

history, perhaps less than two dozen Khadourie graduates have entered farming as a full-time profession. Ironically, it still goes on producing teacher trainees, most of whom end in Jordan and the Gulf states.

A'rroub Agricultural School was established in 1962 (near Hebron) with the twin objectives of producing qualified farmers, while simultaneously qualifying graduates to continue their college education if they wish to do so. This confused recipe of objectives proved to be a failure and the school developed a poor reputation.

Following occupation, the situation at Khadourie and A'rroub has deteriorated. Graduates of both schools are largely redundant at home, and the vast majority of them are forced to emigrate. The Military Administration, on the other hand, is opposed to all improvements which may entail additional budget demands¹ or, for that matter, may help graduates take farming as their profession.

Although there is not yet a college of agriculture in any one of its three universities, the West Bank is certainly not deficient in graduates of agriculture. A large number of students study agriculture in foreign universities, almost always because of their failure to study a more attractive profession, such as medicine or engineering. And because of a clearly slanted theoretical orientation in neighbouring colleges of agriculture, their graduates are biased against practicing farming. This attitude is further deepened by total absence of institutional sources of credit. Upon their graduation, therefore, West Bank

1. Interview with Khadourie's principal, May 20, 1981.

agriculturalists are preoccupied with their desire to seek a paid job in the government service or other public institutions. And if they fail to do that they emigrate to neighbouring countries.

B - Agricultural extension and research

Agricultural extension was undertaken prior to occupation by two exclusive institutions, the Department of Extension (in the Ministry of Agriculture) and service technicians employed by dealers of farm supplies. More respondents to the researcher's enquiries involved in commercial types of farming, such as poultry, vegetables and citrus, seem to agree that servicemen or advisers from private firms have played a major role in meeting their technical demands. In fact their role in certain sectors, notably poultry, was considered to be far more significant than that of official extension agents. Their effectiveness was further accentuated, as we shall see later, by the important role played by agricultural firms in providing their customers with generous seasonal credit facilities.

As most agricultural companies were based in Amman, their extension and credit services came to an abrupt end immediately after occupation. This left all extension assignments to an ill-prepared and war-shattered department of agriculture. Like all other civil service institutions, the Department of Agriculture fell under the direct custody of the Military Administration in the Ministry of Defence.

Agricultural policies of the Military Administration

During the 3 to 4 years following occupation, the Department of Agriculture in the Military Administration pursued an active role in modernizing West Bank agriculture. This interest was translated