

was exacerbated by the severe drop in world prices for the plantation products and plant diseases.<sup>102</sup> Finally, by 1900, Rothschild handed over the colonies to the Jewish Colonization Association, founded by Baron Maurice de Hirsch with “250 million gold-standard francs” of his own money.<sup>103</sup>

After the Jewish Colonization Association took over, the settlement efforts became more organized: Better methods of farming and marketing co-operatives were introduced;<sup>104</sup> more subsidies were provided including larger tracts of land for Jewish European families, which without the provision of machinery meant the hiring of more low-paid Arab labor.<sup>105</sup> Better yields and price increases resulted in higher incomes for 1907-1911.<sup>106</sup>

Nonetheless, during 1882-1914, the settlement drive, as an agricultural project, can be characterized as a relative failure in spite of the large subsidies by Rothschild and later by the Jewish Colonization Association. This can be seen by the relatively small number of Jews actually involved in cultivation. This failure can also be seen in the inability of the settlements, as mentioned, to provide a European level of living, through agricultural activities or otherwise, that would attract and keep more immigrants. According to one estimate, 90 percent of the so-

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<sup>102</sup>Owen, *Middle East*, 271.

<sup>103</sup>Weinstock, 67.

<sup>104</sup>Owen, *Middle East*, 271.

<sup>105</sup>Weinstock, 68.

<sup>106</sup>Owen, *Middle East*, 271.