

A few departures from the original form of the 'Village Statistics' have, however, been necessary in order to reduce this book to reasonable size; but such alterations as have been made will not materially affect the substance in the original. The changes introduced are explained hereunder:

- (a) Instead of the single sheet format of 37-inch width, the material has been divided into three separate tables, namely:

Table I — Population and total areas by town and village according to ownership;

Table II — Cultivable land showing, according to ownership, its classification under citrus and bananas, other fruit trees, irrigable land; and other land fit for the cultivation of cereals appears under one column instead of two;

Table III — Town and village built-up areas and land classified as non-cultivable, according to ownership.

A summary by sub-district for each of the above divisions is also provided, as well as a summary of the three tables.

- (b) **Population** — Under the column of 'Arabs' in Table I have been included Moslems, Christians and Others. There is no reason to distinguish Moslem from Christian Arabs; and in regard to 'Others,' the 14,100 persons appearing in the 'Village Statistics' are, "in the main, Druzes, dwelling now, as in the past, in villages mainly in the hill areas of the sub-districts of Acre, Haifa and Tiberias."³ The Druze community is considered, and the people regard themselves as Arabs. The population question is discussed at length in Section II.
- (c) **Land Holdings** — Here also the holdings of Moslems and Christians, as well as those of 'Others,' for the reasons given in (b) above, have been included under 'Arabs' in Tables I, II and III. The heading 'Others' may, however, have included the properties of other than Druze, such as German, Russian, Bahai, etc., property; but these holdings are insignificant in relation to the total. The area appearing in the column of 'Others' in the 'Village Statistics' is only 142,050 dunums, or 0.54 per cent of the total.
- (d) **Citrus, Bananas and other Fruit Trees** — An area of 49,700 dunums appearing in the 'Village Statistics' under the column of 'Public' has been transferred to the column of 'Arabs' in Table II. The reason for this is that whereas the Government possessed the 'bare ownership' title to the land, the Arab farmers owned the fruit trees and enjoyed hereditary tenancy rights over the land, paying the Government rental equivalent to the amount of the annual tax for their occupation. In practice, the tenants could not be evicted

(3) *A Survey of Palestine 1945-1946*, Vol. I, Chapter VI, para. 18, p. 159.