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REPORTS OF MANDATORY POWERS

*Submitted to the Council of the League of Nations in accordance with
Article 22 of the Covenant and examined by the Permanent Mandates Commission
during its Seventh Session, October 1925.*

REPORT

BY

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

OF THE

ADMINISTRATION UNDER MANDATE

OF

PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN

FOR THE YEAR

1924

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS — LEAGUE OF NATIONS

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NOTES BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

This edition of the reports submitted to the Council of the League of Nations by the mandatory Powers under Article 22 of the Covenant is published in execution of the following resolution adopted by the Assembly on September 22nd, 1924, at its Fifth Session :

“The Fifth Assembly . . . requests that the reports of the mandatory Powers should be distributed to the States Members of the League of Nations and placed at the disposal of the public who may desire to purchase them.”

The reports have generally been reproduced as received by the Secretariat. In certain cases, however, it has been decided to omit in this new edition certain legislative and other texts appearing as annexes, and maps and photographs contained in the original edition published by the mandatory Power. Such omissions are indicated by notes by the Secretariat.

The Report by His Britannic Majesty's Government on the Administration under Mandate of Palestine and Transjordan for the year 1924 was received by the Secretariat on July 8th, 1925, and the appendices thereto on October 3rd; these documents were examined by the Permanent Mandates Commission on October 26th and 27th in the presence of the accredited Representative of the British Government, the Hon. W. G. Ormsby-Gore, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (see Minutes of the 7th Session, document C.648.M.237.1925.VI, pages 98-121).

The observations of the Commission on this report are contained in document C.649.M.238.1925.VI, pages 3-5, and also in the above-mentioned Minutes of the 7th Session, Annex 14.

The references in this report to pages in previous reports refer to the original edition published by the mandatory Power.

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SECTION I.

REPORT BY HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION UNDER MANDATE OF PALESTINE.

I.—INTRODUCTORY.

The past year was chiefly noteworthy in Palestine for a marked economic revival. The world-wide depression, which affected this country in common with others, had to a great extent passed away. To this recovery various circumstances contributed. The trade in oranges, the principal export from Palestine, gave good profits to the growers and merchants. Cereals and almonds were more remunerative. The cultivation of tobacco, which, as mentioned in previous reports, has been introduced into the country within the last four years, has rapidly expanded. The production, estimated at 694 metric tons in 1922 and 644 in 1923, increased to 1,845 tons last year. A large part of the crop was of good quality and profitable to the growers.

Industrial development has been stimulated by the arrival, among the Jewish immigrants, of a considerable number of men with manufacturing experience, and with capital. The majority of them come from Poland. They have established a number of new industries, mostly at present on a small scale, the greater number in the Jewish towns of Tel-Aviv, adjacent to Jaffa. In addition, several large Jewish enterprises have been founded, and have either reached, or are about to reach, the producing stage. The most important of these enterprises are a cement factory, with an invested capital of £E.300,000; a flour mill, a vegetable oil and soap factory, and a factory of silicate bricks (made of cement and lime), each involving an expenditure of £E.100,000 or more; and, on a smaller scale, works at Athlit, on the coast, for the production of salt by evaporation, a silk factory and a tannery. The electric power station, with fuel engines, erected at Tel-Aviv under the concession granted to Mr. Rutenberg, has been obliged, after only a year's working, to instal new engines, more than doubling its original capacity. Similar stations are in course of erection at Haifa and at Tiberias, to supply urgent demands for power and lighting there. The construction of the first hydraulic power station on the Jordan has not yet begun, but the preliminary measures have made further progress.

The tourist traffic has shown a marked growth, and is likely to expand further in the future.

One of the consequences of these developments has been a welcome recovery in the revenue. The year 1922-23 ended with a deficit of £E.73,000, which was covered from previous balances. The year 1923-24 ended with a very small surplus. It is anticipated that the present financial year will show a satisfactory balance of revenue over expenditure. To this, a revision of a number of items in the Customs Tariff, in August, 1924, has contributed in a minor degree. The financial result of the working of the railways was particularly satisfactory.

Immigration into Palestine is regulated by the Government; so as to ensure that it shall not exceed the capacity of the country to absorb the new arrivals. The more favourable conditions have allowed an increase in the immigration. It amounted to 13,553 in 1924, compared with 7,991 in 1923. The non-Jews among these immigrants numbered 697. The total emigration amounted to about 2,500 persons. In the winter of 1923 there was a considerable measure of unemployment among the Jewish population, but last winter there was no recurrence of this state of affairs.

Jewish agricultural colonisation continues steadily. The extensive swamps of Kabbara, in the Maritime Plain, are being drained and brought under cultivation, in accordance with a concession granted to the Palestine Jewish Colonisation Association; the difficulties which had arisen in connection with the claims of about 170 Arab families resident on part of the land having been settled after prolonged negotiations.

The town of Tel-Aviv is expanding with remarkable rapidity. The population, which was about 2,500 in 1920, is now estimated at over 25,000, and for some time past new houses have been completed at an average rate of two a day. There is much building activity also in Haifa and Jerusalem and their suburbs.

The Bio-Chemical Faculty, and the Institute of Jewish Studies, of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem have been inaugurated.

The anti-malarial campaign is being vigorously prosecuted in many parts of the country. Almost all the towns have now been freed from what used to be one of the scourges of Palestine. Much progress has been made, through the drainage of swamps, and the covering or oiling of wells and cisterns, in eliminating the breeding-places of mosquitoes, and therefore the liability to malaria, in many of the villages. A "Health Week" was organised in November for spreading propaganda on public and domestic health questions. In connection with it a small exhibition was held in Jerusalem, open for ten days, with free entry. In this town of some 70,000 inhabitants, no fewer than 30,000 attendances were recorded at the exhibition.

Public security has been good. There have been no disturbances of a political character, and no raids from Transjordan. The bands of highway robbers, which infested parts of the

REVENUE.

Comparative Statement of Revenue for the years 1922-23 and 1923-24 :—

Heads of Revenue.								1922-23	1923-24
								£E	£E
I. Customs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	594,382	481,778
II. Port dues	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,857	5,653
III. Licences, Taxes, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	492,618	518,229
IV. Fees of Court or Office, Receipts for Specific Services and Reimbursements, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	151,420	141,982
V. Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106,262	114,389
VI. Railways	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	381,700	347,440
VII. Revenue from Government Property	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,585	15,684
VIII. Interest	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	816	1,606
IX. Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,479	5,929
X. Land Sales	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,466	1,203
Total Revenue								1,764,585	1,633,893

The reduced revenue from Customs is due to a fall in receipts from import duties notwithstanding the increased duties imposed on spirits, sugar, petrol, etc., as from the 15th February, 1923. This decrease is due to the existence of large stocks of goods in the country in the early part of the year, to the drop in the prices of imported commodities, the tariff being largely *ad valorem*, and to a decrease in the importation of tobacco partly in consequence of the local cultivation of tobacco. The development of the orange trade is mainly responsible for an increase in the export duties.

The increase in revenue from Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue is mainly due to the earlier collection of the Animal Tax, approximating £E.25,000, and to increased receipts from the House and Land Tax. On the other hand there has been a decrease in the revenue from tithes, due to the failure of cereal crops in the southern district.

The decrease under the head "Fees of Court, etc." is due principally to a falling of receipts from Registration of Land, Registration of Companies and Partnerships and Warehouse Rents. The decreased receipts from Warehouse Rents are due to the decline in imports and to the use of the Levant Bonded Warehouses by importers.

The development of the telephone system is mainly responsible for increased receipts from Postal Services.

The general trade depression and a reduction in military traffic adversely affected the receipts of the railways.

EXPENDITURE.

Comparative Statement of Expenditure for the years 1922-23 and 1923-24 :—

Heads of Expenditure.								1922-23	1923-24
								£E.	£E.
I. Pensions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,408	16,424
II. Public Debt and Loan Charges	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41,127	62,376
III. H.E. the High Commissioner and Staff	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,104	6,778
IV. Secretariat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,197	16,875
V. District Administration	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61,861	96,127
VI. Legal Department	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	71,336	72,515
VII. Land Department and Land Registry	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16,096	14,458
VIII. Survey Department	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,697	1,980
IX. Financial Secretary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	312	—
X. Treasury	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,136	18,731
XI. Audit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,765	5,894
XII. Department of Customs, Revenue and Ports	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93,649	34,363
XIII. Department of Commerce and Industry	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,791	9,591
XIV. Department of Health	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114,147	91,355
XV. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37,645	35,617
XVI. Education Department	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	89,232	97,278
XVII. Police, Prisons and Gendarmerie	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	307,848	265,273
XVIII. Department of Immigration and Travel	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,014	8,272
XIX. Department of Antiquities	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,873	5,125
XX. Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100,403	95,925
XXI. Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones Extraordinary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	2,508
XXII. Railways	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	411,196	306,041
XXIII. Railways Extraordinary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	99,096
XXIV. Public Works Department	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	113,900	65,925
XXV. Public Works Recurrent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100,001	69,813
XXVI. Public Works Extraordinary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	8,139
XXVII. Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	176,435	126,748
Total Expenditure								1,837,173	1,633,227

The reduction under "Pensions" is due to the discontinuance of pension contributions in respect of officers seconded from the General Post Office, and to fewer payments on account of retrenchment of officers.

The increase under "Public Debt and Loan Charges" is due to increased advances at bank rate varying obtained through the Crown Agents and to advances from the Anglo-Egyptian Bank for Agricultural Loans. At the 31st March, 1923, the advances from the Crown Agents amounted to £E.1,349,400, and at the 31st March, 1924, the advances reached £E.1,543,425. These advances have been obtained to meet capital expenditure incurred in anticipation of the flotation of a loan.

The increase under "District Administration" is due to the transfer of the District Revenue staff from the Customs, Revenue and Ports. The decrease under "Customs, Revenue and Ports" is also due to reductions in the establishment of the Customs Department.

The Departments of Commerce and Industry and Immigration and Travel were considerably curtailed.

The decrease under the Department of Health is mainly due to the curtailment and economies effected in medical services. The Government orphanages at Jaffa and Bethlehem were closed, and a number of orphans transferred to private and charitable institutions.

The increased expenditure under "Education" is due to the expansion of town and village schools.

The decrease under "Police, Prisons and Gendarmerie" mainly resulted from a reduction in the number of police, and economies have also been effected by a revision of the rates of pay.

Considerable economies in all departments of the railways were effected in 1923-24, and the price of coal was lower than in the preceding year. The expenditure of £E.99,096 under "Railways Extraordinary" included £E.97,784 in respect of the first of the three instalments and interest payable under the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway Award.

Considerable economies were effected in the establishment of the Public Works Department and in motor transport services.

The decrease under "Public Works Recurrent" is due to reduced expenditure on rent and furniture, and to reduced expenditure on the maintenance of roads and bridges.

In 1923-1924 grants to municipalities under "miscellaneous" were reduced proportionately to the fall in the revenue received from foreign additional import duties allotted to municipalities in lieu of Octroi and Kantar duty. Economies were also effected in the expenditure on stationery and printing, and the cost of living allowances to officers were reduced.

TAXATION.

The revenue is derived principally from customs dues, tithes and house and land tax.

The customs tariff imposes an *ad valorem* duty of 12 per cent. generally on imported goods, with the exception of wines, spirits, petroleum, confectionery, perfumery, etc., on which the duty ranges from 13 per cent. to 50 per cent., and tobacco, sugar, tea, motor spirit, etc., on which specific duties are levied.

Tithes are assessed at the rate of 12½ per cent. of the value of crops, with the exception of produce from Wakf lands on which the Government receives from 2 per cent. to 2½ per cent.

Lands and buildings are subject to Immovable Property Tax calculated on the capital value of the property and varying according to the nature of the property from 6.24 per mill. to 15.6 per mill. in the case of lands, and 5.64 per mill. to 14.1 per mill. in the case of buildings, with the exception of the townships of Haifa, Acre and Shefr Amr in which the tax on buildings is 3½ per cent. of the rental value.

A tax of £E.2 per donum is imposed on all lands on which tobacco is grown.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

It was declared by public notice that as from 22nd January, 1921, the following coins only should be legal tender in Palestine :—

Egyptian gold, notes, silver and nickel coins, and the British gold sovereigns at the rate of 97.50 piastres Egyptian.

No restriction, however, is placed on the circulation in the ordinary course of trade of coins of any other currency at their current market rates.

III.—CUSTOMS, EXCISE AND TRADE.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE.

A revised departmental system of accounts provides greater facilities for the speedy clearance of goods, and a new Customs Tariff came into force on the 15th August, which by substituting many specific for *ad valorem* duties has simplified the work of the Department concerned and in some cases increased revenue. These changes have permitted large reductions in personnel.

Salt stores, opened in the principal towns, place that commodity, of which the price has been reduced, within easy reach of urban areas. Sales have doubled in consequence. The Palestine Salt Company commenced deliveries in September.

Statistical posts were established on the eastern frontier in November with a view to ascertaining with reasonable accuracy the amount which should be paid annually to Transjordan on account of Customs dues collected at Palestine ports on goods destined for Transjordan.

By arrangement with the Egyptian Customs Administration it is possible to book passengers' baggage through to Palestine from Alexandria or Port Said without examination in Egypt.

£E.78,575 worth of goods (£E.100,822 in 1923) was exempted from Customs duty under treaty rights and immunity clauses.

154 seizures of contraband were made and £E.5,766.220 was collected in fines ; and 10,248 kilograms of tobacco and tombac, 59,084 kilograms of salt and four revolvers were confiscated.

TRADE.

The year has been satisfactory from several standpoints : there was a distinct recovery from the severe commercial depression which began in 1922 and continued throughout 1923, and the local market assumed a more stable form. The recovery was partly due to successful orange and tourist seasons and to high prices realised from cereals.

The 1923-24 orange season yielded good profits to producers and to merchants ; prices in England averaged 11s. 6d. per case in December, 15s. 9d. in January, 18s. 9d. in February, and 25s. 6d. at the beginning of March, the rise being attributable to effective control of shipments and the temporary suspension of exports from Spain.

1,589,331 cases valued at £E.420,792, a record in the trade, were exported as against 1,365,543 cases valued at £E.415,403 in the previous season.

In the 1924-25 season, there were seven direct shipments (172,400 cases) to the United Kingdom during November and first sales realised an average price of 15s. The local trade interests are actively engaged in the development of new markets in Poland, Roumania, and Eastern Europe ; shipments to Bristol and London are contemplated.

The wine industry still suffers from absence of markets and large stocks of wines are unsold. Much of this year's grape crop was therefore made into jam or bottled as non-alcoholic grape juice, which sells readily for consumption in the Moslem countries of the Near East, under certificate of the Moslem Religious Authorities.

Palestine wines are now admitted into Czechoslovakia at the preferential rate of 210 C.K. per 100 kilograms, instead of the conventional tariff of 420 C.K.

In the cereal export the year opened dully owing to the very limited stocks available on the market but became active with the arrival of the new crops in June.

Large quantities of durra were exported to Algeria at £14 10s. — and £15 — per ton, c.i.f., an increase of 50 per cent. to 60 per cent. on last year's prices. Almost the whole stock of lentils was absorbed by the Marseilles market at good prices.

On the whole, the year's cereal market offered more favourable conditions than the admittedly flourishing years of 1919 and 1920.

The failure of the Spanish almond crop brought demands from Europe for almonds and prices rose from PT. 380 to PT.520 per 100 kilograms.

The tourist season proved excellent ; special ship cruises brought as many as 3,500 tourists and there were several conducted parties, including Roman Catholic pilgrimages, besides large numbers of independent visitors.

Among the tourists were many Jewish merchants from Poland and Austria who bought plots of land and established trade connections.

The Palestine Pavilion of the British Empire Exhibition closed with very satisfactory results ; the sales amounted to £E.30,000.

Several small new factories were opened during the year for the manufacture of dry cell batteries, lamps, primus stoves, cigarettes, plaster, crude oil, mineral waters, sweets, etc.

The cost of living index number calculated on the basis of retail price movements rose by 3 per cent. as compared with 1923 ; the index number of wholesale prices rose by 1.1 per cent. as compared with 1923, but was still 13.2 per cent. lower than in 1922.

A.

TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Comparative Table : 1922, 1923, 1924.

				1922	1923	1924
				£E.	£E.	£E.
(1) Imports for consumption in Palestine	..	..	..	5,471,667	4,825,185	5,266,349
(2) Imports in transit to Syria	..	..	..	347,699	189,680	136,138
(3) Specie imported	..	..	..	109,465	110,080	187,192
Total Import Trade	..	..	..	5,928,831	5,124,945	5,589,679
(1) Exports of Palestinian produce	..	..	..	1,070,171	1,143,234	1,200,812
(2) Exports in transit from Syria	..	..	..	45,807	45,415	61,002
(3) Specie exported	..	..	..	283,197	411,496	717,275
(4) Re-exports of imported foreign goods	..	..	..	187,328	233,973	141,842
Total Export Trade	..	..	..	1,586,503	1,834,118	2,120,931

B.

IMPORTS.

	1922 £E.	1923 £E.	1924 £E.
Food, Drink and Tobacco	1,419,505	1,352,112	1,407,169
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ..	317,708	293,320	355,470
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	2,897,032	2,486,126	2,848,500
Miscellaneous and unclassified	837,422	693,627	655,210
Total	5,471,667	4,825,185	5,266,349

Countries of Origin.

	1924 £E.	Per- centage.
United Kingdom	981,385	18.7
Other British Possessions	351,940	6.7
Austria	71,285	1.4
Belgium	173,573	3.2
Czechoslovakia	104,148	2.0
Egypt	360,204	6.9
France	319,590	6.0
Germany	559,712	10.7
Greece	29,493	.5
Holland	69,363	1.3
Italy	288,898	5.5
Roumania	210,797	4.0
Turkey	69,210	1.3
U.S.A.	401,078	7.6
Syria	809,406	15.4
Yugo Slavia	57,886	1.1
Other Countries	408,381	7.7
	5,266,349	100.

Principal Increases over 1923.

	£E.
Wheat	33,307
Rice	7,850
Wheat Flour	58,920
All kinds of animals	55,574
Coffee, raw	7,057
Sugar	14,858
Alcohol fit and unfit for human consumption	4,195
Confectionery and Chocolates	5,053
Wood and Timber	7,851
Olive Oil, unrefined	7,915
Cement	18,053
Iron bars, girders, plates and sheets	62,355
Machinery	45,674
Wood for orange cases	14,950
Cotton yarn and thread	9,163
Cotton piece goods	77,203
Woollen fabrics	11,320
Outer gardments	5,444
Boots and shoes	2,555
Kerosene	27,146
Upper and sole leather	11,457
Motor cars	4,977
Used personal effects	25,152
Matches	2,052
Manures and fertilizers	9,494
	£E. 529,575

Principal Decreases.

	£E.
Barley	52,542
Beer	14,774
Tobacco, unmanufactured, 3,077 kilograms	3,192
Tombac, 22,947 kilograms	4,943
Cigarettes, 34,394 kilograms	43,806
Benzine	10,659
Government Stores	60,776
Military Stores	88,100

£E.278,792

C.

EXPORTS.

	1922 £E.	1923 £E.	1924 £E.
Food, Drink and Tobacco	860,986	835,109	838,003
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	18,032	52,549	93,769
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	186,071	251,646	258,635
Miscellaneous and unclassified	5,082	3,930	10,405
Total	1,070,171	1,143,234	1,200,812

Countries of Destination.

	1924 £E.	Per- centage.
United Kingdom	367,156	30.6
Other parts of the British Empire	5,890	.5
Egypt	516,742	43.0
France	26,381	2.2
Germany	19,037	1.6
Italy	16,589	1.4
Syria	200,060	16.7
U.S.A.	16,215	1.3
Other Countries	32,742	2.7
	1,200,812	100.0

Principal Increases over 1923.

	£E.
Hides and Skins	9,513
Iron Ore and Scrap	18,800
Wool, raw	9,977
Oranges	36,923
Raisins and Grapes	8,102
Works of Art, Beads and Curios	11,793
	£E.95,108

Principal Decreases.

	£E.
Cereals and Pulses	41,762
Water Melons	24,847
Soap	11,956
	£E.78,565

D.

IMPORTS IN TRANSIT.

(Syria via Haifa.)

	1922 £E.	1923 £E.	1924 £E.
Food, Drink and Tobacco	41,444	47,518	30,884
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	20,914	11,923	22,047
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	284,706	129,598	83,132
Miscellaneous and unclassified	635	641	75
Total	£E.347,699	£E.189,680	£E.136,138

Principal Increases over 1923.

	£E.
Coal	10,959
Benzine	4,695
Kerosene	7,467
	<u>£E.23,121</u>

Principal Decreases.

	£E.
Cotton Yarn and Thread	11,654
Woollen Carpets	12,574
Upper and Sole Leather	7,855
Rice	6,141
Cotton Piece Goods	4,300
Spices	4,127
Empty Sacks	3,921
	<u>£E.50,572</u>

E.

EXPORTS IN TRANSIT.

(Syria via Haifa.)

	1922 £E.	1923 £E.	1924 £E.
Food, Drink and Tobacco	36,194	13,137	12,884
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	1,468	1,759	258
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	7,236	27,764	45,379
Miscellaneous and unclassified	909	2,755	2,481
Total	<u>£E.45,807</u>	<u>£E.45,415</u>	<u>£E.61,002</u>

Principal Increase over 1923.

Silk Goods	£E.13,668
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F.

RE-EXPORTS.

Principal Decreases.

	£E.
Military Stores	52,000
Empty Barrels	6,500
Sugar	4,650

SHIPPING.

