

dunums.⁴⁸

In the case of cereals, it was estimated that an additional 150,000 to 200,000 acres were brought under cultivation in ten years ending in 1882, mainly in the southern coastal region.⁴⁹

The agricultural expansion also involved a substantial increase in the planting of olive trees, especially in the hill regions, sesame,⁵⁰ and cotton, although the latter's growth was primarily confined to the period of the American civil war.⁵¹ A further indicator of the extent of agricultural expansion and increased production can be seen in the volume and value of exports, a topic that is discussed in the tertiary sector below.

One interesting aspect of the substantial increase in production output was the lack of any accompanying major changes in the techniques of production. For example, the traditional wooden plough continued to be used at this time. The suitability of this type of plough to the soil and terrain, especially of the hill regions, and the lack of peasant capital resources combined to prevent any risky

⁴⁸Ibid., 265.

⁴⁹An American consular report for 1882 quoted in Owen, *Middle East*, 175-6.

⁵⁰Ibid., 265.

⁵¹Scholch, *ibid.*, 88; Marwan Buheiry, "The Agricultural Exports of Southern Palestine, 1885-1914," *Journal of Palestine Studies* 10, no. 4 (Summer 1981): 61-81. As Buheiry points out, the planting and export of cotton existed earlier in the century but eventually declined.