

in a discontinuous manner depending on the prevailing security conditions. Second, there were merchants, city bankers (including some from Beirut), moneylenders, big landowners, and notables. Here, it is important to point out that there was no clear demarcation among them (e.g., a merchant could at the same time be a moneylender).⁵⁶ Third, there were the foreign religious settlers, namely German Templars and Jews. The Templars' agricultural settlements were never significant in terms of number of people and area of land.⁵⁷ Also the new techniques and methods of production in agriculture that they introduced did not spread outside their colonies, given their self-imposed separation from the indigenous population. However, their settlement proved significant in a different way. In the words of Scholch, "These Templars proved to potential emulators that European colonies in Palestine could, in fact, be established given adequate tenacity. They thus became a model for colonization-minded Jews."⁵⁸

As for Jewish European settlement, it became significant only after the early 1880s, and is discussed separately below.

2.3.2 The Secondary Sector

This sector also experienced a noticeable growth, although not to the extent of agriculture. This growth was the result of the mutually interacting processes of

⁵⁶This example is based on a study of the court records of Gaza for the late 1850s reproduced in Charles Issawi, *The Fertile Crescent, 1800-1914, A Documentary History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988), 443-4.

⁵⁷Scholch, 150-3.

⁵⁸*Ibid.*, 152.