hope for him in the Diaspora he can at least find in his tribulations comfort in the conviction that for his offspring in Palestine a brighter day will dawn.

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