I. Foreign Trade.

	STEAM.		SAILING.		TOTAL.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Entered	605	1,329,575	1,521	24,266	2,126	1,353,841
Cleared	601	1,333,332	1,498	23,640	2,099	1,356,972
TOTAL	1,206	2,662,907	3,019	47,906	4,225	2,710,813

II. Coasting Trade.

	STEAM.		SAILING.		TOTAL.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Entered	383	702,623	696	9,752	1,079	712,375
Cleared	386	698,840	720	9,913	1,106	708,753
TOTAL	769	1,401,463	1,416	19,665	2,185	1,421,128

There was an increase in the number and tonnage of steamers entered from foreign ports in 1924, as compared with 1923, of 10 and 116,328 respectively.

IV.—LEGAL.

The Ordinances to implement the provisions of the Palestine Order in Council with regard to the judiciary were brought into effect during the year ; as well as enactments to modify the procedure of the Civil Courts in the direction of more complete accord with western practice.

2. The Courts Ordinance established the following tribunals :

- (i) The existing Magistrate, District and Land Courts. — The areas of jurisdiction of the Land Courts have been reorganised : in Northern Palestine their work is now undertaken by the District Courts of Haifa and Nablus, and, in Southern Palestine, Courts at Jerusalem and Jaffa were constituted. Only the Jerusalem Court, however, has as yet begun to function.
- (ii) In place of the Court of Appeal, a Supreme Court sitting as a Court of Appeal with jurisdiction unchanged and as the High Court with original jurisdiction in two matters hitherto regulated administratively : applications in the nature of habeas corpus and orders in the nature of mandamus directed to public officers, etc. Less than twenty applications were made to the newly created High Court, mostly raising questions of execution of judgments. The Court is thus likely to relieve Presidents of District Courts in the discharge of their duties as Chief Execution Officers.
- (iii) A Court of Criminal Assize for offences in which capital sentence may be passed ; this Court is constituted of the Chief Justice or the Senior British Judge of the Supreme Court sitting with the District Court of the area where the offence was committed. The assize is held in every district and the presence of the highest judicial authority at the trial of capital crime should tend to uniformity in the administration of criminal justice.
- (iv) A special tribunal to deal with the conflicts of jurisdiction between a Civil and a Religious Court. This will consist of two British Judges of the Supreme Court and the President of the highest Court in Palestine of any religious community which is alleged to have exclusive jurisdiction in the matter at issue. It has not yet been necessary to convene the Court.

The Ordinance also deals with the appointment of judges of the Supreme or a District Court ; it provides that every judge shall hold office during the pleasure of His Majesty and gives power to make probationary appointments of fit and proper persons as members of a District Court.

The existence of a Supreme Court makes possible the application of that part of the Palestine Order in Council concerning appeal in civil cases to His Majesty in Council. The appeal lies (a) as of right, from any final judgment of the Court where the value of the matter in dispute is not less than £E.500, or the appeal involves directly or indirectly a claim respecting property or some civil right in that value ; and (b) at the discretion of the Court, from any judgment, in questions of general or public importance.

Rules governing appeal, which are in the common form, were promulgated by Order in Council dated the 9th October, 1924 ; leave to appeal has been given in one case.

3. The Magistrates' Courts Jurisdiction Ordinance extends the jurisdiction of Civil Magistrates to (a) offences for which the maximum penalty does not exceed imprisonment for one year and a fine of £E.100, and certain other specified offences ; (b) actions for the recovery of possession of immovable property of any value ; (c) actions for the partition of immovable property ; (d) other civil actions in which the value involved or damages claimed do not exceed £E.100 ; and (e) counterclaims to the same value.

An appeal from a Magistrate lies to the District Court in criminal cases by the accused in case of fine exceeding £E.10 or imprisonment exceeding fifteen days, and by the Public Prosecutor in any case. In civil cases an appeal in a possessory action lies to a Land Court, and to the District Court in any other where the value of the claim is not less than £E.20. Leave to appeal may be granted by a President of the District Court in any case in which an appeal does not lie as of right.

The Ottoman procedure in the prosecution of an offence triable before a Magistrate has been changed to provide that the police may refuse to proceed if satisfied that no public interest will be served by so doing ; the complainant may then lay his complaint directly before the Magistrate.

4. In the trial of criminal cases by the District Court and the Court of Criminal Assize, the Trial Upon Information Ordinance replaced the Rules in the Ottoman Code of Criminal Procedure by a system based upon the English practice, providing for a preliminary judicial enquiry by the Magistrate as in proceedings for committal for trial in England. Any person alleging the commission of an offence triable before a superior Court may make a complaint or charge directly to a Magistrate. The Ottoman procedure of trials in absence for serious offences is abolished ; but power remains to hold an enquiry in absence to perpetuate testimony.

Where the penalty exceeds a fine of £E.100 or six months' imprisonment the person convicted may appeal to the Court of Appeal, and in sentences of death or penal servitude for five years or more the case must be passed to the Court of Appeal as of right. The Attorney-General

has a right of appeal from an acquittal only on grounds of legal error or inadequate punishment. Special leave to appeal may be given from any final judgment which is not subject to appeal as of right. The Superior Courts are empowered to deal summarily with cases of perjury or false evidence committed before them.

5. In amendment of the Law of Evidence based, in the Ottoman system, on the medieval provisions of the *Mejelle* (Civil Code), the Law of Evidence Ordinance introduced the general principle that all persons are competent to give evidence in all cases, and that no person is incompetent by reason of being a party to a civil action or complaint, or the accused in a criminal case, or a relation of a party or of the accused. Husband and wife, parent and child, however, are declared not to be competent to give evidence against each other.

The rule in the *Mejelle* that the evidence of one witness is insufficient proof is modified by a provision that no judgment shall be given on the evidence of a single witness unless contradicted in a civil, or admitted by the accused person in a criminal, case, or, whether in a civil or criminal case, corroborated by some other material evidence. Tests of the credibility of witnesses are replaced by the general provision that the value of oral evidence and the credibility of witnesses are questions for the Court to decide according to the demeanour of the witnesses, and the circumstances of the case. The rule that in a civil case the party cannot be a witness is cancelled, and either party may now give evidence on his own behalf or be summoned to give evidence for the other.

A further amendment of the Law of Evidence was the Proof of Foreign Documents Ordinance providing rules for the proof before the Court of documents executed in the United Kingdom or any place in His Majesty's dominions or in foreign countries.

6. The rules concerning arrest of offenders and search of suspected persons and premises were revised and consolidated in the Arrest of Offenders and Searches Ordinance, which declares that a person arrested without a warrant shall be brought before a Magistrate within forty-eight hours of arrest and the period of remand in custody shall not exceed fifteen days. In certain cases a police officer may enter and search any house or place without a warrant, otherwise a search is permissible only upon a Magistrate's warrant.

7. The Contempt of Court Ordinance amplifies the scanty provisions in the Ottoman Penal Code in that particular. Besides the existing penalties for insult or outrage committed in the presence of the Court, and for failure of a witness to attend or answer questions, there are now penalties for the publication during a trial of matter prejudicial to fair trial or likely to bring the Court into contempt. The Ordinance should check the licence hitherto displayed by the press in commenting on cases under hearing.

8. The Civil Trial of Members of the Forces Ordinance provides for the trial by the Civil Courts of members of His Majesty's Forces in Palestine, over whom, when charged with a criminal offence, the Civil Courts had hitherto not exercised jurisdiction. There is a reservation that the Officer Commanding may elect to bring the accused before a Court Martial. The Civil Court to try such cases is composed solely of a British judge or judges, applying the principles of English Law in respect to the nature and constitution of the offence, the admissibility of evidence and the punishment, but no sentence more severe than that prescribed by the Palestine Law for the particular offence may be imposed.

9. The Palestine (Holy Places) Order in Council was issued in July with the object of excluding from the Civil Courts actions touching matters within the purview of the Commission on the Holy Places to be set up under Article 14 of the Mandate. It provides that such actions shall not be heard or determined by any Court; but does not affect or limit the jurisdiction of the Religious Courts. The High Commissioner decides, in case of question, whether any action shall be withdrawn from the Civil Courts.

10. The Maronite Community, on proof of having exercised jurisdiction in matters of personal status in the Ottoman regime, has been recognised as a Community under the Palestine Order in Council exercising that jurisdiction over its members.

11. The Municipal Benches at Jerusalem, Jaffa, Haifa and Gaza dealt with a very large number of petty offences, principally against traffic and health regulations. That they might function more easily the Municipal Courts (Amendment) Ordinance was passed reducing the minimum number of each Bench to two members; where opinion is divided the case is retried by a Bench with an odd number of members. Any person sentenced to imprisonment by a Bench has now a right of appeal to the District Court and, if fined, may apply to the President of the District Court for leave to appeal.

12. Under the Courts Ordinance a foreigner charged with a capital offence is tried by the Court of Criminal Assize composed of the Chief Justice, or the Senior British Judge of the Supreme Court, the President of the District Court and one other judge, or by a single British judge of the Supreme Court; and for an offence triable by the District Court, by a Court of a single British judge or containing a majority of British judges.

By an agreement with His Majesty's Government signed on the 3rd December, 1924, the United States of America consented to the administration of Palestine pursuant to the Mandate and the position of United States citizens in Palestine will be identical with that of the citizens of States Members of the League of Nations.

The agreement provides that Extradition Treaties between the United States and Great Britain shall apply to Palestine.

13. The Extradition Ordinance applying to Palestine the Extradition Treaties between His Majesty's Government and Foreign Powers establishes a system similar to that of the English Acts. To demands for the extradition from Palestine of foreign fugitive offenders the Treaties in existence apply as to demands for extradition from the United Kingdom.

An application under the Ordinance for extradition of two persons charged with complicity in a bankruptcy committed in Italy was made on behalf of the Italian Government. An order for extradition was issued by the British judge and confirmed by the High Court, to which an application for a writ of habeas corpus was submitted, and an application has now been presented to the Privy Council for special leave to appeal from its decision.

The provisional agreements for extradition between Palestine and Syria and Egypt respectively are deemed to have been made applicable by a Proclamation under the Ordinance ; but their special procedure prevails so far as it differs from the procedure of the Ordinance.

The agreements with Syria and Egypt continue to work satisfactorily but will shortly be replaced by arrangements between the two Mandatories.

As between Palestine and Transjordan special extradition arrangements exist which are to be embodied in a definite agreement.

14. The following Ordinances on administrative and fiscal matters were enacted :—

(1) The Game Preservation Ordinance amplifying the powers prescribed in the Ottoman law for the protection of game and the granting of licences to shoot game.

(2) The Expropriation of Land Ordinance removing certain doubts with respect to the application of the Ottoman Laws of Expropriation.

(3) The Road Transport (Motor Vehicles) Amendment Ordinances (a) empowering the Inspector-General of Police to make regulations for exemption from registration and fees of private motor vehicles registered abroad and brought into Palestine by tourists ; (b) providing for the accession of Palestine to International Conventions to facilitate the international circulation of motor cars ; (c) authorising the High Commissioner to arrange with the Government of a neighbouring territory for the reciprocal registration of public motor vehicles plying in both territories.

(4) The Animal Tax (Amendment) Ordinance remedying the defects of the Ottoman law in respect to the penalties for the concealment or removal of animals prior to enumeration.

(5) The Plant Protection Ordinance enabling measures to be taken to prevent the introduction and spread of plant disease.

(6) The Prevention of Crime Ordinance giving extended powers to the District Authorities in dealing with crime in Tribal Areas.

(7) A series of Ordinances concerning Customs :—

(a) The Customs Frontiers and Prescribed Routes Ordinance (enacted in view of the transfer of the Metullah salient) prescribing that the High Commissioner may by Order vary the political frontiers of Palestine for the purposes of Customs Duties and declare routes and places of entry and exit for any class of goods liable to Customs Duties.

(b) The Customs Duties Exemption Ordinance consolidating the law on exemption from Customs Import Duties, and providing for the exemption of all agricultural machinery, animals, plants, etc., imported for agricultural purposes, and industrial machinery.

(c) The Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance establishing a system of specific in place of *ad valorem* duties on many articles and increasing the *ad valorem* duty on certain luxury articles.

(8) The Copyright Ordinance introducing as the Law of Copyright the Imperial Act of Parliament of 1911 which was extended to Palestine by Order in Council.

(9) The Patents and Designs Ordinance (enacted the 1st January, 1925) replacing the inadequate Ottoman law by a measure based upon the English law, except that there is no examination as to novelty of an invention, and providing for the registration of patents granted in the United Kingdom in accordance with the resolutions of the Imperial Conference.

(10) The Railway Lands Vesting Ordinance vesting in the Government, subject to payment of compensation, lands occupied for railway construction by the British Army or the Palestine Railways.

(11) The Werko Tax and Municipal House Rate Validation Ordinance validating the imposition of werko (land) tax and municipal house rate which had, in certain places, been assessed since the Occupation otherwise than prescribed by the Ottoman law.

(12) The Charitable Trusts Ordinance establishing a system of trusts for charitable purposes under the control of the civil law and the Civil Courts. The Court may declare the existence of a trust if satisfied that any property is held by the owner under an obligation to use it or the income for charitable purposes. Where a trust was created under foreign law, the Court applies that law so far as the public policy of Palestine permits. Immovable property transferred for charitable purposes is to be sold, save buildings required for the purposes of the trust, or if the High Commissioner permits retention for charity. The Ordinance does not affect waqf property devoted to charitable purposes.

(13) The Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance empowering the establishment and regulation of wireless telegraph installations, visual and sound signalling and similar methods of communication.

(14) The Bills of Exchange (Protest) Ordinance prescribing that a bill of exchange shall not be protested on any of the weekly days of rest of the different religious communities or on any legal holiday proclaimed in the Gazette, but on the day following ; but interest is calculated from the date of maturity.

(15) The Tobacco Taxation (Amendment) Ordinance maintaining for a further year the reduced rate of tax (£E.2 per donum) on land sown with Turkish tobacco.

(16) The Companies Ordinance providing for certain changes of detail in the Companies Ordinance.

(17) The Debentures Ordinance providing for the issue of debentures and the creation of mortgages by Companies and Co-operative Societies.

(18) The Palestine Jewish Colonisation Association (Edmond de Rothschild Foundation) Ordinance incorporating the Palestine Jewish Colonisation Association, to which were transferred the various enterprises in Palestine of Baron Edmond de Rothschild and the Jewish Colonisation Association.

15. Thirty-two Palestinian companies were incorporated, with a total capital of £E.334,195, and including five banks, an insurance company, two publishing companies, a boarding school, a sports club and an association for producing opera. There are now ninety-six companies on the register.

Thirteen foreign companies were registered, among them the " Arcos " Company, representing the co-operative organisation of Soviet Russia, the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, the American Zion Commonwealth for the promotion of agricultural settlement in Palestine, and four insurance companies.

Twenty-six co-operative societies were formed, including an Arab Tobacco Growers' Society, the first of its kind in Palestine ; the rest were Jewish associations, principally Building Societies and Co-operative Credit Societies, but among them was the Jewish Co-operative Labour Association, a large contracting enterprise with several branch societies of producers and consumers.

There are now sixty-six co-operative societies registered.

The American Fruit Growers, Limited, and the Haboneh Anglo-Palestine Company (a building enterprise), both foreign companies, were wound up during the year, the first by order of the Court on a petition of creditors, the second by voluntary liquidation. No co-operative society was dissolved.

One hundred and eighty-three trade marks were registered and provisional registration was granted of four patents.

<i>Fees collected.</i>								<i>£E.m/ms.</i>
Palestinian Companies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,497.100
Foreign Companies	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	772.500
Co-operative Societies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	122.000
Trade Marks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	968.000
Patents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72.950
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	125.560
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>£E.4,558.110</u>

16. The completion of the fourth year of the Law Classes shows no falling off in the number of applications. At the beginning of the academic year forty-four Arab and twenty-nine Hebrew students were entered, and at the end 118 students, divided between the three years of study, presented themselves for examination. New regulations for the admission of students were issued raising the educational standard. Thirty-six students passed the entrance test for the 1924-25 session.

The course of study has now been extended to four years, with new subjects, such as history of law and medico-legal jurisprudence.

Twenty-four third-year students passed the examinations at the end of 1923 and received certificates of proficiency entitling them to admission as advocates after two years' apprenticeship in an advocate's office.

Four students who had passed their examination and completed their " stage " were also admitted as advocates before the Civil Courts.

Eight out of ten candidates passed the foreign advocates' examination in January.

The Chief Justice has fixed quarterly call days before the High Court for admission of new advocates.

LIST OF ORDINANCES, 1924.

- No. 1. Game Preservation Ordinance.
- No. 2. Foreign Imports Additional Duty (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 3. Road Transport (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 4. Arrest of Offenders and Searches Ordinance.
- No. 5. Expropriation of Land Ordinance.
- No. 6. Appropriation (1923-24) Ordinance.
- No. 7. Supplementary Appropriation (1922-23) Ordinance.
- No. 8. Animal Tax (Amendment) Ordinance.

- No. 9. Magistrates' Courts Jurisdiction Ordinance.
- No. 10. Plant Protection Ordinance.
- No. 11. Contempt of Court Ordinance.
- No. 12. Palestine Jewish Colonisation Association Ordinance.
- No. 13. Law of Evidence (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 14. Prevention of Crime Ordinance.
- No. 15. Customs, Frontier and Prescribed Routes Ordinance.
- No. 16. Copyright Ordinance.
- No. 17. Railway Lands Vesting Ordinance.
- No. 18. Extradition Ordinance.
- No. 19. Werko Tax and Municipal House Rate Validation Ordinance.
- No. 20. Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance.
- No. 21. Courts Ordinance.
- No. 22. Trial Upon Information Ordinance.
- No. 23. Customs Exemption Ordinance.
- No. 24. Customs Duties (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 25. Road Transport (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 2.
- No. 26. Charitable Trusts Ordinance.
- No. 27. Civil Trial of Members of the Forces Ordinance.
- No. 28. Proof of Foreign Documents Ordinance.
- No. 29. Companies (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 30. Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.
- No. 31. Bills of Exchange Protest Ordinance.
- No. 32. Municipal Courts (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 33. Patents and Designs Ordinance.
- No. 34. Debentures Ordinance.
- No. 35. Road Transport (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 3.

CASES PENDING, ENTERED AND DECIDED DURING 1924.

A.

Court of Appeal.

	Pending 1.1.24	Entered during year.	Decided during year.	Pending 31.12.24.
Civil	153	336	301	188
Criminal .. .	51	339	351	39
Total .. .	204	675	652	227

B.

High Court.

September, October, November and December, 1924.

	Pending 1.9.24.	Entered during year.	Decided during year.	Pending 31.12.24.
Total .. .	—	16	14	2

C.

Court of Criminal Assize.

September, October, November and December, 1924.

	Pending 1.9.24.	Entered during year.	Decided during year.	Pending 31.12.24.
Total .. .	—	22	13	9

D.

District Courts.

	Pending 1.1.24.	Entered during year.	Decided during year.	Pending 31.12.24.
Civil .. .	193	1,750	1,725	218
Criminal .. .	144	1,580	1,590	134
Total .. .	337	3,330	3,315	352

E.

Land Courts.

	Pending 1.1.24.	Entered during year.	Decided during year.	Pending 31.12.24.
Total	482	773	824	431

F.

Magistrates' Courts.

	Pending 1.1.24.	Entered during year.	Decided during year.	Pending 31.12.24.
Civil	395	31,943	31,729	609
Criminal	124	20,513	20,463	174
Total	519	52,456	52,192	783

G.

Municipal Courts.

	Pending 1.1.24.	Entered during year.	Decided during year.	Pending 31.12.24.
Total	353	7,263	7,402	214

V.—EDUCATION.

1. The estimates of the Department of Education for 1924-25 amounted to £E.103,080, compared with £E.104,296 for the previous year.

2. Of twenty-one in the graduating class of the Men's Training College, twelve were awarded diplomas. There are fifty-seven students in the College under contract to become teachers. The decrease of twenty-three since last year is due to a reorganisation designed to provide a full secondary education in the College for pupils from provincial town schools where no secondary course is available. Some of the vacancies were consequently filled by fee-paying students, and the curriculum has been correlated with the secondary syllabus. The College now consists of a third-year and a second-year class, each in two divisions. Two graduates of the American University of Beirut were appointed to the teaching staff.

3. An experienced Egyptian Moslem lady teacher has been appointed to the staff of the Women's Training College. Two Moslem students were sent to complete their training at the Women's Elementary Training College, Cairo, in addition to the two Christian students already in residence there.

4. The aim of the Civil Administration has been to promote the elementary education of all children between the ages of seven and fourteen. Approximately seventy-five village schools were opened each year up to and including 1922-23. The villagers provide an approved building and the necessary equipment; the teaching staff, generally one, sometimes two or more teachers, is appointed and paid by Government which supplies free books and school materials. Consistently bad attendances or unsuitable accommodation leads to the removal of some schools to more deserving villages. A few schools have also been opened in towns on the same basis. Financial stringency made it impossible to continue this scheme in 1923-24 or in 1924-25.

During the year new buildings were erected or existing schools enlarged by the inhabitants in twenty-one villages.

There exist to-day 266 village schools of which ten only are for girls. Most of the teachers in these schools are untrained, but on the whole adequate.

5. The elementary town schools, numbering forty-six (twenty-seven for boys and nineteen for girls), are located for the most part in the same place, and often in the same building, as in the Ottoman regime. They are insufficient to meet the needs of the population, and in all the larger towns many children are unable to obtain admission.

Education in these schools is free, save in the Mamuniya Girls' School, Jerusalem, where a yearly fee of PT.150 is charged, except to 25 per cent. of the poorer scholars, who are exempted by examination. In town schools books and materials are paid for by all pupils who can afford it; in village schools they are provided gratis.

6. Two hundred and thirty-six boys in all are now receiving secondary education in Government schools. The chief obstacle to progress in this direction still lies in the fact that most of the teachers possess only elementary qualifications.

