

never seriously pursued by the government on account of high cost.¹⁴

In the case of rivers, the Jordan and Auja were the only two whose waters were exploitable. In 1921, a government concession was given to the Jewish European owned Jaffa Electric Company (later the Palestine Electric Company) to generate power from the Auja, but later changed to an irrigation concession. This was slow in implementation by the company and by 1937 it only irrigated about 5,000 *dunums*. As for the Jordan River, it was never exploited because the government, again, considered the cost of pumping to be too high.¹⁵

There were many springs in Palestine that ranged from small seasonal ones with a capacity of few thousand gallons a day to larger perennial ones with a discharge of tens of millions of gallons a day.¹⁶ The bigger springs were located primarily in the plains and the Jordan Valley and the hill regions had the smaller ones.

Finally, there was the underground water, which represented the major source of irrigation or about 70 percent of the total. Most of these wells were located in the coastal plains at a depth of only 10 to 25 meters, whereas those in the hill areas, when dug, were up to 200 meters deep.¹⁷

¹⁴*Survey I*, 398, 420.

¹⁵Himadeh, "Natural Resources," 49-50.

¹⁶*Ibid.*, 51.

¹⁷*Survey I*, 422.