

The Boom in Palestine a Peril If It Collapses



IN THE NEW PALESTINE

Tel Aviv, near Jaffa, with a population of 2,000 in 1919, is now heading toward 100,000

WITH no unemployment, a treasury enjoying an annual surplus, land values doubling and redoubling, capital flowing in, industries expanding, immigration increasing astoundingly, and malaria stamped out, Palestine thrives as neither the British mandatory administration nor the Zionists themselves ever dared to hope.

The Jordan, now harnessed, yields electrical power carried all the way to Acre in the north and Rehoboth in the south.

The Dead Sea, its waters lowered by pumping, yields potash and bromin for shipment from Jericho to Jerusalem, whence, by way of Haifa and Port Said, they are exported everywhere.

Two years ago, Palestine's orange crop—its main source of income—filled 2,000,000 cases at most. The forecast for the coming year is 6,000,000. Tel Aviv, a Jewish settlement near Jaffa, had 2,000 inhabitants in 1919. Now it claims 60,000 with 100,000 close ahead.

In nine years, Palestine's Jewish population has doubled. Partly because Turkish conscription has ceased, the Arab population has increased by more than a third.

But the London *Times* points out that land prices in the orange belt are so high that investment yields only a very small profit. Moreover:

"There is, unfortunately, no doubt that the regulations restricting Jewish immigration to the numbers which the country can absorb without prejudice to the rights and legitimate interests of other sections of the population have been systematically evaded. Tourists arrive in Palestine and do not depart.

"If the present 'boom' collapses—as it may—then the resultant unemployment will revive the declining hostility between Arab and Jew, will inflict undeserved injury on the licensed and law-abiding immigrants, and will add to the burdens and anxieties of the British Government. The sooner these facts are faced the better for all concerned."