The laboratory equipment and books in use in the secondary sections have much improved.

The yearly fees charged in secondary sections are : first year class, PT.150, second year, PT.200, third year, PT.250, fourth year, PT.300.

Boarders at the secondary section of the Men's Training College pay £E.18, and students £E.3 per annum ; all pupils subscribe towards games and library.

7. A revised elementary syllabus was put into operation in Government Schools at the beginning of the school year 1924-25 ; it provides for one or more preparatory years in an infant section and introduces elementary science in the fifth and sixth years.

8. In Government schools, where all or nearly all the pupils use Arabic as their mother-tongue, the language of instruction is Arabic throughout. In higher elementary and secondary schools, and in the Training Colleges, English is taught as a foreign language through its own medium.

9. Group " Intelligence Tests " were applied in six of the principal boys' schools. It appears that, age for age, the mental development of the Palestinian child is somewhat behind that of the average English child, but the discrepancy diminishes in the secondary years. The remedy seems to be the improvement of the social environment, more especially by means of female education, for which the demand is now increasing.

10. More attention is being paid to technical instruction in certain secondary schools, notably at Jaffa and Hebron, where book-binding, carpentry, or broom-making are taught to all senior pupils. School furniture is made and repaired by the boys and school gardens are being extended.

The opening of the Technical Institute at Haifa, which is maintained by a special Jewish body, should do much for the improvement of technical education among the Jewish youth. The Institute is under the temporary supervision of Mr. Arthur Blok, recently of the Institute of the Croydon Polytechnic, who was given special leave of absence for the purpose by the British Patents Office ; an evening school for workmen in building, metal-work, and woodwork has been opened in the Institute.

The School of Weaving for girls, conducted by the Catholic Women's League, is doing satisfactory work on a small scale.

The Agricultural School of the Alliance Israelite Universelle at Mikveh Israel continues to prosper ; its course lasts three years, forty students passing each year. Most of the students are Jews but there are a few Moslems.

11. Communities are given full rights to maintain schools for the education of their children. All schools existing before the Occupation have been registered, and, following Turkish law, schools opened since that date must be registered before they are sanctioned ; this requirement tends to raise hygienic and educational standards. But in practice educational requirements of any importance are imposed only on schools receiving a grant-in-aid.

12. In higher elementary and secondary private Moslem schools English is taught as a foreign language ; the medium of instruction in all is Arabic.

The Raudat al-Ma'aref in Jerusalem and the Najah School in Nablus provide a course of secondary education.

13. In the great majority of modern Jewish schools Hebrew is used ; in the Evelina de Rothschild Girls' School and in the Schools of the Alliance Israelite, English and French respectively are the principal medium in the upper classes. English is taught in all, and French in a few, Jewish higher elementary or secondary town schools ; Arabic is on the syllabus of Jewish Training Colleges and secondary schools. In the old-fashioned Orthodox schools, which impart a religious education exclusively, Yiddish is still the language of instruction.

Immigration has increased the rolls of Jewish schools by 3,000 since 1923 ; existing schools, particularly of the Palestine Zionist Executive, the Alliance Israelite and the Workmen's Association, have been expanded accordingly and new kindergartens and schools opened. An Orthodox Women's Training College has been established in Jerusalem. Summer vacation courses in handwork and in methods of teaching at Jerusalem and Tel Aviv were attended by 200 teachers from Hebrew elementary schools and kindergartens. There were 10,000 visitors in April to an exhibition of Jewish schoolwork in Jerusalem organised by the Palestine Zionist Executive.

The Hebrew University building on Mount Scopus is partly completed, with accommodation for the Institutes of Biochemistry and Jewish Studies ; the professorial staff numbers four.

The University Library has acquired the famous Goldziher collection of 6,000 volumes of standard Islamic and Arabic works.

A movement is on foot to transfer to Palestine well-known " Yeshibas " (Rabbinical schools) of Eastern Europe ; one is already established in Hebron and a second in Petah Tikvah.

14. In the schools of foreign missionary bodies, or under national auspices, the language of instruction is English, French, Italian, Greek or Armenian, as the case may be ; but Arabic and English are taught in nearly all.

The Orthodox Christian lay community conducts important schools in Haifa and Jaffa, and recently opened a new boys' school in Jerusalem. The Jaffa school has a girls' section. There are a few Moslem private schools.

15. Absence of funds still confines the system of grants-in-aid to non-Government schools offering an elementary or secondary education ; schools which provide religious or purely technical instruction only, or fail to attain the standard of Government elementary schools are

ineligible. The grants, which are made on a *per capita* basis, were allotted in 1924 as follows among 249 schools, representing 24,327 pupils :—

Moslem	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£E. 410
Jewish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£E.3,065
Christian	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£E.1,485
Reserve	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£E. 40
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£E.5,000

In the previous year £E.5,200 was distributed among 244 schools with 20,840 pupils.

16. Three out of twenty-five candidates passed the Higher and twelve out of 118 the Lower Certificate Examination for Teachers. A Special Examination in Arabic and Moslem Religion was introduced for the first time. There were three candidates for the Higher and six for the Lower, but none reached the high standard set.

The Civil Service Examination has been discontinued.

In the language examinations for Government officers eight out of fourteen passed in elementary and two out of three in advanced Arabic, and three out of four in elementary Hebrew.

An elementary examination in Arabic was held for British Gendarmes ; fourteen out of twenty-nine candidates passed.

The first Palestine Matriculation Examination held by the Council of Higher Studies in July in the three official languages was devised to meet the needs of all secondary schools on the lines of the School Certificate Examination of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board. Nine out of twenty-four candidates passed ; the examination has been recognised by the American University of Beirut, which admits successful candidates to its Sophomore year.

One Palestinian candidate passed the Matriculation Examination, and one the Intermediate Science Examination of London University, which were held in Jerusalem under the supervision of the Department of Education.

The four students sent to the Beirut American University in 1923 have satisfactorily completed their first year.

17. A " Society for the Promotion of Higher Studies among Moslems " has been formed which is conducted entirely by and for Moslems in Palestine. The Society has sent three students to Beirut University, paying their fees in whole or part ; the students are to discharge the debts on completion of their course.

18. It is proposed by His Majesty's Government, with the consent of the executors, to divide the bequest of the late Mr. Kadoorie, of Shanghai, approximately £E.120,000, for the establishment of schools in Palestine, equally between a project for a Jewish secondary school in Jerusalem and an agricultural school for Arabs at Tulkarem. In both it is intended to instil as far as possible the spirit of the English public school, while at the same time local aspirations will be allowed freely to develop, and Hebrew and Arabic respectively will be the medium of instruction. Only a part of the total sum will be expended on building and equipment, the remainder being set aside to provide endowment funds.

19. The Baden-Powell Boy Scouts' Association has now sixty-four troops with 1,360 scouts, all Moslem or Christian. A successful rally was held in March, and a training camp for scouters in September.

A party of scouts attended the Imperial Jamboree at Wembley.

The Hebrew Boy Scouts' Association, consisting of ten troops with 265 scouts, also organised a training camp.

The Girl Guide movement is represented by a Ranger company, six companies of guides, and two Brownie Packs ; a party attended the World Camp at Foxlease.

20. Village school teachers have been trained, under the supervision of Medical Officers, to carry out treatment of trachoma. Two hundred thousand pamphlets in Arabic or Hebrew on hygienic topics were distributed among all schools during " Health Week, " and suitable lectures given to the children.

On Arbor Day 18,348 trees were planted in Government school gardens.

Statistical

There are 314 Government schools, of which forty-six are town schools and 266 village schools. In the town schools there are 5,056 boys and 2,928 girls, in the village schools 10,371 boys and 669 girls, a total of both sexes in all schools of 19,024 pupils.

There are 399 non-Government schools, of which 45 are Moslem, 180 Jewish, and 174 Christian ; and on their rolls there are, respectively, 2,987 Moslems, 19,725 Jewish, and 14,511 Christian pupils.

There are, among the non-Government schools, twenty-six special or technical institutions, including Training Colleges, Commercial and Agricultural Schools and Theological Seminaries ; in these there are 122 teachers, 929 boys and 758 girls.

By communities the approximate percentages of school attendance of children are as follows :—

5-14 years : Moslem, 14 per cent. ; Jewish, 85 per cent. ; Christian, 76 per cent.
 15-18 years : Moslem, 8 per cent. ; Jewish, 53 per cent. ; Christian, 62 per cent.
 5-18 years : Moslem, 13 per cent. ; Jewish, 78 per cent. ; Christian, 73 per cent.

The process of development of Government schools since the establishment of the Civil Administration is indicated in the following table :—

Year.	Schools.	Teachers.	Boys.	Girls.
1919-1920	124	—	—	—
1920-1921	171	408	8,419	2,243
1921-1922	244	525	13,656	2,786
1922-1923	311	639	16,606	3,033
1923-1924	314	672	16,046	3,285
1924-1925	314	670	15,509	3,655

The numbers of schools include training colleges and secondary sections of elementary schools.

VI.—HEALTH.

1. The year was marked by a notable advance in the control of malaria and trachoma ; by a beginning in pilgrim quarantine on the Hejaz and Sinai Railways, and the extension of the movement for municipal participation in the conduct and cost of local hospitals. Save in Jerusalem, Tulkarem, Acre and Haifa, the end of the year saw local hospital committees everywhere constituted to direct at their own charge the non-technical services of the hospitals founded and hitherto entirely maintained by Government.

Arab and Jewish villagers have actively co-operated in anti-malarial drainage, and in the installation and improvement of water supplies ; tradesmen and manufacturers have shown themselves ready to regulate the conditions of their shops and trades as prescribed by Ordinance. To Departmental instruction of plumbers is due the better drainage system of the newer houses and factories. Main drainage in municipal areas is still, however, lacking.

2. Measles is again responsible for a higher death-rate ; little can be done to prevent the spread of this disease or to provide medical and nursing aid. Typhoid, typhus and dysentery affected only the Jewish population but with low incidence. In the Metullah salient, before general vaccination could be practised, there was an outbreak of smallpox with seventeen cases, among an isolated Bedu tribe. Four cases occurred in Jaffa among Yemenite immigrants. Fifty-four thousand and sixty-one persons were vaccinated by Medical Officers.

Malaria is progressively less prevalent, as is indicated by the percentage of dispensary patients treated for the disease : in 1922 this was 7.2 per cent., in 1923 4.9 per cent., and in 1924 3.8 per cent.

In nine months of 1918, 118 persons died in Jerusalem from malaria ; in 1924 only two.

Considerable works of swamp reclamation have been or are being carried out under the supervision of the Department of Health, the Malaria Survey Section and the Research Unit ; as a result, the malarial marshes of the coastal plain of Esdraelon, the Jezreel Valley and Galilee are gradually disappearing and the soil is returning to cultivation and settlement.

Acute conjunctivitis was rife in 1924. Of twelve projected Government Ophthalmic Clinics to operate by the generous arrangement of the Order of St John, under the supervision of the Warden of the British Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem, those in Nablus, Ramleh, Gaza and Beersheba are already in existence.

Fifty thousand school children were kept under medical observation for trachoma.

In October-November two cases of bubonic plague occurred in Jaffa.

Acute poliomyelitis and cerebro-spinal meningitis were reported in two and three cases respectively ; tuberculosis in 479 cases, with 163 deaths ; schistosomiasis in 28 cases, 21 being in Jaffa district where this disease is endemic.

There were nine cases of hydrophobia in untreated cases ; antirabic measures were energetically practised by the Departments of Health, Agriculture, and Police, and over 8,000 dogs and jackals destroyed by strychnine bait in the first nine months of the year.

3. Up to the end of October, 25,352 births and 14,243 deaths had been recorded, increases of 3,928 and 836 respectively over the corresponding period of 1923.

An increase of nearly 100 per cent. in disembarkations over 1923 added considerably to the work of the ports' quarantine service.

The accommodation and sanitary arrangements of the Haifa lazaret have been improved.

Two thousand Palestinians made the pilgrimage to Mecca and about 2,502 Moslem pilgrims of other countries visited the holy shrines in Palestine, including some 600 who come overland via Akaba and Maan and received their first quarantining at Haifa.

The Quarantine Board of Egypt has undertaken to establish a station at El Arish for the mutual protection of Egypt and Palestine should either country become infected.

5. Nineteen pupil nurses passed their qualifying examination, and nine pupil midwives, trained at the Princess Mary Maternity Centre, were granted certificates.

Ninety licences to practise were granted to doctors, sixteen to pharmacists, thirty-six to dentists, and thirty-one to midwives.

6. The adhesion of Palestine to the International Opium Convention was notified by His Majesty's Government in August. Twelve kilograms of opium, 615 of morphine, 4,137 of cocaine and 125 of heroin were imported under permit ; several contraband consignments of dangerous drugs were seized.

7. In the Government laboratories 18,000 routine examinations were made ; the chemical laboratory has engaged in research relating to the recovery of potash from Dead Sea brine. Twenty-four thousand doses of anti-rabic vaccine were prepared and 819 persons treated. Anti-typhoid and anti-cholera vaccines have also been manufactured for use among immigrants and pilgrims.

VII.—POLICE AND PRISONS.

1. Two hundred and eighty-two other ranks were enlisted during the year into the Palestine Police, sixty resigned and 220 were discharged.

Discipline continues steadily to improve ; only one officer and six other ranks were tried and convicted by Courts of Discipline. Good conduct pay and badges prove an incentive to orderly conduct. £E.245 was distributed in rewards for meritorious services. A police inspector was awarded the King's Police Medal for gallantry in effecting the capture of a notorious and dangerous outlaw.

The average daily number of sick was fifteen ; 139 other ranks were admitted to hospital and two died.

2. It has not yet been possible to reopen the Training School, and the progress of the Force is consequently retarded.

Telephonic communications between certain police posts have been improved.

Traffic control is more effectively exercised. 5,451 persons were prosecuted for contraventions and 4,507 convictions obtained. There were only three fatal accidents, compared with twelve in 1923.

3. A Government Commission was appointed at the end of 1923 to investigate prison conditions ; it recommended the provision of an increased scale of clothing and bedding and minor alterations to prison buildings to secure proper ventilation of cells, improvement of ablution and disinfecting arrangements and prevention of overcrowding. Many of the recommendations are being carried out.

Health and discipline in the central prisons were good.

A special hospital for tuberculous prisoners was opened in the Acre prison with accommodation for twenty-four patients ; fifteen prisoners are receiving treatment.

At Jerusalem the female section has been segregated.

The prison industries maintain their high standard at Jerusalem ; a laundry has been added and the weaving section transferred to Acre.

From Acre fifty prisoners are working on the Ras-el-Nakura road. Jail labour gangs continue their useful services to Government departments and to the Royal Air Force.

On the 1st January, there were twenty-two boys in the Howard Home Reformatory ; twenty-nine were admitted and twenty-nine discharged during the year. The boys receive a grounding in elementary education, and are taught shoemaking and gardening.

4. In addition to the Government Police Force Municipal Police Forces are maintained from municipal funds that are under the general control of the District Commandants of Police. Except in Tel Aviv they act as night watchmen only. Their organisation is not altogether satisfactory and their numbers are inadequate. Measures for an improvement in these directions are under consideration.

5. There has been a marked decrease of highway robbery ; ninety-three such crimes were committed in 1924, compared with 177 in 1923.

Comparative Tables of cases handled by the Police and Heinous Crimes.

							<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Heinous Crimes.</i>
1921	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,098	650
1922	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,531	699
1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	16,700	637
1924	..	..	..	..	..	..	16,833	614

The increase of 50 per cent. of cases in the past four years does not reflect an increase of crime, but is accounted for by offences against Ordinances enacted since 1920, by which many additional offences and misdemeanours have been made punishable, principally the Road Transport Ordinance (against which there were 5,461 offences in 1924), the Firearms Ordinance (116 offences), the Immigration Ordinance (226 offences), and the various Ordinances dealing with sanitary requirements (351 offences).

Public confidence in the police is also responsible for readier notification of crime by the injured parties.

Comparative Table of incidence of the most frequent forms of Heinous Crimes.

					<i>Murder.</i>	<i>Highway Robbery.</i>	<i>Burglary and Housebreaking.</i>	<i>Animal Theft.</i>
1921	..	..	.....	..	128	135	34	193
1922	..	..	..	..	142	180	83	182
1923	..	..	..	..	121	177	55	45
1924	..	..	..	..	95	93	99	37

The aggregate of murder, manslaughter and attempted murder cases (171) is relatively high ; but traditions of feud, and of vindication of family honour, are still strong in Palestine, and the Ottoman Penal Code is lenient towards such offenders. Burglary has been common ; only in fourteen burglaries, however, was property stolen exceeding £E.50 in value.

The notable crimes of the year were the murder of two warrant officers of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment by armed robbers on the Jerusalem-Jaffa road in January ; the shooting of two Jews by Arabs at Jaffa in March during a Jewish masquerade, and the shooting of an Arab on the same day near Tel Aviv ; the murder of a Czechoslovak foot-traveller, and the wounding of his wife by robbers near Nablus, also in March ; the murder by Beduin of three policemen captured near Beersheba in May ; and the assassination of a well-known Dutch Jew in Jerusalem in June by persons unknown.

The guilty persons in the first and third murder were detected and have suffered the death penalty.

Sentence of seven years' penal servitude was passed upon the ringleader of a group responsible for the circulation of forged Ottoman Public Debt Administration and Hejaz revenue stamps, counterfeited in Austria.

6. During the year seventeen prisoners effected their escape from custody, local lockups, hospital or labour camps. Two were shot dead in the attempt, of whom one was a prisoner in Jerusalem prison under death sentence.

Ninety-four " wanted " criminals were arrested during the year. Muhammad el-Sous, a notorious highwayman, under sentence of death in default, who made periodical forays with his gang into Palestine from Transjordan, was eventually shot dead by a police patrol near Hebron.

Seven fugitive offenders were arrested and handed over to the Syrian Police ; six were extradited to Palestine from Syria, six from Egypt and eighteen from Transjordan.

7. A Convict Record Office has been established with revised methods based on the system of Scotland Yard for taking finger prints and photographs of prisoners ; personnel has been trained for the work.

GENDARMERIE.

Increasing effect has been given to the policy of employing both Sections of the Gendarmerie on civil police duties.

British Section.

To co-operate with the Syrian Authorities against armed brigandage on the northern Transjordan border, a detachment was posted in August to Irbid, where it remained under the orders of the Officer Commanding the Transjordan Reserve Force until the beginning of the rains.

For the second half of the year the Gaza Police were reinforced by a half troop of British Gendarmes.

The Customs Post at Ras-el-Nakura has been placed in charge of personnel of the Section.

An officer and warrant officer were transferred to the Palestinian Section, and one Officer seconded, while several non-commissioned officers were lent as instructors.

The Section supervised the construction of village roads, of which many are fit for wheeled traffic in all weathers.

The licensing of vehicles under the Road Transport Ordinance has been entrusted to members of the Section which also assists the Police in the enforcement of the Ordinance and in traffic control.

The accommodation of the Section is being gradually improved, and its health has been excellent.

Palestinian Section.

The Section is divided into Headquarters, seven cavalry troops, each fifty-four strong, and a camelry troop, seventy strong.

One hundred and four recruits were enlisted ; and one hundred and two men discharged, including six on medical grounds and fourteen on disciplinary grounds.

There has been no difficulty in recruiting Arabs and Circassians, but suitable Jewish recruits are not forthcoming in sufficient number as they are drawn mostly from the immigrant class, which lacks the necessary local knowledge and is not always familiar with the languages of the country.

The Section is now employed on police duties throughout the Frontier Zone ; in the Beersheba district urban police duties are also undertaken, though with some loss of military efficiency.

A troop is stationed at Metullah to control the recently ceded territory ; signal communication is maintained by heliograph with Rosh Pinah.

Several useful reconnaissances for water, correction of map sheets, etc., have been made ; the Jordan was reconnoitered from Lake Huleh to the Dead Sea, and over seventy fords were located, identified and mapped.

The authority of non-commissioned officers has been enhanced by their greater selfconfidence, and the officers have established more effective command by fluency in the vernacular.

All troops passed the Royal Air Force tests in co-operation with aircraft, and were satisfactorily examined in rapid turn-out in marching order, signalling, Lewis Gun work, and dismounted action.

An officer of the Section is undergoing a course in wireless telegraphy with the Royal Air Force in Palestine, in order to train personnel in the use of wireless installations of Royal Air Force type.

Troopers displayed creditable skill in competitions for jumping, sword and lance exercises, which were judged by Army officers.

Musketry, however, is unsatisfactory on account of the inaccurate type of rifles in use and restricted range facilities.

The scattered disposition of the Section hinders the prompt provision of veterinary aid ; but casualties among animals have been limited by improved stabling, grooming and horse-mastership, which have correspondingly increased the mobility of the Section.

Health was good and medical attendances satisfactory ; there were one hundred and ninety-two admissions to hospital and four deaths.

General sanitation is much better, each troop has a medical orderly (tamurgi) qualified by attending a course with the Department of Health.

Clothing and equipment also are now adequate ; mosquito nets are issued in malarious stations. The camel corps has been equipped with Beersheba camels and local saddlery and water skins ; this change was successfully tested in a nine days' trek over difficult country.

Thirty-six troopers qualified as signallers at the Signal School, Sarafand ; each troop mans two signal stations, and daily communication is maintained, weather permitting, between Beersheba and Tel-el-Milh and Rosh Pinah and Metullah.

The Section was instrumental in the capture of 940 kilograms of contraband tombac and 15,628 kilograms of salt.

Eleven troopers were sentenced by Courts of Discipline and 113 entries made in Regimental Conduct Sheets.

CLASSIFICATION OF PALESTINE SECTION OF GENDARMERIE BY RELIGIONS.

British Officers.

