

presence;<sup>42</sup> but it was also fostered by the European demand for Palestinian agricultural products. This expansion allowed for the population increase and, at the same time, was fueled by it. The population increase was also helped by better health conditions, the full potential positive impact of which was diminished by the cholera epidemic of 1865-1866 and the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878.<sup>43</sup>

The expansion of agriculture was realized through a permanent westward movement from the central hill areas to the formerly insecure inland plains and coastal areas, the most fertile regions of Palestine. Two examples that stand out as indicators of the extent of this expansion are those of oranges and cereals. In the case of oranges, it was estimated that the orange-growing area around Jaffa quadrupled between 1850 and 1880.<sup>44</sup> In 1856, the yield reached twenty million oranges.<sup>45</sup> For 1873, a British trade report estimated the yield at 33.3 million and the orchards at 420 in the vicinity of Jaffa.<sup>46</sup> Ten years later, an American consular report estimated a total of 800,000 trees distributed among 500 orchards<sup>47</sup> on 4,000 *dunums*. By 1913, the citrus area reached about 30,000

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<sup>42</sup>Scholch, 91; Owen, *Middle East*, 173.

<sup>43</sup>Scholch, 43; Owen, *Middle East*, 264.

<sup>44</sup>Scholch, 92.

<sup>45</sup>*Ibid.*, 91.

<sup>46</sup>*Ibid.*; Owen, *Middle East*, 178.

<sup>47</sup>Owen, *Middle East*, 178.