

easier by the favorable climatic conditions for poultry raising in all areas of Palestine. In addition, the extensive raising of poultry required little or no cost as the flocks, mostly less than ten in number (in other cases between 20 to 50), roamed around the house and fed on whatever they found there. It also seems that here, unlike its other undertakings, government efforts helped in yielding positive results. These efforts involved the provision, at low prices, of pedigree-hatching eggs and breeding birds.¹⁵¹ The low prices are not specified, but it is safe to assume that peasants who were in serious debt had no cash money to benefit from this government program, especially in the 1930s when it was undertaken. No figures are available on the amounts or percentages of eggs or poultry marketed, but it is obvious that it varied according to the number of birds owned by the family and the surplus available after its own consumption. However, given that flocks owned were mostly of ten or less, it does not appear that the surplus after consumption was substantial for the majority of peasants. This would be different for families that owned between twenty and fifty birds (i.e., they did have a surplus that was sold on the market).

It also appears that intensive methods of egg production were carried out by some Palestinian Arabs. It is not known who exactly these people were, but it may be some wealthy landowners, urban dwellers, or merchants who could afford its expenses, and certainly not any "average" Palestinian peasant. There is only one

¹⁵¹Brown, "Agriculture," 165.