Church of England	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Presbyterian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Roman Catholic..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

British Warrant Officers.

Church of England	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Presbyterian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Roman Catholic..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

Other Ranks.

Christian Arabs ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Moslem Arabs ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	221
Moslem Circassians	..	..	..	..	..	..	107
Jews .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	108 ¹
Druzes .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Roman Catholic..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Presbyterian ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Church of England	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

VIII.—POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

Post Office business increased in all branches.

Cash revenue amounted to £E.123,437, as against £E.110,760 in 1923 ; expenditure to £E.86,383, as against £E.98,390 in 1923.

The profit on the year's working amounted to £E.37,054, or £E.43,854 with the addition of the excess of the value of services rendered to Government Departments over the value of services rendered by them.

¹ Jews are not enlisted for service in the southern end of the Jordan Valley or in the Camel Troop.

Cash transactions with the public amounted to £E.586,422, and, in addition, £E.24,919 was collected on behalf of the Department of Customs.

There was a particularly large increase in the number of letters received from abroad.

The proportion of insufficiently stamped letters received from Great Britain is invariably much higher than from other countries.

A gratifying improvement is to be recorded in the security of matter transmitted through the post. During 1924 only £E.6 was payable for loss or damage to postal packets. Three mailbags were stolen in transit, but in no case was a Post Office official responsible for custody. There was likewise no case in which it was necessary to bring legal proceedings against a Post Office official for theft of matter entrusted to the post.

A daily mail service with Egypt was maintained throughout the year except for one day in March, when a cloudburst washed away the railway in Sinai ; it also destroyed the telegraph lines and interrupted communication with Egypt for 25 hours.

The reduction in the issues of Money Orders and Imperial Postal Orders is largely attributable to the increased use of local Postal Orders.

Post Offices were opened at Jericho and Carmel and agencies at Metullah and Yavniel.

An Insured Letters service with Tunis and Poland, an Insured Letters and Boxes services with France, Germany, Egypt and Dantzic, and an Insured Letters, Boxes and Parcels service with Syria and Grand Lebanon were introduced.

Inland telegrams showed a decrease of 6,000 under 1923, to be ascribed to the greater use of the telephone system. Foreign telegrams increased by 16,300.

By superimposing, practically all the long distance lines in the country are used simultaneously for telegraph and telephone purposes.

An "urgent" trunk call service, at double the ordinary rates, has been established.

Public telephone call offices, installed at certain police posts on the main roads, have assisted the police in maintaining public security and proved of much benefit to travellers.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1924.

<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Public Services.</i>	
	1923	1924
	£E.	£E.
Sale of Stamps	48,458	52,881
Commission on Money Orders	1,030	932
Postal Order Poundage	256	485
Foreign Parcel Post	4,953	5,223
Telegrams	27,768	28,447
Telephones	25,052	31,701
Rent of Letter Boxes	1,569	1,736
Miscellaneous	1,772	2,032
Total	110,858	123,437
<i>Expenditure.</i>		
All services except conveyance of mails outside Palestine	88,936	77,410
Conveyance of mails outside Palestine	9,454 ¹	6,465
Special expenditure on new cable, etc.	—	2,508
Total	98,390	86,383
Balance of Revenue over Expenditure		£E.37,054
Balance of Revenue, including value of services rendered to and by other Government Departments		£E.43,854

ESTIMATED VALUE OF SERVICES RENDERED TO AND BY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS DURING 1924.

	<i>Rendered to other Departments.</i>	£E.	£E.
Official Correspondence		3,010	
Money Order Commission		95	
Telephones		8,010	
Telegrams		1,000	
Maintenance of Railway Telegraphs, Telephones and Signals..		4,500	
Customs Services		1,205	
			17,820

¹ Includes £E.2,884 paid in respect of previous years.

ESTIMATED VALUE OF SERVICES RENDERED TO AND BY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
DURING 1924.—*continued.*

	<i>Rendered by other Departments.</i>	£E.	£E.
Railway conveyance of mails		2,500	
Railway conveyance of Personnel and Stores		1,900	
Motor Transport		3,500	
Furniture		20	
Water		100	
Rent and repairs to buildings		3,000	
			11,020
Credit Balance			£E.6,800

PERCENTAGE INCREASES OR DECREASES, YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER. 1924.

	1923	1924	Increase or Decrease. Per cent.
Letters	4,917,000	6,655,000	+ 35
Postcards	660,500	713,000	+ 7.9
Printed Matter and Samples	3,030,100	3,258,000	+ 7.5
Parcels	117,200	127,500	+ 9
Telegrams	241,000	252,300	+ 4.7
Telephone Trunk Calls	366,700	468,635	+ 27.8
Telephone Local Calls	5,920,000	7,400,000	+ 20
Postal Orders, Palestine, Number	11,238 ¹	45,379	+202.8 ¹
Value £E.	8,860	37,167	+214.6 ¹
Postal Orders, British, Number	33,351	22,311	— 33.1
Issued. Value £E.	24,249	16,510	— 31.9
Postal Orders, British, Number	4,799	2,907	— 39.4
Paid. Value £E.	3,431	2,015	— 41.3
Money Orders, Inland, Number	13,623	12,886	— 5.4
Issued. Value £E.	142,392	148,763	+ 4.5
Money Orders, Foreign, Number	6,856	3,949	— 42.4
Issued. Value £E.	46,862	32,711	— 30.2
Money Orders, Foreign, Number	9,107	10,398	+ 14.2
Paid. Value £E.	38,064	43,024	+ 13
Telephone Subscribers	1,131	1,318	+ 16.5
Telephone Instruments Installed	1,551	1,816	+ 17
Telegraph and Telephone Trunk Lines Km.	10,700	10,360	— 3
Telegraph and Telephone Local Lines Km... .. .	2,882	3,526	+ 22.3

IX.—AGRICULTURE, FORESTS AND FISHERIES.

While Government expenditure upon agricultural services has been necessarily limited, there has developed a compensating measure of external support and local enterprise. The International Bureau of Agriculture, at Rome, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Imperial Institute provide technical advice, literature and material; experimental work is undertaken by foreign and British manufacturers of fertilizers and agricultural machinery; important research work continues to be performed by the experimental stations of the Palestine Zionist Executive and the Jewish Colonisation Association. The inspection of markets, slaughter-houses, khans, etc., has been taken over by some local authorities; and municipalities and local councils, and co-operative societies of farmers are assuming responsibility for various activities hitherto exclusively exercised by Government.

The control of epidemic livestock disease and of plague is being vested under the sanctions of the Ottoman Law in local commissions under the chairmanship of District Officers with veterinary or agricultural officers as members.

Villages holding forest areas in collective ownership, or enjoying rights and privileges in State forests are encouraged to provide their own forest guards. Under the Plant Protection Ordinance it is no longer the Government Department but the owner or cultivator who must take the prescribed steps for the control of pests or diseases or bear their cost.

The distribution by Government of Arabic and Hebrew leaflets on agricultural topics is followed by evident results.

At an agricultural show at Nablus in July, approved methods of tobacco-curing, grading and baling, and incubators, bar-frame hives, and other poultry and bee-keeping appliances were exhibited by the Government Department. The Palestine Zionist Executive has opened an agricultural school for girls at Nahalal (Esdraelon Valley).

¹ Nine months only in 1923. Percentage increase based on nine months of the 1924 totals.

The production of the principal winter and summer staples has reached equilibrium ; the variations of the past four years may be ascribed to climatic influences. By reason of its superior drought-resisting qualities wheat is displacing barley as a winter cereal. Locally-grown bread grain still fails to cover local demands, and 20,000 tons were imported. The output of rotation crops, beans, peas, lentils and kersenneh shows only seasonal variations, but larger quantities of durra (millet) were available for export in 1924.

The orange and lemon crops increased from 1,189,000 cases in 1921-22 to 1,325,000 in 1923-24, but the production of wine fell from 3,163,000 litres to 2,516,000 litres. The tobacco crop in 1924 was 1,845 tons, which means a surplus for export of 900 tons. A certain amount of tombac is also grown. Four travelling instructors are employed by Government to assist and advise planters, but the inexperience of most planters has resulted in a large percentage of inferior leaf being grown.

Experiments with Virginian bright leaf, Latakia pipe tobacco and Persian tombac are in progress. The cost of producing good average Turkish leaf varies from 9 to 11 PT. per kilogram. A large forward contract for the current crop was made by a (Jewish) Berlin firm of tobacco manufacturers with Jewish growers in the Northern District on exceptionally favourable terms. First grade leaf was bought at 24, second grade at 20, and inferior tobacco at 17 PT. per kilogram. Normal market prices are, however, much lower and extensive sales are being negotiated in Egypt and America at about 12 PT.

Expense limits tractor cultivation to a few large estates, and the introduction of cheap steel ploughs, harrows and cultivators, specially manufactured in Great Britain, is therefore being promoted.

The use of chemical fertilizers for cereal and leguminous crops and in orchards, vineyards and plantations, has been successfully demonstrated by Government officers to farmers. During the current season eighty-eight such demonstrations were organised at the expense of the Chile Nitrate and British Sulphate of Ammonia Federations. £E.12,878 worth of chemical fertilizers was imported during the first ten months of 1924.

The extended cultivation of rotation crops of oil-seeds is being encouraged in every way. A large modern vegetable oil mill, established at Haifa, should draw plentiful raw material from the country. Olive and sesame are local staples ; linseed was earlier cultivated on a large scale ; hemp, grown round Damascus, should be a Palestine crop also ; the castor plant is indigenous in the southern desert ; pistachio and ground-nuts abound.

Progress has been made with preliminary experiments in the cultivation of sugar, oil and fibre crops.

The Agricultural Department is undertaking, at the cost of the Palestine Oil Industry (Shemen), Ltd., a series of demonstrations to test the most favourable varieties, soils and planting seasons of oil crops.

Experiments by the Palestine Zionist Executive throughout the Plain of Esdraelon and down the Vale of Jezreel to Samakh prove that good beet, as a winter rain crop, and cane under summer irrigation can be grown in the northern plains and valleys.

Widespread bollworm still prevents any commercial exploitation of cotton in Palestine.

Preliminary experiments in the silk-worm industry were conducted by the Government Department at Acre and Carmel with selected strains of the Syrian worm, and a first sample of woven Palestinian silk was exhibited at the Palestine Pavilion at Wembley.

Vegetable farming has very largely increased during the past two seasons, and with it the practice of irrigation. Field melons, grown throughout the coastal plain, are second only to oranges in export value, and cucumbers and cauliflowers are increasingly exported. Farms for the production of attar of roses and other essential oils and the cultivation of drug plants for *materia medica* are a new feature.

VETERINARY SERVICE.

A laboratory has been improvised at Jaffa, where the Senior Veterinary Officer of the Government Department is engaged in research work. A veterinary post has been established at Gaza to serve the Southern District. Remount boards undertake the selection of mounts for police and gendarmerie, subject to veterinary certificate.

No serious epidemic disease among livestock occurred. Rinder-pest in Iraq and Aleppo made it necessary to prohibit the importation of bovines from all ports in Asia Minor and Syria save Beirut. As glanders is prevalent in Transjordan, equines entering Palestine through the Jericho Quarantine station are malleinised.

The infections from every source among all classes of stock were 1,105, with 550 deaths and 106 preventive destructions. The vaccine used in a single-dose treatment of anthrax has given exceptionally good results ; in every animal of the 1,966 so protected the disease was immediately arrested. Vaccinations in infected areas limited the mortality from black quarter to eleven. Imported European stock still suffers heavily from tick-borne diseases ; a dipping campaign for tick control was organised, with the co-operation of a private firm, and demonstrations were given in methods of tick destruction. Sheep-pox and " foot-and-mouth " disease have been practically eliminated, but pleuro-pneumonia of goats caused considerable losses in one locality. Glanders and epizootic lymphangitis occurred as isolated cases only. Contagious abortion occurred in twelve dairy herds, each infected by an imported European cow or heifer ; in consequence such cattle are now admitted only on passing the agglutination test.

Failure of the late rains spoilt the summer grazing and all native stock were in poor condition, but rates of increase are relatively good. Two hundred and twenty-two thousand head of slaughter stock were imported. Prices of livestock and of meat have fallen and all restrictions on export have been withdrawn.

Sanitary slaughter-houses and arrangements for efficient meat-inspection are still lacking in several towns, but regular examination of meat supplies was organised at four additional centres during the year, and three new slaughter-houses are under construction.

Poultry-farming and bee-keeping are engaging much interest ; the Government Department employs a travelling instructor to assist in the development of both industries. Modern incubators are imported in large numbers and model poultry houses are being generally adopted. Prices for eggs and table-birds are favourable. Tick-borne spirochætosis and fowl diphtheria have occurred.

Five thousand kilograms of honey were exported to England in 1923 and realised an average price of £6 per cwt. The crop for 1924, from some 4,000 modern bar-frame hives, is estimated at 60,000 kilograms, of which nearly all has been sold; 10,000 kilograms were shipped to England, 8,000 to Egypt and 2,500 to the United States. Local prices are 7 to 8 PT. per kilogram for orange blossom, 6 to 7 for wild mountain and 5 to 6 for field honey.

FORESTRY.

In the Government Department the agricultural and forest services have been amalgamated, inspectors and sub-inspectors of agriculture assuming the administration of forest law in their areas, and agricultural assistants carrying out the duties of forest rangers.

Some progress was made in the demarcation of State forests during the first half of the year. Six areas of State domain, totalling 18,551 donums, have been transferred to date to the Government Department as State forest ; and fourteen, totalling 9,891 donums, constituted State forests by demarcation and registration. The greater part of State forest land remains, however, undemarcated and unprotected.

Extensive olive-planting is being undertaken in the hills. All woods made good growth and there has been natural regeneration from seed in artificial plantations of Eucalyptus and indigenous forests of *Pinus halepensis*.

Ten thousand three hundred and eighty-four felling licences were issued during the year, including 2,168 free licences for house-building, plough-construction, firewood, and charcoal.

A new Government nursery has been established under the irrigation furrow at Beisan. From Government nurseries 90,000 plants were sold and 64,000 distributed gratis for amenity purposes. Forest nurseries have provided about a million tobacco seedlings for general distribution. To encourage and facilitate olive-planting, 381,000 suckers were removed from State and private forests for replanting and grafting.

To the six existing Government plantations, which are progressing well, five additional areas at Beisan, Jericho, Acre, Um Safa, and El Ghoseneh have been added. In the Jerusalem-Jaffa district much private planting of Aleppo and Stone Pines, Cypress and Eucalyptus has been noted.

Valuable afforestation work is being performed by Jewish agencies and the Supreme Moslem Council has made a beginning in the same field. Approximately 500,000 trees, excluding olives, were planted during 1924. Experiments in sand-dune reclamation continue at Acre and Gaza, and new works were begun at Cæsarea and Esdud to prevent the encroachment of drift on the railway line. Exotic timber trees are grown in arboreta at the nurseries ; new species of *Pinus*, *Cypresses*, and *Casuarinas* are thriving in the Jerusalem area.

In horticulture, fertilizer experiments for all classes of fruit trees, including vineyards, were organised ; methods of preventing " gummosis " in citrus orchards and of drying and packing figs and raisins for the European and American markets imparted by leaflets, lectures, and demonstrations ; acclimatisation orchards for new types and varieties of fruit established at the Acre and Jerusalem nurseries ; and special courses of lectures in horticulture conducted.

Oranges, olives, and almonds alike furnished excellent yields and realised good prices. Interest in almond-planting has revived ; and in fig-planting also in view of local demand for the manufacture of industrial alcohol. Orange and olive groves are expanding to a satisfactory extent. Established orange orchards have been sold at as much as £E.100 per donum ; while half-a-million olive suckers have been transplanted in the sub-district of Samaria alone during the past two seasons. The British Empire Exhibition has served to bring Palestine fruits to a more general appreciation.

Systematic fumigation has confined the spread of Black Scale from Syria to the Northern District ; 8,000 trees were treated in the Haifa and Tiberias areas. Cyanide powder is now used instead of the dangerous admixture of sulphuric acid and cyanide of potassium. Demonstrations of spraying methods for the control of Fig Scale were arranged in villages on the northern border which have been heavily infected from Syria.

Field mice are being speedily exterminated by gassing machines.

The plant inspection service has been strengthened by the training of veterinary quarantine officers to act as examiners at inland points of entry.

An analysis of soil samples collected during the field operations of the soil survey in 1923 was completed. The fullest possible information on local agricultural practice, water-supplies, character of grazing, timber resources, etc., is being associated with physical, mechanical, and chemical analysis of the soils. Field work on a second section was carried through in

1924, and 150 samples and accompanying data were collected. The soil-survey laboratory has been moved from the Department of Health, Jerusalem, to the Department of Agriculture and Forests on Mount Carmel.

The catch of fish in 1924 weighed nearly a quarter of a million kilograms, almost exactly double that of 1923, and the average first price per kilogram fell from 10.7 to 6.9 PT. Fishermen are now displaying greater activity and enterprise.

An official meteorological record is kept at Haifa, Gaza, Jerusalem, Jericho, Jenin, and Beersheba. Second class stations (international grading) exist at Haifa and Gaza from which daily telegraphic reports are furnished for incorporation in the Mediterranean area forecast. Observers are selected from the clerical staff of district offices and receive small monthly allowances. Valuable data are supplied by the Tel Aviv Municipality and several private stations.

1923-24 was characterised by a general autumn drought followed by an almost complete failure of the "latter rains." The 1924-25 season opened with an exceptionally heavy rainfall in the north, and with good rains in the Jaffa, Gaza, and Beersheba districts, but Jerusalem and Jericho again suffered from an abnormally reduced rainfall. An unusually low range in minimum temperature occurred during December and frost was reported from Jericho for the first time in eighteen years.

COMPARISON OF CROP RETURNS FOR 1921, 1922, 1923 AND 1924 IN METRIC TONS.

Winter Crops.

	1921	1922	1923	1924
Wheat	72,885	87,146	86,457	92,292
Barley	61,328	35,383	26,386	32,210
Beans	4,948	7,275	6,551	4,511
Peas	2,063	781	1,070	1,286
Lentils	4,792	5,593	4,788	2,930
Kersenneh	7,649	7,818	9,844	7,983
Total	153,665	143,996	135,096	141,312

Summer Crops.

Durra	14,818	23,527	16,353	25,696
Sesame	2,976	3,398	3,654	2,110
Grapes	6,756	6,259	7,417	6,199
Figs	6,189	6,765	6,405	3,323
Melons	18,304	20,210	20,625	20,158
Olives	—	3,755	1,117	3,143
Almonds	436	463	470	774
Olive Oil	594	3,297	2,983	956
Total	50,073	67,674	59,024	62,359
Grand Total	203,738	211,670	194,120	203,312

Boxes of Oranges and Lemons ..	718,780 ¹	1,063,634	1,303,796 ²
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PRODUCTION OF TOBACCO, 1921-24.

Kind of Tobacco.	1921		1922		1923		1924	
	Donums.	Yield in Kilos.	Donums.	Yield in Kilos.	Donums.	Yield in Kilos.	Donums.	Yield in Kilos.
Turkish ..	18	1,000	363	24,000	1,447	94,000	20,230	1,205,375
Baladi ..	1,761	264,000	4,469	670,000	3,675	551,000	5,215	541,272
Heisheh ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	913	44,855
Tombac ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	779	53,843
Total ..	1,779	265,000	4,832	694,000	5,122	645,000	27,137	1,845,345

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF RAINFALL FOR 1921-24.

Station.	Yearly Average.		1921	1922	1923	1924
Jerusalem	24 years	584	327	363	273	468
Nazareth	19	615	602	643	545	614
Gaza	14	411	486	420	319	338
Haifa	13	608	650	511	467	798
Jenin	4	364	205	527	354	370
Beersheba	4	189	265	209	111	171
Average for six stations	—	462	422	445	345	460

¹ Excluding Mulk Property.
² Including Mulk Property.

ANIMAL CENSUS.

<i>Year.</i>			<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Goats.</i>	<i>Buffaloes.</i>	<i>Camels.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1920	..	..	262,558	271,733	2,725	8,899	—	545,915
1921	..	..	231,622	413,882	1,007	12,753	217	659,481
1922	..	..	262,080	482,104	1,217	17,926	930	764,257
1923	..	..	270,593	496,160	1,188	16,344	475	784,760
1924	..	..	298,024	518,160	1,238	20,294	—	837,716

X.—LANDS.

The general economic revival is reflected in increased transactions in real estate and higher land values. Only three sales in execution of mortgage debts were recorded. Extensive areas of agricultural land approximating to 65,000 donums were purchased by Jewish agencies; but tenant rights were in each case safeguarded by the provision, by the purchasers, of land sufficient for the maintenance of any cultivators inhabiting the areas and their families.

There were 1,224 mortgages contracted, an increase of 220 over 1924, due mainly to long-term loans advanced by Jewish Co-operative and Loan Societies for building purposes.

Every facility towards compliance with the law of compulsory registration of transactions in privately-owned property is offered by Government and investigation of title and preparation of all necessary documents are undertaken by the Land Registries. In 1921 — the first complete year of the re-opening of the registries — 3,361 transactions were registered; in 1922, 5,117; in 1923, 6,514; and in 1924, 7,113. The transactions in 1924 affected an area of 74,071 donums (72,038) involving a consideration of £E.926,150 (£E.905,472) and producing £E.40,191 (£E.40,788) in fees. The figures in brackets refer to 1923.

Almost all the properties owned by non-Moslem religious, educational, and charitable institutions, but under the Ottoman régime registered in the name of Ottoman subjects, are now recorded in the names of the actual owners.

An agreement was made with the Syrian holders of an Ottoman concession for the drainage and reclamation of the Lake Huleh marshes by which the concession, substantially amended, will be confirmed, if they raise a capital of not less than £E.100,000 within a year and establish an operating company.

Active drainage works are now in progress in the Kabbara swamps under the concession granted to the Jewish Colonisation Association in 1921 on the basis of a projected Turkish concession. The claims of all Arab squatters were met by agreement after prolonged negotiations. The Association has ceded an elevated site of 2,500 donums in the vicinity where the Arab settlers who are now engaged in the works will be ultimately established.

One hundred and six cases were instituted against Government in the Courts in which private ownership of State land was alleged; 43 were decided in favour of Government, two settled by compromise and in two judgment was partly in favour of Government. Fifty-nine are pending. Government's refusal to recognise claims to uncultivated areas has stimulated cultivation in many villages.

Many dilapidated State Domain buildings and small isolated areas unproductive of revenue and not required for public purposes are being sold.

DEMARCATIION COMMISSION.

The Baisan Demarcation Commission demarcated 451 garden areas in Samakh, Baisan, and five villages besides, and allotted 846 blocks of land and 25 building sites.

One hundred and fifty-six land claims were examined, of which the majority were unsettled at the end of the year; of 343 garden claims, 161 were accepted, and of 392 house claims, 61.

One thousand four hundred and twenty-seven land forms were completed, including those in respect of land reserved for village common purposes. In all, 58,715 donums of land were affected by the year's work, and a surplus area of Government land, 14,709 donums, has been disclosed.

XI.—SURVEYS.

Five points in the principal triangulation were established to control the survey of the Metullah salient, bringing the total number of points to 100.

Arrangements are in hand for the junction of the Syrian and Palestinian triangulations; this will form a valuable check upon the Palestine system and a link of much geodetic interest between the great meridional chains of Europe and Africa.

In the coastal plain between Gaza and Haifa, 312 third-order points, covering 3,000 sq. km., and including 43 points of demarcation on the northern frontier, were established and observed: average triangular closing error, 5.7"; average cost per point, £E.6.

In all, 527 third-order points, covering 4,760 sq. km. are now fixed.

In the coastal plain also 1,235 fourth-order points were established, covering 730 sq. km. ; average triangular closing error, 11.3" ; average cost per point, £E.2.

In addition, 774 traverse points were established at Jerusalem and Cæsarea, making a total of 5,423 minor points, covering 1,850 sq. km.

The topographical map of the Baisan area was completed early in the year, 220,000 donums being mapped on the 1/4000 scale ; average cost per donum, 1 PT.

In the southern district four village surveys were made on the 1/2000 scale, comprising 120,000 donums ; average cost per donum, 2 PT.

Other village lands in the same district are at present under survey ; and in all, 101,000 donums of 1/2500 work and 56,000 donums of 1/500 work, costing respectively 1.75 PT. and 1 PT. per donum, have been completed during the year.

Three thousand donums of the inner area of the modern Jerusalem were levelled and contoured, and 30,200 donums of the outer area surveyed and contoured by Theodolite Traverse and Plane Table.

Pending permanent marking, a small topographical party is more accurately locating the position of the Newcombe-Paulet Boundary with reference to the triangulation.

The health of the Survey staff has been good and the quality of their work continues to improve.

Sir Ernest Dowson, late Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, has been specially engaged to report on the better co-ordination of the Survey, Land, and Finance Departments, and to prepare a scheme of systematic land settlement. His advice has already been of great value in departmental questions.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The senior and junior services of the Public Works Department were further substantially reduced.

Certain road and bridge constructional works were carried out with direct labour employed by the Department instead of contract labour ; funds have thus been expended to better advantage.

The total expenditure by the Department (including Air Ministry Services) was £E.238,000 (£E.293,000 in 1923) ; the expenditure upon Air Ministry Works Services, £E.70,000 (£E.105,000 in 1923).

Government buildings were maintained in satisfactory repair and systematic reconditioning is in hand, with special regard to improvement of sanitation.

Extensive structural repairs were made to Government buildings at Acre, Nablus, Jenin — where the Army pumping plant was acquired for the service of offices and gendarmerie barracks — and Mount Carmel, and improvements and additions to the Jaffa Police Station and the proposed Police Training School in Jerusalem.

Among the works undertaken for the Palestinian Section of the Gendarmerie are a station at Metullah, outpost buildings at Jisr Majami, the reconstruction of the Rosh Pinah station and stable buildings at Beisan, Samakh, Jericho, and Tel-el-Milh.

The headquarters camp of the British Section at Sarafand was extended and improved and new quarters for the Commandant and officers and squadron stables were provided ; at Mount Scopus officers' quarters were built, and the barracks at Nablus and Nazareth and the Haifa camp much improved.

A frontier post was constructed at Ras-el-Nakura for customs and police, with a concrete building extending across the main road for the inspection of motor vehicles.

At Tulkarim a water and drainage scheme for the barracks, hospital and other Government buildings is under execution.

Several village schools are being built from standard plans of the Department.

Five hundred and eighty kilometres of main roads are now maintained. Roads generally have been kept in reasonable repair, bad corners widened and grades improved. In the Northern District many roads were remetalled with a proportion of hard basalt stone to prolong the life of the surface.

Important reconstruction works and deviations were completed on the Nazareth-Tiberias and Rosh Pinah main roads.

For the reconstruction of the Jaffa-Ramleh road a new quarry of hard white quartz has been opened near Jerusalem and a broad-gauge railway siding will be laid to it from the main line.

The heavy rains in February damaged roads and bridges in the Southern District, and in particular the Jerusalem-Jaffa road, where culverts were washed out and retaining walls swept away. The road was, however, reopened for traffic within a few hours and a temporary bridge constructed. A 25-metre bridge on the Ludd-Kalkilieh road was completely washed away, and several smaller bridges were destroyed or damaged.

A new approach road has been constructed to the Allenby Bridge over the Jordan.

Gratifying progress has been made in the construction of new village roads and improvements to dry weather tracks by village labour organised by District Officers and directed by British gendarmes. The Department supplies tools, culvert material, and explosives, and renders technical assistance. About 300 kilometres of such roads were constructed in 1924.

New Bridges.

- (i) Reinforced concrete bridge, 16 metres, over Wadi Sorek (Latrun-Gaza road).
- (ii) Concrete bridge, 25 metres, over Wadi Zib (Acre-Ras-el-Nakura road).
- (iii) Reinforced concrete bridge over the Jordan at Jisr Majamie, two arch spans of 18 metres each, replacing the stone arch structure, which is unsafe for heavy vehicles.
- (iv) Many smaller bridges and culverts of concrete and steel on main and secondary roads.

The shallow foundations of the piers of the Allenby Bridge over the Jordan were seriously endangered by the scouring of the north bank ; preventive works have been effected.

With Government loans new or improved water supplies were completed or are in hand in 9 villages.

The motor-bus service to Government House, the Jerusalem pool service of cars, and the transport service for the Survey Department have been discontinued.

The Jaffa Electric Company has completed 14 kilometres of high tension transmission line from its power station at Tel Aviv to the Sarafand cantonments. The power plant at the station has been increased by a third unit of 250 horse-power and the distribution system extended to the Ajami quarter of Jaffa.

The Palestine Electric Corporation is erecting reserve fuel power stations at Haifa and Tiberias.

AIR MINISTRY WORKS.

Up to the 10th June, when the Royal Air Force resumed charge of these services, water supply and electric lighting works had been carried out, a wireless station, married quarters, stables and roads constructed at Sarafand by the Department, and the new landing ground at Kalandia (Jerusalem-Nablus road) completed.

XIII.—PALESTINE RAILWAYS.

The financial results of the year's working are satisfactory.

Coaching receipts were increased by the tourist traffic and overland bookings between Egypt and Syria, which would be more numerous next year with the reduced fee for Palestine transit visas.

Goods traffic improved mainly by reason of the transportation of stone and building material for the construction of new Jewish settlements ; other factors were a good melon crop and the commencement of haulage of salt from Athlit.

The perishable and milk traffic has greatly developed and special vehicles are required.

The Sunday train service between Haifa and Kantara was accelerated in September to give connection to Cairo and Alexandria.

Four oil tank wagons are in use in the 105 cm. gauge lines to develop the bulk oil traffic between Haifa and Damascus.

A daily, in place of a weekly, service for through-booked small goods consignments between Egypt and Palestine was established.

In view of the representations of tourist agencies, and having regard to the necessity of promoting this traffic, goods in transit — Egypt to Syria and vice versa — are exempted from station charges when rebooked at Haifa.

Several leading firms now avail themselves of the Ledger Account system, which eliminates cash transactions at stations.

The Railway Provisioning Department was abolished on the 31st March and its stocks sold to a private company.

The management of the Palestine and Transjordan sections of the Hejaz Railway, which is vested in the General Manager of the Railways, has been organised as a separate administration.

The exchange with the management of the Damas-Hama et Prolongements Railways, of permanent-way material for 40 narrow-gauge wagons relieved a shortage of rolling stock, which had caused considerable loss of revenue, especially during the melon season.

A new motor ferry at Kantara has improved the transshipment of passengers and baggage across the Suez Canal.

The main line has not been extended during the year, but two deviations were made to give better alignment and easier curves.

There has been no extension of branch lines.

From January to April ballasting of the main line was in progress ; loading and distribution were done by jail labour.

Despite heavy rains the track was maintained in good running condition throughout the system.

The usual maintenance works on bridges and culverts were carried out.

New station buildings were erected at El Arish and 'Ain Harud, Jaffa station was improved and Tel Aviv station enlarged. A new passenger platform was built at Artuf. Improvements have been effected to the sanitary equipment and drainage of all stations. Water supply systems were enlarged and improved at Lydda and Zicron Jacob. Standardised signs for level crossings, whistle boards, stop boards, and speed restriction boards have been introduced.

A new coal-stacking ground has been laid out at Haifa, served by standard and narrow gauge.

A comprehensive programme of salvage was completed : at Kantar all disused sidings were taken up and stacked ; the derelict 105 cm. gauge line from Deir Seneid to Tineh was removed ; the second line of the Sinai military railway was salvaged on stretches where salt corrosion was observed ; the derelict line southwards from Beersheba to Kossaima is being picked up ; derelict buildings at Beersheba, Sebastieh and Afule were demolished.

A No. 257 Hartmann 2-8-2 Type 105 cm. gauge locomotive, thirty-six covered and four open goods wagons were taken on charge from the Chemins de fer du Hedjaz.

A Lassen-Hjort water softener, with a capacity of 8,000 gallons per hour, has been installed at Haifa.

A number of old army ambulance, L.S.W. and M.R. coaches have been reconstructed into first and third class passenger coaches and saloons ; and open goods or bogie flat wagons into travelling oil and water tanks and tare test wagons.

Nine locomotives were overhauled, five being fitted with new copper fireboxes, eighteen underwent heavy boiler repairs, and eight general repairs and painting.

Repairs were carried out to passenger stock in 180, and to goods stock in 961 cases.

Issues and receipts of stores :

	£E.
Balance at 1st January, 1924	163,195
Receipts during the year	91,857
	<hr/>
	255,052
	<hr/>
Balance at 31st December, 1924	134,208
	<hr/>

Of the balance, permanent-way material, 60 cm. rolling stock and track, locomotive, carriage and wagons spares represent approximately 70 per cent.

Nine hundred and ninety-seven tons of general material and 26,456 tons of coal were discharged for the railways at Haifa.

Palestine Railways.

	1922. £E.	1923. £E.	1924. £E.
Gross earnings	429,086	337,292	337,068 ¹
Working expenditure	446,054	314,424	255,186
Net receipts	—	22,868	81,882
Net loss	16,968	—	—

Sinai Military Railway.

	1922. £E.	1923. £E.	1924. £E.
Gross earnings	163,500	110,971	112,892
Working expenditure	151,103	93,917	77,041
Net receipts	12,397	17,054	35,851

*Hejaz Railway (Palestine) (9 months),
i.e., 1.4.24–31.12.24.*

	1924. £E.
Gross earnings	50,611
Working expenditure	45,413
Net receipts	5,198

*Hejaz Railway (Transjordan) (9 months),
i.e., 1.4.24–31.12.24.*

	1924 £E.
Gross earnings	9,856
Working expenditure	6,411
Net receipts	3,445

¹ Excluding the value (£E.23,972,000 m/m) of Government traffic.

STATISTICS—YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1924.

	<i>Palestine Railways.</i>		<i>Sinai Military Railway.</i>		<i>Hejaz Railway, (Palestine).</i>		<i>Hejaz Railway (Transjordan).</i>	
	Kilos.	£E. m/ms.	Kilos.	£E. m/ms.	Kilos.	£E. m/ms.	Kilos.	£E. m/ms.
1. Kilometres of line open ..	429 $\frac{3}{4}$		200		203		86.6	
2. Revenue earned (including Government Traffic) ..		361,040.000		112,892.000		50,611.000		9,856.000
3. Revenue expenditure (including value of Government services rendered) ..		255,186.000		77,041.000		45,413.000		6,411.000
4. Excess of Revenue over Expenditure ..		105,854.000		35,851.000		5,198.000		3,445.000
5. Revenue earned per open kilo ..		840.000		564.460		249.310		113.810
6. Revenue expenditure per open kilo ..		593.800		385.205		223.700		74.030
7. Profit per kilo of line open ..		246.300		179.255		25.610		39.780
8. Train kilometrage ..	Kilos. 711,713		Kilos. 280,641		Kilos. 147,746		Kilos. 22,876	
9. Revenue earned per train kilo ..		.546		.437		—		—
10. Revenue expenditure per train kilo ..		.386		.298		.307		.280
11. Profit per train kilo ..		.160		.139		—		—

XIV.—PERMITS SECTION, PALESTINE SECRETARIAT.

On the 1st April, the Department of Immigration and Travel and the Sub-Department of Labour were abolished and their duties transferred to the newly established Permits Section of the Secretariat. Passport control at the ports was delegated to the Customs staff, and the District Administration undertook the acceptance and transmission of applications for travel documents. The Palestine Immigration Officer in Europe has been transferred from Trieste to Warsaw, the provenance of 42 per cent. of immigrants.

13,553 immigrants entered during the year, compared with 7,991 in 1923. 81 per cent. came from Europe, east and south-east of Germany and Hungary (of those coming from further west many were born in Eastern Europe); 42 per cent. from Poland alone. 450 persons were rejected at the ports or frontiers for failure to comply with Immigration Regulations.

There was a notably increased immigration of persons of independent means, merchants, shopkeepers and manufacturers from Poland, Austria, Russia, Germany and the United States. By opening small industries and creating a demand for housing, which has stimulated a constant activity in the building trades, this class of immigrants has made possible a greater influx of labour immigrants.

The admission of 5,815 (in the previous year 1,028) men and women, was authorised under half-yearly labour schedules to meet anticipated demands; not all, however, entered during the year.

They were classified as follows :—

Male agriculturists, 700; building trades, 400; quarrymen and stonedressers, 200; woodworkers, 50; weavers, 40; printers and compositors, 25; men, skilled or unskilled, 3,400; women agriculturists, 1,000.

In the second half of 1924 the extent of unemployment amongst Jews was inappreciable, a result of the causes stated, of the reaction upon Palestine of a world-wide economic revival and of careful restriction of immigration in 1923. About 4,000 Jews were employed on tobacco cultivation.

Except for certain out-of-work clerks in the towns, it is unlikely that unemployment in its accepted sense exists among Arabs.

Facilities have been provided for the entry of rabbis and of students for local academic institutions.

Special permission is given for the immigration of dependants to engage directly in farming with relatives already settled in the country.

The arrival of a few Russian pilgrims is noteworthy.

The regular sailing of Soviet ships with passengers from Odessa to Jaffa commenced during the year.

70,613 travellers and returning residents entered during the year and 67,381 left. The figures for 1923 were 49,792 and 51,385.

The total emigration for the year amounted to about 2,500; exact figures are available for the last six months of the year only, which show that 769 pre-war and 342 post-war residents left Palestine. Of the former, 212 were Jews, 821 Christians and 236 Moslems; of the latter, 295 were Jews, 32 Christians and 15 Moslems; the non-Jews emigrated mainly to Central and South America.

Statistics of the rise or fall of rates of wages are not available.

A general lessening of labour unrest, attributable to the healthier state of industry, is to be recorded; there were some minor strikes of Jewish labour, invariably on the issue, apart from shorter hours and increased wages, of the right of employers to discharge workmen without reference to the Union.

A committee representative of employers and workmen was appointed by Government to consider the possibility of conciliation and arbitration machinery in labour disputes.

A Union of clerical workers and one of Christian workers have been formed.

Persons domiciled in the northern frontier zone within Palestine or Syria are granted passes to cross the frontier and circulate freely in the border sub-districts without passports or visas.

5,799 provisional certificates of Palestinian nationality, 4,101 emergency laissez-passers, 6,566 visas, and 962 endorsements were issued.

256 British subjects and protected persons registered or renewed registration, 541 British passports were issued, 466 renewed and 389 endorsed.

Sixty-nine changes of name were registered.

IMMIGRATION, 1924.

Category.	Jews.			Non-Jews.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	
B.							
(Persons of capital or assured incomes)	1,953	1,527	1,801	47	25	67	5,420
D.							
(Dependents of residents in Palestine)	387	1,170	637	8	79	46	2,327
E.							
(Working men and women and others coming to employment.)	2,757	423	1	214	55	1	3,451
E2.							
(Dependents of E)	62	965	1,135	—	21	20	2,203
F.							
(Persons with assured incomes settling for religious purposes.)	21	12	5	53	23	38	152
Total	5,180	4,097	3,579	322	203	172	13,553

PROVENANCE OF IMMIGRANTS.

	Jews.	Christians.	Moslems.	Total.
Argentina	7	11	—	18
Armenia	—	5	—	5
Austria	124	5	—	129
Belgium	14	2	—	16
Brazil	3	—	—	3
Bulgaria	358	—	—	358
Canada	10	2	—	12
Czechoslovakia	69	—	—	69
China	4	—	—	4
Cuba	3	—	—	3
Cyprus	12	16	—	28
Danzig	40	—	—	40
Denmark	—	1	—	1
Egypt	65	32	139	236
Esthonia	2	—	—	2
Finland	—	2	—	2
France	24	11	—	35
Germany	480	72	—	552
Greece	311	26	—	337
Holland	20	6	—	26
Hungary	27	4	—	31
Iraq	101	—	—	101
Italy	10	36	—	46
Japan	—	1	—	1
Latvia	146	—	—	146
Lithuania	750	—	—	750
Norway	—	1	—	1
Persia	31	2	4	37
Poland	5,695	7	—	5,702
Portugal	1	—	—	1
Carried forward	8,307	242	143	8,692

	<i>Jews.</i>	<i>Christians.</i>	<i>Moslems.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Brought forward :	8,307	242	143	8,692
Rhodes	19	2	—	21
Roumania	593	—	—	593
Russia	2,148	9	—	2,157
San Salvador	—	2	—	2
South Africa	12	—	—	12
Spain	1	5	—	6
Sweden	—	3	—	3
Switzerland	13	3	—	16
Syria	34	108	17	159
Tanganyika Territory	—	7	—	7
Tripoli	—	—	2	2
Turkey	325	39	25	389
Ukraine	504	—	—	504
United Kingdom	115	51	—	166
United States of America	324	37	—	361
Yemen	445	—	—	445
Yugo-Slavia	16	2	—	18
Total	12,856	510	187	13,553

MONTHLY RETURN OF UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG JEWS.
(January to December.)

1,700, 1,300, 1,150, 700, 500, 500, 400, 500, 500, 500, 200, 350.

XV.—ANTIQUITIES.

The outstanding discovery of the Ophel excavations, conducted by Professor MacAlister and the Reverend Garrow Duncan (Palestine Exploration Fund), was a stretch of the eastern fortification of the Jebusite city, with a finely built tower of massive masonry, showing signs of repair in the time of David and Solomon. The tower and a part of the wall have been declared a National Monument.

M. Weill, in the course of his excavations, on behalf of Baron Edmond de Rothschild, at the southern end of Ophel, disclosed numerous walls, rock cuttings and underground passages, and opened several tombs at Gezer.

The monuments known as the "Tomb of Absalom" and "Tomb of Jehoshaphat" were cleared by the Jewish Palestine Exploration Society.

At Tanturah the British School of Archæology revealed part of a Græco-Phœnician temple to Poseidon.

At Tell Barak the Department of Antiquities excavated the mausoleum, whence a second sarcophagus was brought to the Museum, and partially cleared an interesting domed funerary chamber and two sarcophagi.

The Ecole Biblique cleared the ruins of the Basilica at Beit Jibrin.

The foundations of another Roman arch across the Tyropæon Valley have been discovered.

Jewish tombs, with inscribed ossuaries, were excavated in the grounds of the Hebrew University and in Mahanaim, near Jerusalem.

A number of unopened tombs of the dolmen and allée couverte type have been noted on the Tabghah-Rosh-Pinah road, adding to the evidence of Palestine's importance in the old and the new Stone Ages.

An arrangement has been made for repairs to the fabric of historical monuments to be carried out by the Department of Public Works under the archæological supervision of the Department of Antiquities.

The eminent Turkish architect Kamel-ed-Din Bey is engaged on behalf of the Supreme Moslem Council on extensive restorations to the Haram esh-Sherif buildings, for which large sums have been subscribed by Moslems in India, Egypt, the Hejaz and Palestine, and on the conservation of Ramleh Tower.

An officer of the Department of Antiquities advises the Jerusalem Town Planning Commission and the Building Permits Sub-Committee to ensure the suitable design of constructions in the Old City.

Nearly 17,000 persons visited the Museum during the Saturdays of the year. Postcards of the more remarkable exhibits are on sale, and a Museum Bulletin is published. Among the year's acquisitions the most noteworthy were some good Roman glass, a collection of Moslem blazons and flints.

Instructions governing the importation and exportation of antiquities, and a new register for dealers' stocks to control the trade in antiquities, were issued at the beginning of the year.

XVI.—CENTRAL TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION.

Beisan has been declared a town-planning area and the boundaries of the Jerusalem and Haifa town-planning areas have been redrawn.

The Central Town Planning Commission has arranged the permanent freedom from building development of certain lands at Tiberias which will secure an uninterrupted view of the remaining sections of the fine City Wall.

Model by-laws covering questions of construction of private and public buildings, drainage, streets, planning, and alignment and similar matters have been prepared by an expert Committee and are now awaiting final sanction.

Two schemes under the Town Planning Ordinance for the development of suburban areas around Jerusalem were approved and are being carried into effect. The Adviser to the Commission has been engaged in preparing a town plan for the reconstruction of Gaza, and a skeleton scheme for a town plan at Nablus has been submitted. At Haifa the development of the town is proceeding rapidly in general accordance with the approved plan.

XVII.—GEOLOGICAL ADVISER.

The Standard Oil Company of New York has furnished the Government with the results of its investigations, in 1924, into the presence of oil in Palestine.

Considerable deposits of bituminous limestone have been located near Nebi Musa (Jerusalem District) ; samples are being officially tested in London with a view to the production of crude oil.

Phosphate deposits along the Jericho Road vary in composition from 1 to 33 per cent., phosphoric oxide equivalent to 24 per cent., and 72 per cent. tricalcic phosphate.

Experiments have established that the 80 per cent. quality of potash can be readily manufactured by solar evaporation from Dead Sea brine.

Investigations were made by a representative of the Ethyl Gasoline Company of America into the composition of the brine with reference to the extraction of bromine.

Geological surveys were carried out in connection with water supplies for Hebron, Gaza, Jaffa, Nablus and other places.

Extensive eocene beds were found west and south-west of Beit Jibrin (near Hebron) ; these set the age of the chalk hills of the western country hitherto denoted as of senonian age. The coastal fringe at present marked as sand dunes on maps appears to be part of disintegrated sandy calcareous strata of pliocene and post pliocene age, overblown by sand deposits.

XVIII.—PUBLICATIONS.

During 1924, ten newspapers ceased to appear, but their place was taken by twenty-one new trade and miscellaneous journals.

The "Telegraphic Bulletin" issued by a local agency has been enlarged and appears as a daily newspaper in English.

There is no Press censorship in Palestine. Only two Press prosecutions were instituted in 1924 : one against "Falastin", an Arab newspaper at Jaffa, for contempt of Court, resulting in a fine of £E.50, and the other against "Doar Hayom," a Hebrew daily of Jerusalem, for blasphemy, under Article 15 of the Press Law, resulting in a fine of £E.5 on the editor and £E.25 on the writer of the offending article.

The following official publications concerning Palestine appeared in 1924 :—

- (1) The Administrative Report for 1923;¹
- (2) The Report of His Majesty's Government to the Council of the League of Nations on the Administration of Palestine ;²
- (3) The Procès-verbal (C.617, M.215, 1924, VI) and Report (C.661, 1924, VI. C.P.M. 207) of the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations upon the Report of His Majesty's Government.

¹ Non-Parliamentary Publication, Colonial No. 5, June 1924.

² Non-Parliamentary Publication, Colonial No. 9, March 1925.

SECTION II.

REPORT BY HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION UNDER MANDATE OF TRANSJORDAN.

1. A long, narrow western fringe of the Syrian desert, Transjordan constitutes a tilted land-slab rising almost imperceptibly from the desert in the east to abrupt western precipices overhanging the Jordan valley. In its eastern marches it is barren land, covered with small black stones, merging further westward into grass-land which stretches to the Hejaz railway line. Thence it swells in rolling country to its mountain mass which rises to a general height of 3,500 to 4,000 feet, falling abruptly to the fertile plain of the Jordan valley, which between the Yarmuk and the Dead Sea is of an average width of three miles. The grass-land margin forms the summer pastures of camel-owning Bedu, such as the Beni Sakhr and Huweitat, who in the winter move further east for pasturage, ranging as far as Jauf : west of the railway are the wheat and barley lands of the Kerak, Balqa and Ajlun tribes, as well as of the Circassian colonies in the Balqa and the numerous Arab villages in the north. Perennial water is to be found in the deep lateral valleys, but the fertile land of the Jordan depression is, as yet, only used as winter grazing ground by semi-nomad tribes. In the north there are a number of large villages, but the only towns of size are Amman, Salt, and Kerak. In addition to the Circassians and Chechen, who were introduced into Transjordan, Palestine, and Syria after the Russo-Turkish war, a further considerable foreign element, comprising Arab traders and professional men, has found its way, since the British occupation, into the towns. No census of the population has been taken, but the figure is thought to be in the neighbourhood of 200,000, of whom some 10,000 are Circassians and Chechen ; there are about 15,000 Christians and the remainder, in the main, are Moslem Arabs.

2. His Britannic Majesty is the Mandatory for Transjordan to which the terms of the mandate for Palestine, with the exception of the provisions dealing with the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people, are applicable. The declaration of His Majesty's Government with regard to its Mandatory obligations in Transjordan, made to the Council of the League of Nations in September, 1922 (Cmd. 1785), was in the following terms :—

“ In the application of the Mandate to Transjordan, the action which in Palestine is taken by the Administration of the latter country will be taken by the Administration of Transjordan under the general supervision of the Mandatory.

“ His Majesty's Government accept full responsibility as Mandatory for Transjordan, and undertake that such provision as may be made for the administration of that country in accordance with Article 25 of the Mandate shall be in no way inconsistent with those provisions of the Mandate which are not by this resolution declared inapplicable.”

The Mandatory is represented in Transjordan by the Chief British Representative, assisted by two British officers and a small clerical staff. The Chief British Representative acts under the instructions of the High Commissioner for Palestine.

On the 25th April, 1923, at Amman, the High Commissioner announced that, subject to the approval of the League of Nations, His Majesty's Government would recognise the existence of an independent Government in Transjordan under the rule of His Highness the Amir Abdulla, provided that such Government was constitutional and placed His Britannic Majesty's Government in a position to fulfil its international obligations in respect of the territory by means of an agreement to be concluded between the two Governments.

The agreement has not yet been concluded.

3. The Amir Abdulla arrived in Transjordan in February, 1921, and the territory, at that time divided into three separately administered districts, Ajlun, the Balqa and Kerak, was brought by him under a central government. A Council of Ministers was formed, a Governor appointed to each district, and each district subdivided into a number of sub-governorates. Most of the officials appointed were men who had occupied similar positions in Syria under the régime of King Faisal.

4. His Majesty's Government agreed to provide for a limited period a grant-in-aid to cover legitimate expenditure which the territory was unable to meet with its own unaided resources. In the financial year 1923-24 the grant-in-aid was £E.150,000, but the persistent failure of the Transjordan Government to submit satisfactory statements of accounts obliged His Majesty's Government to limit its financial assistance in 1924-25 to the sum of £E.60,000, the balance of a deposit which the Transjordan Government had been required to accumulate for the purpose of meeting possible arrears of annuities due on account of the Ottoman Public Debt. On the 21st April, 1924, Lieut.-Colonel C.H.F. Cox, D. S. O., previously District Governor, Samaria, assumed duty as Chief British Representative, in succession to Mr. H. St. J. B. Philby, C.I.E., I.C.S., and Ali Rida Pasha Rikabi, a sound and experienced administrator who had held many high positions under the Turks, assumed office as Chief Minister on the 3rd May. Immediately steps were taken to frame a new budget : rigid economies were enforced

and drastic reductions made in expenditure. The Amir's Civil List was reduced from £E.30,000 to £E.20,000 ; and the strength of the Arab Legion, which, in addition to its military duties, carries out the duties normally fulfilled by a gendarmerie, was decreased from 1,200 to 1,000 officers and men, costing £E.98,000.

The budget originally framed by the Transjordan Government for 1924-25 had shown a deficit of £E.132,000 ; the revised estimates showed a deficit of £E.43,000 only. His Majesty's Government were unable to agree to provide a grant-in-aid until the financial system had been reorganised and arrangements introduced to submit satisfactory statements of accounts monthly to the Secretary of State. The Amir, with the concurrence of his Ministers, consented in August to the introduction of an entirely new system of accounting and financial control, and Financial Regulations were put into force on the 1st October, with very satisfactory results. All salaries are paid up to date, several thousand pounds of the liabilities carried forward at the beginning of the financial year have been liquidated and there has been a substantial cash balance at the end of each month. By the 31st December, 1924, the total estimated revenue for the financial year, less £E.6,500, had been collected, and some £E.14,000 of the Ottoman Public Debt deposit was unexpended.

5. The Ottoman Code is in operation with but few changes. The Minister of Justice is also the President of the Court of Appeal. There are four Courts of First Instance, and four Civil Magistrates' Courts. The Kadi el Kuda presides over the Sharia Court of Appeal, to which appeals lie from six Sharia Courts. Administrative Councils function in accordance with the Ottoman Provisional Law for the general Administration of Vilayets, and Governors exercise limited powers in criminal cases. The Amir Abdulla established a Department of Tribal Administration designed primarily to deal with intertribal disputes and cases between Bedu only. Not infrequently, however, it arrogated jurisdiction in cases between Bedu and townsmen which should properly have been tried by the Courts of First Instance. It thus became an impediment to the progress of proper administration, and its abolition in August has been attended by salutary results.

6. The system of taxation is unchanged from the Turkish, although additional contributions have been levied for special educational purposes, and for building a mosque in Amman. In its incidence, however, taxation has been most uneven, for it is only in the Balqa that the tithe is collected, while Kerak and Irbid pay a specific sum in commutation as imposed by the Turks, but converted from Turkish to Egyptian pounds ; the Kerak contribution has been increased this year by 20 per cent. The people of the Balqa were also, till recently, required to defray the cost of assessment. Within Kerak and Irbid the commuted tithe is unevenly distributed, for it is the practice of Government to collect an equal proportion of the total due from each landholder, irrespective of the extent of his holding.

The revenue of the Courts and from Stamp Duties already shows an improvement due to better control.

7. Palestine pays Transjordan an annual sum of £E.18,950 on account of the Customs Duties collected on goods of foreign origin which are re-exported to Transjordan. The Syrian Government also refunds the duty collected on articles of foreign origin when re-exported to Transjordan, and Transjordan, in addition, collects a further small percentage of the value of the goods as assessed at Damascus. Until May, 1924, the import duty into Syria was 11 per cent., but was then raised to 15 per cent. on goods exported from States members of the League of Nations, and to 30 per cent. on others. Syria has agreed accordingly to refund to Transjordan a basic rate of 15 per cent. on all foreign goods re-exported, and the difference between that and 30 per cent. when the Transjordan Government can prove the country of origin. Transjordan collects a duty of 100 per cent. on imported alcohol, and of 50 per cent. on imported tobacco.

8. In April, 1922, the section of the Hejaz Railway line from Nasib to Ma'an was placed under the management of the Chief British Representative and opened again to traffic. On the 19th April, 1924, Mr. Philby, the then Chief British Representative, handed over the control of the section from Amman to Ma'an to the Amir Ali, the son of King Husain of the Hejaz, and President of the Council of the Ma'an-Medina section. This action had not been authorised by His Majesty's Government, and negotiations are in progress for the return of this section to British control. On the 1st April the charge of the northern part of the line within Transjordan from Amman to Nasib was transferred to Colonel R. Holmes, the General Manager of the Palestine Railways. The Palestine Railway administration manages the sections of the Hejaz Railway in Palestine and Transjordan as a separate and distinct undertaking from the Palestine Railway system. During the first six months of the financial year 1924-25 about 4,000 pilgrims travelled over the Amman-Nasib section, and a profit of £E.2,550 was made, compared with a loss of £E.3,336 during the corresponding period of the preceding year. Between Haifa and Amman there are three trains weekly in both directions ; the service is regular and punctual. South of Amman, however, the service is infrequent and disordered, and pilgrims have been discouraged from using the line in greater numbers.

On account of defective quarantine arrangements at Ma'an the Syrian Government is obliged to quarantine returning pilgrims at Deraa, the Palestine at Haifa, and the Egyptian at El Arish.

9. Transjordan is rich in antiquities, which have not hitherto received due care from the Government.

Expert assistance was given this year by the staff of the Palestine Department of Antiquities, and urgent repairs were made to the Sassanian building and the amphitheatre in Amman. Two antiquity guards have been appointed and the Government is awaking to a sense of its responsibilities towards the historical monuments of the territory. Proposals for future works of conservation and for the establishment of a permanent antiquities service for Transjordan, under the supervision of the Palestine Department, are under consideration.

10. The expectation of raids by the tribesmen of the Sultan of Nejd has maintained a constant state of tension, and the Royal Air Force was called upon to carry out several reconnaissances on information given by the border tribes of approaching raiders. On the 1st August large forces of Wahabis, estimated at between 3,000 and 4,000 camelmen, were engaged by Royal Air Force planes and armoured cars at Umm el Amad, twelve miles south of Amman. Their casualties were over 500 ; the Royal Air Force casualties were one officer and two men slightly wounded ; of the local population 130, mostly fellahin, were killed and wounded. This prompt and energetic action of the Royal Air Force averted a serious menace to the peace of Transjordan and the safety of its capital.

11. From the 21st July till the 19th August the Amir was absent from the territory on the pilgrimage to Mecca ; his cousin, the Amir Shakir, acted in his place. On the 4th August a Transjordan band, in a raid into Syria, attacked a party of Syrian gendarmes who were escorting a party of French officers and ladies. Vigorous measures were taken by the Chief Minister to apprehend the brigands, and fifty-five persons were arrested by the Arab Legion and brought before a Special Court of Enquiry, which found proof of guilt against twenty-three. Under a provisional extradition arrangement, which came into force in July, twenty-two were handed over to the Syrian authorities ; one had been shot dead in attempting to escape. The conclusion of this extradition arrangement and the promptitude displayed by the Transjordan Government in dealing with the raiders have laid the foundation of a better understanding with Syria and rid Transjordan of many undesirable characters. With Palestine also relations are more satisfactory ; Transjordan is no longer regarded as an asylum for fugitives from justice, and the extradition arrangement between the two territories is working satisfactorily.

12. Public security in Transjordan is maintained by a locally-recruited force known as the Arab Legion and a number of civil police in the larger towns. The Commanding Officer and Second in Command of the Arab Legion are British officers, and the strength is approximately 40 officers and 950 men, comprising mounted and dismounted units. This force is armed with artillery, machine guns, and rifles.

The Arab Legion has been raised and trained to a satisfactory state of efficiency in face of innumerable difficulties, and, with the occasional assistance of the Royal Air Force stationed at Amman, has succeeded in its difficult task of controlling a territory in which most able-bodied men carry arms.

The fact that the Royal Air Force detachment which has been stationed in Transjordan for the maintenance of the air route to Baghdad, may, if necessary, be called upon to reinforce the local forces considerably strengthens the position of the Transjordan Government.

13. King Husain of the Hejaz visited Akaba and Amman in the first months of the year ; during his stay in Amman he was nominated Khalif. After his abdication he returned to Akaba, where he has since remained.

APPENDICES TO THE REPORT BY HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT
ON THE ADMINISTRATION UNDER MANDATE OF PALESTINE
AND TRANSJORDAN FOR THE YEAR 1924.

INTRODUCTORY.

A report by His Britannic Majesty's Government on the administration of Palestine and Transjordan for the year 1924 has already been forwarded to the Council of the League of Nations.

This volume of Appendices to that report contains :—

- (i) The replies for 1924 to the specific questions asked by the Permanent Mandates Commission in their questionnaire of the 23rd August, 1922 ;
 - (ii) The text of certain documents mentioned in the replies to the questionnaire ;
 - (iii) Supplementary notes on those subjects in regard to which the Permanent Mandates Commission has asked for additional information.
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APPENDIX I.

QUESTIONNAIRE OF PERMANENT MANDATES COMMISSION WITH BRIEF REPLIES.

I.—Jewish National Home.

1. *Q.* — What measures have been taken to place the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the national home of the Jewish people ?

What are the effects of these measures ?

A. — The Government of Palestine has continued by legislative, administrative and fiscal measures to develop and improve local conditions, with the general aim of providing equal security and opportunity for all communities and classes, and of encouraging enterprise.

Jewish initiative has been quick to take advantage of the more favourable conditions thus created for industrial development and agricultural settlement (see pp. 3 and 4 of the Report for 1924) ; and 12,586 Jewish immigrants arrived in Palestine in the course of the year.

A special ordinance was passed to incorporate the enterprises of Baron Edmond de Rothschild, which are concerned with the settlement of Jews on the land in Palestine. There were also incorporated in accordance with the law of companies and co-operative societies the American Zion Commonwealth for the promotion of Jewish agricultural settlement in Palestine, and a number of Jewish co-operative societies for building and credit purposes.

In consequence of the facilities provided by the Correction of Land Registers Ordinance and with the assistance of the Government Land Registries, properties owned by Jewish interests, but under the Ottoman régime registered in the name of Ottoman subjects, are now being recorded in the names of the actual owners.

2. *Q.* — What measures have been taken to place the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the development of self-governing institutions ?

What are the effects of these measures ?

A. — Legislation is still passed by the official Advisory Council, over which the High Commissioner presides, under the sanction of the Palestine (Amendment) Order-in-Council, 1923.

The Palestine Legislative Council (Election) Order-in-Council, 1922, and those provisions of the Palestine Order-in-Council, 1922, which deal with the establishment of a Legislative Council have been suspended on account of the abstention of a majority of the Arab population from the elections to a Legislative Council.

As the consequence such progress as can be recorded in this direction is in the sphere of local rather than central government.

3. *Q.* — What measures have been taken to place the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will safeguard the civil and religious rights of all the inhabitants of Palestine, irrespective of race and religion ?

What are the effects of these measures ?

A. — The Courts Ordinance, the Magistrates' Courts Jurisdiction Ordinance, the Trial Upon Information Ordinance, the Law of Evidence Ordinance, the Charitable Trusts Ordinance and the Bills of Exchange (Protests) Ordinance are such measures.

An Order-in-Council was made in July, 1924, which excludes from the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts matters within the purview of the proposed Holy Places Commission. The text of this Order is given in Appendix II.

II. — *Autonomous Administration.*

Q. — What measures have been taken to encourage local autonomy ?
What are the effects of these measures ?

A. — Local Hospital Committees have been constituted in many of the larger towns, and direct, at their own charge, the non-technical services of the hospitals founded and hitherto entirely maintained by the Government of Palestine.

A Commission was appointed in 1924 to consider the question of the development of local government and its report is now under examination.

Under the Local Councils Ordinance, 1921, a Local Council was established in 1924 at Reinah, an Arab village in the Northern District, and additional powers of taxation were conferred on the Councils already existing at Tershiha, Bassa, Bireh (Arab) and Tel-Aviv (Jewish).

The total number of Local Councils in Palestine at the end of 1924 was 27-23 in Arab and 4 in Jewish villages.

The composition of each Council is prescribed in the Order constituting it which is made under the Ordinance. No single form has been followed, but normally the Council consists of the President and such number of elected members as the ratepayers in the general meeting of the village determine. In some cases, however, the number of members is fixed in the Order.

The Council is entitled, with the approval of the District Commissioner, to issue by-laws for securing good order in the village. The contravention of such by-laws is subject to the same penalties as the contravention of the by-laws of a municipality.

The Council draws up annually a budget showing its estimated revenue and expenditure, which is submitted to the District Commissioner for his approval.

The rates and taxes to be levied by the Council are likewise determined in the particular Order constituting it. The legislation prescribes that the Council may, with the sanction of the District Commissioner :—

- (a) Levy rates on the property of the village ;
- (b) Impose a poll tax on the inhabitants of the village ;
- (c) Impose any fees for licences or otherwise which are authorised by the Law of Municipal Taxation in force from time to time.

In order to facilitate the work of municipal (magisterial) benches, a Municipal Courts Amendment Ordinance was passed, reducing the minimum number of each bench to two members.

The Government of Palestine continues to assist those Municipalities which require financial support with grants-in-aid, though it is hoped to reduce and finally to abolish these grants-in-aid at a comparatively early date. In special cases it has guaranteed loans raised by Municipalities for public utility purposes, and contributes towards the cost of constructing roads within municipal areas. The Government guaranteed a loan of £E20,000 contracted by the Jerusalem Municipality for the acquisition and development of its water supply.

The inspection of markets, slaughter-houses, khans, etc., has been taken over by Local Authorities in several places, and Municipalities and Local Councils have responded readily to the encouragement of the Government of Palestine to assume responsibility for various agricultural, forestry and veterinary services formerly exercised by the Government.

III. — *Jewish Agency.*

1. Q. — When and in what manner has the Jewish Agency been officially recognised ?

A. — The manner of recognition of the Jewish Agency and the extent of its established co-operation with the Palestine Government were described in the Report for 1923.

2. Q. — Has this Agency given any advice to the Administration in the past year ?
If so, in what form and in what connection ?

A. — In particular, the Palestine Committee of the Agency (known as the Palestine Zionist Executive) and the Head Office of the Zionist Organisation have been given an opportunity of expressing their views on the revision of the Immigration Laws, the proposals for the organisation of the Jewish Community, the draft Palestine Citizenship Order-in-Council, the draft Criminal Law Amendment Ordinances (offences against women and against morality), the draft Arbitration Ordinance, and the draft Exemption from Taxation (Charities) Ordinance.

The Palestine Committee is regularly consulted in the preparation of the half-yearly labour immigration schedules as to the state of the Jewish labour market and anticipated future demands for Jewish labour.

A representative of the Palestine Committee served upon the Government Currency Commission.

3. Q. — What is the nature and extent of the co-operation of this Agency with the Administration of Palestine in economic, social and other matters ?

A. — The Palestine Zionist Executive through its close association with Jewish industrial enterprise, by its statistical information on commercial matters and agricultural research, and its direction of Jewish educational organisations, is able to and does render valuable assistance to the Government of Palestine in all matters affecting the welfare of the Jewish population.

4. Q. — In what manner has this Agency taken part in the development of the country (statistics of results obtained) ?

A. — The Palestine Zionist Executive has taken a direct and useful part in promoting the new industrial developments which have been a very remarkable feature of Jewish activity in the past few years. It has assisted in the formation of a number of agricultural settlements where extensive afforestation and drainage operations have been carried out : the latter works, in particular, have much improved the general health conditions of the neighbourhoods concerned besides bettering agricultural conditions. The Executive have also facilitated the Co-operative and Loan Societies movement in Jewish settlements. In the field of education, the Executive maintains three training farms for women and has opened an Agricultural School for girls at Nahalal in the Northern District. Other Jewish Schools controlled by the Palestine Zionist Executive number 123, with 536 teachers and 13,046 pupils, including 3 secondary schools, 3 training colleges and 8 technical schools.

The Palestine Zionist Executive maintains an Advisory Health Committee which regulates the hygienic and sanitary development of all its enterprises. The Hadassah Medical Organisation, supported out of funds contributed by the Hadassah Organisation of America, the Joint Distribution Committee of America, and the Zionist Organisation has established hospitals, clinics and laboratories in the towns of Palestine and Jewish settlements and a Nurses' Training School in Jerusalem. It is responsible for the medical services in the immigrants' camps and hospitals of the Jewish Agency.

The total bed strength of the Hadassah hospitals is 322, and the annual expenditure £E.90,000. The Jewish Labour Association has organised a workers' Sick Benefit Fund for its members ; 40 per cent. of the annual budget of the fund, at present £E.20,000, is contributed by the Jewish Agency. The medical services of the Jewish settlements in the Valley of Jezreel are undertaken by it, and it has erected a convalescent home near Jerusalem.

5. Q. — What steps have been taken in consultation with His Britannic Majesty's Government to secure the co-operation of all Jews who are willing to assist in the establishment of the Jewish National Home ?

A. — The incorporation of the Palestine Jewish Colonisation Association is a case in point (see p. 23 of the Report for 1924).

The Zionist Organisation, acting as the Jewish Agency, has during the past year continued negotiations with the principal Jewish communities of Europe and the Jewish Community in America for a still wider co-operation of their communities with the Agency than results from the present composition of the Zionist Organisation.

As regards American Jewry, these negotiations culminated in the adoption of a resolution at a representative non-partisan conference held at New York on the 1st March, of which the following is an extract :—

“ That this conference appoint an Organisation Committee to consist of 12 members who are not members of the Zionist Organisation, but who are to act in co-operation with the Zionist Organisation for the purpose of bringing about full participation of American Jewry in the Jewish Agency. ”

As regards England, British Jewry, represented by the Board of Deputies and the Anglo-Jewish Association, has declared its readiness to enter the Jewish Agency on an equal basis with the Zionists, on the understanding that the non-Zionist representation of American Jewry will amount to 40 per cent. of the non-Zionist total. The Board of Deputies has passed a resolution amending its constitution, so as to allow the Board to join the Jewish Agency.

Considerable progress has been made with regard to the participation of the Jewish communities of Germany, Holland, Italy and Czechoslovakia.

In Poland arrangements have been made for the convening at an early date of a Jewish non-partisan conference representative of all bodies willing to co-operate in the development of Palestine with a view to arriving at the best basis for the participation of Polish Jewry in the reorganised Jewish Agency.

In France the matter is still in abeyance and under discussion.

IV. — *Immigration and Emigration.*

1. Q. — What measures have been taken to facilitate Jewish immigration ?

A. — Immigration continues to be regulated so that it shall not exceed the capacity of the country to absorb new arrivals.

Immigration is now centrally controlled by a Permits Section of the Secretariat; passport control at the ports is in the hands of Customs Officers.

Facilities have been provided for the entry of Rabbis and of students for local academic institutions, and special permission is given for the immigration of dependants to engage in farming with relatives already settled in the country.

One thousand and five Jewish tourists who decided to settle in Palestine in the course of their visits were, if otherwise eligible as immigrants, accorded permission to remain.

The general reply given to this question in the Report for 1923 holds good.

2. Q. — What measures have been taken to safeguard the rights and position of other sections of the population ?

A. — The general principle regulating immigration into Palestine mentioned in the reply returned to this question in the Report for 1923 continues to be observed.

Four hundred and fifty persons, including 373 Jews, who failed to comply with the Immigration Regulations, were rejected at the frontiers and ports in 1924.

In land purchase or reclamation works, designed to provide labour or homesteads for Jewish immigrants, the rights of Arab cultivators have been carefully safeguarded : at Kabbara, the Palestine Jewish Colonisation Association ceded cultivable land of 600 acres, where the Arab settlers, who are also being employed in the work, will be established.

In general, the Government of Palestine does everything in its power to safeguard the rights of the population, and is always ready to examine complaints by responsible persons that those rights are not being preserved and to remedy any defects which may thus be disclosed.

3. Q. — What measures have been taken in co-operation with the Jewish Agency to encourage the close settlement by Jews on the land (give figures) ?

A. — Twenty-one thousand acres of agricultural land were purchased by Jews in 1924 ; 14 new settlements were established ; the Palestine Jewish Colonisation Association and the American Zion Commonwealth, agricultural settlement agencies, were incorporated. It is estimated that in land purchase, settlement and development more than £E.500,000 were invested or expended by Jewish interests.

A large tract of 50,000 acres of agricultural land is now being acquired, which will bring the area of land in Jewish ownership in Palestine up to 319 square miles.

4. Q. — What are the effects of these measures ?

Statistics of immigration (country of origin, religion, race, profession, age and sex). Geographical distribution within the country in the urban centres and in the rural districts.

Same statistics for emigration.

A. — The Jewish rural population is now nearly 23,000 out of a total Jewish population of 108,000 ; at the beginning of 1923 it was 16,000 out of a total of 87,000.

The urban population is divided as follows :—

Jerusalem	38,000
Jaffa and Tel-Aviv	30,000
Haifa	8,000
Tiberias	5,000
Safad	3,000
Hebron	500
Other Towns	500

The Jewish villages own 15,000 head of livestock, have under cultivation 18,000 acres of fruit trees, 5,000 acres of vines, 8,000 acres of almonds, and 2,500 acres of olives, and have planted 5,500 acres of timber.

By the end of 1924, 1,000,000 trees had been planted by Jewish agencies in Palestine.

It is not possible to obtain reliable statistics of the callings into which Jewish immigrants have entered after their arrival.

According to information supplied by the Jewish Agency, the classification by callings of the Jewish wage-earners who entered Palestine during 1924 is as follows :—

Agriculture	1,480
Tailors, cutters, seamstresses, etc.	629
Metal works	417
Wood works	319
Building	235
Textile works	235
Leather works	173
Engineering and electrical trades	164
Printing	44
Various skilled trades (mechanical)	247
Various skilled trades (food)	207
Total	4,150

Merchants and capitalists	691
Medical	243
Clerks and officials	241
Students	201
Teachers	154
Religious occupation	70
Liberal professions	55
	<hr/>
Total	1,655
	<hr/>
Grand Total	5,805
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The Hechaluz Organisation has been formed with the support of the Zionist Organisation for the express purpose of training prospective Jewish immigrants in agriculture and manual labour. It has branches throughout Eastern Europe and its membership reaches 20,000. The Organisation maintains Training Farms, apprentices prospective immigrants to Jewish land-owners for instruction, and has established workshops for training in the building, engineering and metal trades, joinery, cabinet-making, etc. Ten thousand ex-members of the Organisation are already settled in Palestine.

Garden cities have sprung up in the neighbourhood of Tel-Aviv, where vegetables are grown and poultry and cattle kept.

A group of 20 Jewish fishermen from Salonica has settled in Acre, with the assistance of the Palestine Zionist Executive.

V. — Land Régime.

1. Q. — How have State lands been defined and delimited ?

A. — Some progress was made in the demarcation of State forests during the first half of 1924 ; nearly 5,000 acres of State forests were taken in charge by the Department of Agriculture and Forests, and 2,500 acres were constituted State forests by demarcation and registration.

In 46 cases the Courts decided in favour of the Government of Palestine against persons claiming ownership of State lands. The area involved was approximately 7,500 acres.

In the course of the demarcation of the lands affected by the Baisan Land Agreement of 1921, more than 3,000 acres of unoccupied State land were discovered and set aside.

2. Q. — How have waste lands been defined and delimited ?

A. — There is nothing to add to the reply in the Report for 1923.

3. Q. — What measures have been taken for the registration of real property ?

A. — See pp. 49-50 of the Report for 1924.

The Lands Department continues to carry out separate village surveys, and covered thus in 1924 an area of 70,000 acres in the Southern District.

Sir Ernest Dowson, late Financial Adviser and Surveyor-General to the Egyptian Government, was specially engaged to prepare for the Palestine Administration a scheme of systematic land settlement.

VI.—Nationality.

1. Q. — What is the text of the Nationality law ?

2. Q. — Have special provisions been enacted, framed so as to facilitate the acquisition of Palestinian citizenship by Jews ?

1 and 2. A. — The Palestine Citizenship Order-in-Council was drawn up in 1924, but the final text was not settled and the Order made until July, 1925. The matter will therefore be dealt with in the Report for 1925.

VII.—Judicial System.

1. Q. — When did the new judicial organisation begin to operate ?

A. — Several Ordinances to implement the provisions of the Palestine Order-in-Council with regard to the judiciary were brought into effect in 1924, as well as enactments to modify the procedure of the Civil Courts in the direction of more complete accord with European practice. For particulars, see under IV—Legal, of the Report for 1924.

2. Q. — What special features does it include with a view to assuring to foreigners as well as to natives a complete guarantee of their rights as laid down in Article 9 ?

A. — A foreigner charged with a capital offence is tried by the Court of Criminal Assize, composed of the Chief Justice or the Senior British Judge of the Supreme Court, the President of the District Court and one other Judge, or by a single British Judge of the Supreme Court ; and for an offence triable by a District Court, by a Court of a single British Judge or containing a majority of British Judges.

3. *Q.* — What special measures have been taken to assure respect for the personal status of the various peoples and communities and for their religious interests ?

A. — The Palestine (Holy Places) Order-in-Council, the recognition of the Maronite Community as exercising jurisdiction in matters of personal status under the Palestine Order-in-Council, the Trial of Members of the Forces Ordinance and the establishment of a special tribunal by the Courts Ordinance to deal with conflicts of jurisdiction between a Civil and Religious Court are such measures.

4. *Q.* — How have the control and administration of Wakfs been assured ?

A. — The management of Moslem religious affairs, including control of Wakfs, was vested in 1922 in a permanent body of five members, chosen by (Moslem) Secondary Electors, who were included on the register for the last election to the Turkish Parliament before the war. New elections to the Council are due to be held in 1925. For further particulars, see Appendix VI.

5. *Q.* — What extradition agreements have been made between the Mandatory and other foreign Powers since the coming into force of the Mandate ?

A. — The Extradition Ordinance of 1924 applies to Palestine extradition treaties between Great Britain and foreign Powers, and establishes a regular procedure of extradition.

As between Transjordan and Palestine, special extradition arrangements exist, but there is as yet no formal agreement.

VIII.—Economic Equality.

1. *Q.* — How have the interests of the community been safeguarded in the execution of measures taken to secure the development of the country in respect of public ownership or control of any of the natural resources of the country or of the public works, services and utilities ?

A. — As regards the public ownership and control of the natural resources of the country, the Government of Palestine continued in 1924 the preparation of the Mining Ordinance, a draft of which was published in the Official Gazette Extraordinary of the 15th December, 1924; the principle that all such natural resources are the property of the Government, and that they may be exploited by private individuals or corporations only under licence, is maintained. As regards public works, services and utilities, the railways, ports and roads of Palestine are all regarded as the property of the Government, and water supply schemes, with the exception of one for Jerusalem, which is the subject of a pre-war concession, are in all cases carried out either by the Government or by the Municipality or by the Local Council concerned.

2. *Q.* — Has it been found necessary to arrange with the Jewish Agency to construct or operate any public works, services and utilities or to develop any of the natural resources of the country — and, if so, under what circumstances ?

A. — The Jewish Agency has not been required directly to operate such works.

3. *Q.* — Give a complete list of concessions and the names and nationalities of the concession holders.

A. — There is nothing to add to the reply given in the Report for 1923. Negotiations are still proceeding with the concessionnaires for the reclamation of the Huleh swamps, and work has not yet begun.

4. *Q.* — Give the reports submitted to the company meetings and the balance sheets of these undertakings, or, when such reports and balance sheets are not available, give all information relating to the subject, particularly the rate of interest and the uses made of profits.

A. — The latest balance sheets of the Jaffa Electric Company, and of the Palestine Salt Company, are reprinted in Appendix III.

5. *Q.* — What provisions are made to secure economic equality as regards :—

- (a) Concessions ?
- (b) Land tenure ?
- (c) Mining rights (in particular, rules in regard to prospecting) ?
- (d) Fiscal regime (direct and indirect taxation) ?
- (e) Customs regulations (imports, exports, transit) ?

A. — (a) and (b) There is nothing to add to the reply given in the Report for 1923.

(c) The principle of equality is maintained in the Mining Ordinance, referred to in answer to 1.

(d) There is nothing to add to the reply given in the Report for 1923.

(e) See pp. 8 and 15 of the Report for 1924.

6. *Q.* — What regulations has the Mandatory Power made for the application of the clause providing “freedom of transit under equitable conditions” ?

A. — Palestine has adhered to the International Convention of 1923 for the simplification of the Customs formalities.

The strength of the British garrison is :—

- 1 Cavalry Regiment.
- 1 Squadron R. A. F.
- 1 Armoured Car Company.

3. *Q.* — Has there been any occasion for the Administration of Palestine to contribute to the cost of the maintenance of the military forces of the Mandatory Power ?
If so, to what extent ?

A. — No.

4. *Q.* — Has the Mandatory exercised its right to use the roads, railways and ports of Palestine for the movement of armed forces and the carriage of fuel and supplies ?
If so, to what budget has the expenditure been charged ?

A. — Yes. All expenditure involved has been defrayed by His Majesty's Government.

XII.—International Conventions.

1. *Q.* — To what International Conventions has the Mandatory adhered on behalf of the Palestine Administration ?

A. — Since last Report :—

	<i>Date of Adhesion.</i>
International Opium Convention	21st August, 1924.
International Convention relating to the Simplification of Customs Formalities	27th November, 1924.

2. *Q.* — What steps have been taken by the Mandatory to co-operate with the League of Nations in the struggle against disease, including diseases of plants and animals ?

A. — See under VI — Health, Report for 1924.

The Plant Protection Ordinance, 1924, enables measures to be taken to prevent the introduction and spread of plant diseases ; the owner or cultivator must take the prescribed measures or bear the cost.

For measures to remove scale from trees, see p. 28 of Report for 1924.

Veterinary quarantine officers form a Plant Inspection Service at inland points of entry.

Antirabic measures are taken by the Departments of Health, Agriculture and Police in conjunction ; many thousands of suspect animals, mostly jackals, are destroyed by strychnine bait.

Antirabic vaccine is prepared and issued by the Department of Health and distributed gratis to the Districts.

The control of epidemic livestock diseases and plague is vested, in accordance with Ottoman law, in local Commissions over which District Officers preside, with veterinary or agricultural officers as members. For particulars of measures taken, see p. 27 of Report for 1924.

XIII.—Antiquities.

Q.—Has the Mandatory enacted a law of antiquities according to the provisions laid down in Article 21 of the Mandate ?

Give the text.

A. — The text of the present Antiquities Law accompanied the Report for 1923. A revised Ordinance is now under consideration.

XIV.—Official Languages.

1. *Q.* — Have the three official languages been used simultaneously and on an equal footing in legislative and administrative documents and in the Courts ?
If not, what languages are used ?

A. — Yes.

2. *Q.* — To what observations does the application of this system give rise ?

A. — No special difficulties have been experienced.

XV.—Holy Days.

Q. — What days are recognised as holy days by the various communities ?

A. — The Armenian holiday of Vartanantz has been declared an official holiday for members of that community and added to the list of holidays submitted in the Report for 1923.

XVI.—Transjordan.

1. *Q.* — Has the territory lying beyond the Jordan been finally delimited and organised ?

A. — The Territory has not yet been finally delimited.

2. Q. — In what way does the political and administrative regime established in this territory differ from the regulations laid down for Palestine ?

A. — An account of the administration of Transjordan is given in Section II of the Report for 1924.

XVII.—Labour.

1. Q. — What measures have been taken to ensure, in accordance with Part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles, the consideration of conventions or recommendations of International Labour Conferences ?

2. Q. — Are these conventions or recommendations being carried into effect ?

1 and 2. A. — The conventions have not been applied, as they are not suitable to local conditions, but the 48-hour week is general in the post-war industrial undertakings and where immigrants are employed ; in other employment the hours are much longer. Seven-day labour is not prohibited, but in practice a seventh day holiday is strictly observed by the Government, and by all communities and businesses.

There is no discrimination between native and foreign workers ; although there is a considerable difference of conditions and needs.

3. Q. — What other regulations are in force in regard to labour ?

A. — The Department of Health exercises powers under Municipal Regulations for the control of factories and shops, the maintenance of proper hygienic and sanitary appliances, ventilation, water supplies, etc.

In the tanning industry steps are taken by the Department of Agriculture for the prevention of infection from anthrax spores by the total destruction of infected animals, and by the examination of all imported skins and hides. The Department of Health carries out a bacteriological examination of 5 per cent. of all consignments of brushes manufactured from hair ; the whole consignment being destroyed in the event of infection being detected.

4. Q. — What powers has the Administration for controlling labour contracts in order to ensure their loyal fulfilment both on the part of employer and employed, and what powers does it possess to prevent any abuses in this respect ?

A. — The Government of Palestine has appointed a Committee to enquire into the desirability of establishing machinery for conciliation and arbitration in labour disputes.

5. Q. — What is the competent authority in regard to labour legislation, and what authority is responsible for the application of such legislation ?

A. — There is no labour legislation proper. The Department of Health is responsible for enforcing the Regulations referred to in the answer to Question XVII. (3) above.

XVIII.—Trade in and Manufacture of Drugs.

Q. — Have measures been taken to secure the prohibition or the control of the importation, of the production, and the consumption of poisonous or narcotic drugs ?

A. — His Majesty's Government acceded on behalf of Palestine to the International Opium Convention on the 21st August, 1924.

An Ordinance has been prepared to supplement the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance No. 4 of 1921 (concerning the Regulations governing the exercise of the profession of pharmacy and the trade in drugs and poisons), for the control of the manufacture, importation, exportation and possession of dangerous drugs.

XIX. — Education.

1. Q. — What is the general system of elementary education (organisation and statistics) ? Is this education free for all, and, if not, in what cases is it free ?

A. — There is nothing to add to the reply for 1923 as regards general principles. Minor alterations in organisation are shown in Section V of the Report for 1924.

2. Q. — What measures have been taken for higher education ; for example, medical, veterinary and technical education ?

A. — The Biochemical Institute and the Institute of Jewish Studies of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem have been inaugurated, and the foundation stone of a Mathematics and Physics Institute has been laid.

The Agricultural Research Institute of the Palestine Zionist Executive at Tel-Aviv, and its experimental fields and stations elsewhere are designed to be the research laboratories of a contemplated Institute of Agriculture and Natural History.

The Men's Training College, Jerusalem, has been reorganised as a Central Secondary School for pupils from the provinces.

Four students of the Women's Training College are completing their course, at the cost of the Government of Palestine, at the Cairo Training College.

The Jewish Technical Institute at Haifa, established in 1913 with the permission of the Ottoman Government, has now been formally inaugurated. The Institute provides training and practice in the management and execution of technical works, including telegraphy and telephony, in a three-year course ; and evening classes are held for workmen in building, metalwork and woodwork, and electricity. About 120 pupils and workmen attend the Institute.

3. *Q.* — In what languages is instruction given in the various categories of schools ?

A. — In Government Schools, where all or nearly all the pupils use Arabic as their mother-tongue, the language of instruction is Arabic throughout. In Higher Elementary and Secondary Schools and in the Training Colleges, English is taught as a foreign language through its own medium.

In Higher Elementary and Secondary Private Moslem Schools, English is taught as a foreign language ; the medium of instruction in all is Arabic.

In the great majority of modern Jewish Schools, Hebrew is used ; in the Evelina de Rothschild Girls' School and in the schools of the Alliance Israelite, English and French respectively are the principal media in the upper classes. English is taught in all and French in a few Jewish Higher Elementary or Secondary Town Schools ; Arabic is on the syllabus of Jewish Training Colleges and Secondary Schools. In those Orthodox Jewish Schools which impart a religious education exclusively Yiddish is still the language of instruction.

XX.—Public Health.

1. *Q.* — What steps are being taken to ensure public health and sanitation and to combat endemic and epidemic diseases ?

2. *Q.* — What is the régime for medical assistance ?

1 and 2. *A.* — See under Section VI in the Report for 1924.

3. *Q.* — What is the actual situation as regards prostitution and what measures have been taken in this matter ?

A. — An Ordinance has been drafted to amend the Ottoman law, and to provide adequate penalties for offences against women and against morality.

The Government of Palestine has in its service as a full-time officer an English woman, charged with the duty of inspecting prisons and other Government establishments, and of proposing measures relating to the welfare of women and children and the prevention or suppression of social evils.

There are now no regulated prostitutes' areas in the country.

XXI. — Public Finance.

Q. — A general schedule of the revenue and expenditure of the territory, the budgetary system, and indication of the nature and the assessment of taxes.

A. — See under Section II in the Report for 1924.

XXII.—Demographic Statistics.

Q. — Statistics of births, marriages (polygamy), deaths, emigration and immigration.

A. — Statistics of emigration and immigration are given on pages 58-60 of the Report for 1924.

Statistics of births and deaths are given below :—

Vital Statistics for 1924.

Total Population, excluding Nomadic Beduins, 681,245.

Deaths.	Towns.	Districts.	Total.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
Under 1 month	772	793	1,565	8.85
1 month to 1 year	1,419	3,477	4,896	27.70
1 to 2 years	853	2,203	3,056	17.29
2 to 5 years	448	1,634	2,082	11.78
5 to 10 years	104	430	534	3.02
10 to 20 years	238	493	731	4.13
20 to 50 years	882	1,461	2,343	13.25
Over 50 years	1,083	1,358	2,441	13.81
Unknown	4	20	24	0.13
Total	5,803	11,869	17,672	
Births	12,209	22,746	34,955	
Infantile Mortality.				
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births	179.45	187.72		184.83

APPENDIX II.

THE PALESTINE (HOLY PLACES) ORDER IN COUNCIL, 1924.

AT THE COURT AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE,
The 25th day of July, 1924.

Present :

THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY IN COUNCIL.

WHEREAS by the Palestine Order in Council, 1922, it is (among other things) provided that the Civil Courts in Palestine shall exercise jurisdiction in all matters and over all persons in Palestine :

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that certain matters shall not be cognizable by the said Courts :

AND WHEREAS by treaty, capitulation, grant, usage, sufferance and other lawful means His Majesty has power and jurisdiction within Palestine :

NOW, THEREFORE, His Majesty, by virtue and in exercise of the powers in this behalf by the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890, or otherwise, in His Majesty vested, is pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows :—

1. This Order may be cited as " The Palestine (Holy Places) Order in Council, 1924. "

2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Palestine Order in Council, 1922, or in any Ordinance or law in Palestine, no cause or matter in connection with the Holy Places or religious buildings or sites in Palestine or the rights or claims relating to the different religious communities in Palestine shall be heard or determined by any Court in Palestine.

Provided that nothing herein contained shall affect or limit the exercise by the Religious Courts of the jurisdiction conferred upon them by, or pursuant to, the said Palestine Order in Council.

3. If any question arises whether any cause or matter comes within the terms of the preceding Article hereof, such question shall, pending the constitution of a Commission charged with jurisdiction over the matters set out in the said Article, be referred to the High Commissioner, who shall decide the question after making due enquiry into the matter in accordance with such instructions as he may receive from one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

The decision of the High Commissioner shall be final and binding on all parties.

4. His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors in Council, may at any time revoke, alter or amend this Order.

AND the Right Honourable James Henry Thomas, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

BALANCE SHEETS OF THE PALESTINE SALT COMPANY, LIMITED, AND THE JAFFA ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

Balance Sheet per 31st December, 1924.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.
For the Year ending 31st December, 1924.

(Signed) I. CASSEL, *Managing Director.*

I have inspected the books and the accounts of the Palestine Salt Co., Ltd.; I have controlled the vouchers, compared the above Balance Sheet to the 31st December, 1924, with the said accounts and vouchers; I received all the information and explanations required, and I herewith certify that the Balance Sheet is correct, corresponds to the books and vouchers and gives a correct view of the state of the Company's affairs.

(Signed) DR. A. HILLMAN, Auditor.

state of the Company's affairs.
(Signed) Dr. A. HILLMAN, Auditor.

THE JAFFA ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED

Balance Sheet as at the 30th September, 1924.

LIABILITIES.	£E.	m/ms.	£E.	m/ms.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS.	£E.	m/ms.	£E.	m/ms.	£	s.	d.
AUTHORISED CAPITAL. 100,000 Shares of £1 each	—	—	—	—	100,000	0	0	CONCESSION ACCOUNT	—	—	0	975	1	0	0
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL. 99,612 Shares of £1 each	97,121	700	—	—	—	—	—	CASH IN HAND AND AT BANKS... ..	—	—	674	593	691	17	9
Less—Uncalled Capital	67	860	—	—	—	—	—	DEBTORS	—	—	4,282	797	4,392	12	3
			97,053	840	99,542	8	0	INVESTMENT—At Cost	—	—	50	000	51	5	88
CREDITORS. The Palestine Electric Corporation Limited								FURNITURE, FITTINGS AND APPLIANCES —At Cost	—	—	974	080	999	1	2
Current Account	11,860	349	—	—	—	—	—	STOCK OF MATERIALS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND BUILDING, INCLUDING MATERIALS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE SARAFAND LINE At Cost	—	—	5,813	614	5,962	13	7
Sundry Accounts	2,601	916	—	—	—	—	—	JAFFA INSTALLATION — At Cost.							
			14,462	265	14,833	1	10	Land, Power House, Buildings, etc. ...	19,642	752	—	—	—	—	—
RESERVE FUND FOR DEPRECIATION	—	—	4,000	000	4,102	11	3	Machinery and Spare Parts	30,406	973	—	—	—	—	—
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.								High Tension Cables and Transformer Stations	5,832	487	—	—	—	—	—
Net Profit for the Year ending the 30th September, 1924	—	—	101	845	104	9	1	Low Tension Distribution System	24,191	525	—	—	—	—	—
								Meters and Motors at Consumers' Premises in Jaffa and Tel-Aviv	2,433	481	—	—	—	—	—
								MACHINERY UNDER ERECTION	—	—	82,507	218	84,622	15	8
								FEES AND LEGAL EXPENSES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF THE JAFFA ELECTRIC CO., LTD., AND PARTICIPATION IN THE PRELIMINARY EXPENSES OF THE PALESTINE ELECTRIC CORPORATION, LIMITED	—	—	4,991	419	5,119	8	1
								EXPENDITURE FROM NOVEMBER, 1919, TO THE 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1923, IN CONNECTION WITH—			4,787	500	4,910	5	2
								Elaboration of the Auja Project	3,164	328	—	—	—	—	—
								Obtaining of the Concession	3,978	261	—	—	—	—	—
								EXPENDITURE TO DATE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HIGH TENSION LINE TO SARAFAND ...	—	—	7,142	589	7,325	14	8
								EXPLOITATION EXPENSES PRIOR TO THE 1ST OCTOBER, 1923	—	—	3,536	333	3,627	0	2
								Less—Income prior to the 1st October, 1923.	1,602	851	—	—	—	—	—
									746	019	856	832	878	16	0
	£E.		£115,617	950	£118,582	10	2		£E.		£115,617	950	£118,582	10	2

We have audited the Balance Sheet of the Jaffa Electric Company, Ltd., dated the 30th September, 1924, as above set forth. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to show a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company.

Jaffa, 7th November, 1924.

(Signed) RUSSELL & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

Certified true copy.

RUSSELL & Co.

THE JAFFA ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

Profit and Loss Account for the Year ending the 30th September, 1924.

	£E.	m/ ms.	£E.	m/ ms.	£E.	m/ ms.		£E.	m/ ms.
TO GENERATION.									
Salaries and Wages.									
Engineer	210	000	—	—	—	—	By Sale of Current	13,023	920
Diesel and Switchboard Fitters ...	2,470	830	—	—	—	—	„ Rental of Meters on Consumers' Premises	730	940
			2,680	830	—	—	„ Connections to Houses	220	795
Fuel	—	—	2,148	130	—	—	„ Sundry Income	101	037
Oil	—	—	285	019	—	—	„ Interest Received	63	420
Repairs and Maintenance of Machinery and Machine Hall	—	—	349	158	—	—			
Water Supply	—	—	48	294	—	—			
Accident Insurance	—	—	30	000	—	—			
					5,541	431			
„ DISTRIBUTION.									
Salaries and Wages.									
Engineer	210	000	—	—	—	—			
Fitters	312	716	—	—	—	—			
			522	716	—	—			
Supervision.									
High Tension Distribution System ...	20	254	—	—	—	—			
Low Tension Distribution System ...	267	500	—	—	—	—			
Meters	122	735	—	—	—	—			
			410	489	—	—			
Accident Insurance	—	—	15	000	—	—			
					948	205			
„ ADMINISTRATION.									
Salaries and Wages.									
Local Management, Secretary and Office Watchman	1,601	097	—	—	—	—			
Collectors	116	839	—	—	—	—			
	261	466	—	—	—	—			
			1,979	402	—	—			
Advertising	103	018	—	—	—	—			
Printing, Stationery, Drawing Accessories and Office Expenses	323	257	—	—	—	—			
			426	275	—	—			
Postage, Telegrams and Telephones ...	—	—	77	525	—	—			
Audit	—	—	200	287	—	—			
Taxes	—	—	264	370	—	—			
Light	—	—	85	334	—	—			
Maintenance of Site and Garden	—	—	158	702	—	—			
Sundry Expenses	—	—	284	129	—	—			
Accident Insurance	—	—	72	597	—	—			
					3,548	631			
„ BALANCE, being Profit for the period carried down	—	—	—	—	4,101	845			
				£E.	14,140	112		£E.	14,140
„ RESERVE FUND FOR DEPRECIATION	—	—	—	—	4,000	000			112
„ BALANCE, being Net Profit for the period carried to the Balance Sheet	—	—	—	—	101	845	By BALANCE, brought down	4,101	845
				£E.	4,101	845		£E.	4,101

APPENDIX IV.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

The administrative departments of the Palestine Government are the Secretariat and the District Administrations.

The Senior staffs of these Departments are as follows :—

Secretariat.

(The figures in brackets indicate the salaries and grades of the officers.)

Chief Secretary (Special — £E.1,650 ; £E.150 Expatriation Allowance).

First Assistant Secretary (Grade IA—£E.1,000-50-1,200 ; £E.100 Expatriation Allowance).

Three Junior Assistant Secretaries (III—£E.550-25-750 ; £E.50 Expatriation Allowances).

Principal Stores Officer (III—£E.550-25-750).

Controller, Permits Section (III—£E.550-25-750 ; £E.50 Personal Allowance).

Three Immigration Officers (IV—£E.400-25-500 ; £E.50 Expatriation Allowance).

One Office Superintendent (IV—£E.400-25-500 ; £E.50 Expatriation Allowance).

District Administrations.

A. Jerusalem-Jaffa.

District Commissioner (I—£E.1,100-50-1,400) ; £E.100 Expatriation Allowance).

Assistant District Commissioner (II—£E.800-50-1,100 ; £E.100 Expatriation Allowance).

Six Administrative Officers (III—£E.550-25-750 ; £E.50 Expatriation Allowance).

Six Administrative Officers (IV—£E.400-25-500 ; £E.50 Expatriation Allowance).

Two Administrative Officers (V—£E.300-20-400).

B. Northern.

District Commissioner (I—£E.1,100-50-1,400 ; £E.100 Expatriation Allowance).

Assistant District Commissioner (II—£E.800-50-1,100 ; £E.100 Expatriation Allowance).

Four Administrative Officers (III—£E.550-25-750 ; £E.50 Expatriation Allowance).

Seven Administrative Officers (IV—£E.400-25-500 ; £E.50 Expatriation Allowance).

Ten Administrative Officers (V—£E.300-20-400).

C. Southern.

District Commissioner (I—£E.1,100-50-1,400 ; £E.100 Expatriation Allowance).

Assistant District Commissioner (II—£E.800-50-1,100 ; £E.100 Expatriation Allowance).

Three Administrative Officers (III—£E.550-25-750 ; £E.50 Expatriation Allowance).

Three Administrative Officers (IV—£E.400-25-500 ; £E.50 Expatriation Allowance).

Two Administrative Officers (V—£E.300-20-400).

The classification of these officers by religion and nationality is as follows :—

					Moslem.	Christian.	Jews.
<i>Secretariat</i> .. .. .	..	..	..	..	—	8	3
<i>Jerusalem-Jaffa District</i> .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	11	3
<i>Northern District</i> .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6	13	3
<i>Southern District</i> .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	8	—
					<i>Palestinians.</i>	<i>British.</i>	<i>Others.</i>
<i>Secretariat</i> .. .. .	..	..	..	..	—	11	—
<i>Jerusalem-Jaffa District</i> .. .. .	..	..	..	..	7	8	1
<i>Northern District</i> .. .. .	..	..	..	..	17	5	—
<i>Southern District</i> .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6	4	—

The District Staffs are in charge of the general administration of the districts. They are responsible for the collection of revenue, which entails tithe estimation, enumeration of animals, collection of house and land tax, etc. ; for the co-ordination of the efforts of departmental officers, and as the executive officers of Government, for securing compliance with the directions of departmental officers and in general with the orders of the Government of Palestine.

District Commissioners are the licensing authority under Ordinances regulating Game Preservation, Firearms, Public Establishments, etc. ; they scrutinise and control municipal budgets, and generally supervise the administration of Municipalities, and are directly in charge

of all matters of Local Government which fall outside the sphere of Municipalities and Local Councils.

A certain amount of minor magisterial work is performed by District Officers who hold magistrates' warrants.

APPENDIX V.

PRESS PROSECUTIONS.

1. There is no Press Censorship in Palestine.
2. Only two Press prosecutions were instituted in 1924 ; one for contempt of Court, and the other for blasphemy, under Article 15 of the Press Law.
3. Under the Ottoman Law a newspaper is required to publish the correction of any false statement it has made, with equal prominence to the original false statement. This provision has been exercised on some occasions by Government.
4. " Al Tabl," an Arabic newspaper of Damascus, was temporarily excluded from Palestine on account of defamatory and scurrilous articles against Arab Officers of the Palestine Government.

APPENDIX VI.

ADMINISTRATION OF WAKFS.

The Supreme Moslem Council is a Moslem body constituted for the control and management of the Moslem Wakfs and Moslem religious affairs in Palestine. It consists of a President known as " Rais ul Ulema," and four members. Of the four members, two represent the old Ottoman Sanjak (Liwa) of Jerusalem and the other two the Liwas of Nablus and Acre. The Rais ul Ulema is the permanent President of the Council. The members are elected for a term of four years.

The following are amongst the most important functions of the Council :—

- (1) Management of Moslem Wakfs.
- (2) Control of Sharia Courts.
- (3) Appointment of Muftis.
- (4) Appointment of Sharia Kadis with the approval of the Government, and appointment of Mudarriseen and Mamurs of Wakfs.
- (5) Control and supervision of the General Wakf Committee, Local Wakf Committees and Wakf offices.
- (6) Dismissal of all Sharia and Wakf officials of the Moslem institutions which are managed by Wakf funds.
- (7) Safeguarding of Moslem Wakfs.

The present Council was elected and assumed its duties on the 9th January, 1922. The Wakfs controlled by the Council may be divided into three categories :—

- (1) Buildings and Hikr (non-tithable) Wakfs.
- (2) Tithes.
- (3) Mundarissa Wakfs, *i.e.* Wakfs of which the original purposes have been exhausted or lapsed.

Wakfs under category (1) are leased and the rents collected by the Administration of Wakfs. The second category, Wakfs of tithes, are collected by the Government of Palestine, and the proceeds delivered to the Administration of Wakfs after deduction of 6 per cent. as assessment and collection fees. As regards the Mundarissa Wakfs, the revenue is expended on the following (non-Government) Arab Schools :—

'Urfan School, Nablus.
Admadia School, Acre.
Dar el 'Ulum Schools in Jaffa (seven in number, including a school for girls).
'Elwia School, Hebron.
Wakf School, Gaza.
Hashimia School, Gaza.
Two Schools, Haifa.

In addition, the following schools receive subsidies out of the revenue of Mundarissa Wakfs :—

Rawdat el Ma'aref, Jerusalem.
Najah School, Nablus.
'Ulmia School, Nablus.

The number of pupils receiving instruction in these schools is 1,520, and 90 teachers are employed.

The Wakf Administration has offices in Jerusalem, Jaffa, Gaza, Hebron, Nablus and Acre.

The following are the institutions attached to the Council :—

- (1) The Moslem Orphanage, Jerusalem.
- (2) The Moslem College (for training religious teachers, Kadis, etc.), Jerusalem.
- (3) Takia (hospice) of Khaski Sultan, Jerusalem.
- (4) The Library of Masjed el Aksa.
- (5) The Moslem Clinic, Jerusalem.
- (6) The Moslem Museum, Jerusalem.
- (7) Takia of Sayedna Ibrahim, Hebron.
- (8) The 'Ulmia School, Hebron.
- (9) The Amadia School, Acre.
- (10) The Moslem Library, Jaffa.
- (11) The 'Ulmia School, Gaza.
- (12) Eleven Zawais (soup kitchens) in Jerusalem.

The following is the number of officials receiving their salaries from the Administration of Wakfs :—

						No. of Officials.
Officials of Moslem Orphanage, Jerusalem	..	..	..	..	..	18
Officials of Moslem College, Jerusalem	..	..	..	..	..	12
Officials of Takia of Khaski Sultan	..	..	..	..	..	6
Sheikhs of Zawias, Jerusalem	..	..	..	..	..	10
Persons receiving certain allowances and salaries in Jerusalem	..	..	..	..	..	99
Officials of Wakf Office, Mosques and religious institutions in Jaffa	..	..	..	..	..	62
Officials of Wakf Office, Mosques and religious institutions in Gaza	..	..	..	..	..	62
Officials of Wakf Office, Mosques and religious institutions in Hebron	..	..	..	..	..	80
Officials of Wakf Office, Mosques and religious institutions in Nablus	..	..	..	..	..	80
Officials of Wakf Office, Mosques and religious institutions in Acre, and students of Amadia School	..	..	..	..	..	123
Total	..	..	..	..	..	552

The following is the general budget of the Moslem Wakfs during the last three years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£E.	£E.
1922-23	52,800	52,270
1923-24	51,596	49,697
1924-25	53,833	48,462

There are 15 Sharia Courts in Palestine and a Sharia Court of Appeal constituted of a President and two members.

Ninety-one officers are employed in the Sharia Courts, and 550 Mazouns (Marriage Officers) are under the jurisdiction of these Courts.

The annual expenditure of the Sharia Courts, which is defrayed by the Government Treasury, exceeds the sum of £E.16,000.

Court fees are received in the amount of from £E.3,000 to £E.4,000 annually.

APPENDIX VII.

A NOTE ON SLAVERY IN PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN.

Palestine.

It may be said that slavery no longer exists in Palestine. It is still possible to find descendants of slaves attached, in the capacity of paid servants, to the families to whom their parents belonged. A number of negresses are maintained by notable families ; they are, however, not considered slaves, being free and treated as members of the family with whom they live.

2. At the present day many of the so-called Beduin tribes of Palestine include a number of half-breed negroes, known as " Abeed " (literally " slaves "), and in certain tribes these persons form definite subsections. Although undoubtedly descendants of slaves, they are in no sense of the word slaves to-day, but enjoy equal rights with other members of the tribe to which they belong, in matters of tribal law, etc., including the possession of property.

Transjordan.

3. The statement in paragraph 2 may also be applied to the semi-settled tribes of Transjordan, but not to the Beduin tribes properly so called, such as the Beni Sakhr, Howaitat and Beni Atia.

The Sheikhly families of the true Beduin tribes maintain considerable numbers of slaves as personal attendants, who include amongst their duties that of acting as bodyguard to their masters. These slaves are, more often than not, born into the service, and are, as a rule, much better off than ordinary tribesmen.

It being essential to tribal chiefs that they should have an immediate surrounding upon which they can trust implicitly, their slaves are treated correspondingly.

The slaves are often placed in positions of great trust, and a very recent example of this may be cited. During 1922 at the time of the Akhwan raids in the Wadi Sirhan, Nuri Shaalan, the Chief of the Ruwalla tribes, placed one of his slaves in complete charge of the village and important fort of Kaf.

4. The slaves of the Sherifian family, of whom numbers accompanied the Amir Adbullah to Amman, are, apart from the more favourable conditions they enjoy, in precisely the same position as those mentioned in paragraph 3. It is stated that any attempt to alter the present status of tribal slaves is likely to be unpopular with the majority of the slaves themselves.

5. So far as is known, there is at the present time no infiltration of slaves from the Hejaz into Transjordan.

The following Official Publications relate to Palestine :—

Cmd. 1195, 1921. Franco-British Convention of December 3rd, 1920.

Cmd. 1499, 1921. Interim Report on the Civil Administration of Palestine, 1st July, 1920—30th June, 1921.

Cmd. 1540, 1921. Palestine : Disturbances in May, 1921. Reports of the Commission of Inquiry.

Cmd. 1700, 1922. Correspondence with the Palestine Arab Delegation and the Zionist Organisation.

Cmd. 1708, 1922. Miscellaneous No. 4. Mandate for Palestine. (Note in reply to Cardinal Gasparri's letter of May 15th, 1922, addressed to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.)

Cmd. 1785, 1922. League of Nations : Mandate for Palestine.

Cmd. 1889, 1923. Papers relating to the Elections for the Palestine Legislative Council, 1923.

Cmd. 1910, 1923. Agreement between His Majesty's Government and the French Government respecting the Boundary line between Syria and Palestine.

Cmd. 1989, 1923. Proposed formation of an Arab Agency ; Correspondence with the High Commissioner for Palestine.

Stationery Office Publication, Dec., 1922. Report on Palestine Administration, July, 1920—December, 1921.

Stationery Office Publication, July, 1923. Report on Palestine Administration, 1922.

Non-Parliamentary Publications : Colonial No. 5, 1924 ; Colonial No. 9, 1925. Report on Palestine Administration, 1923.

Non-Parliamentary Publication : Colonial No. 12, 1925. Reports on the Administration of Palestine and Transjordan, 1924.

Non-Parliamentary Publication : Colonial No. 15, 1925. Report of the High Commissioner on the Administration of Palestine, 1920-1925.
