

is to reply to the view that incapacity and old age are suggestive of charity and not of the advancement of the teaching profession. As one who is interested in the causes which the foundation was instituted to promote, I can not look with equanimity upon the curtailment of the influence of the foundation as now proposed, and I am willing to risk the confusion of personal interest with a disinterested view of the benefit to the teaching profession in order that the question may be seen as a whole and not decided abruptly by mere temporary expediency.

Two obligations seem to rest upon the foundation in order to reinstate its influence and to justify its mission. In an unequivocal and equally in a generous manner it must meet the obligations which its announcements have aroused in the minds of those who within a few years will be in a position to take advantage of its formulated provisions; and in the second place, to reinstate confidence in its methods, there should be a plain statement to the effect that the financial difficulty is or is not the determining cause of the present action. If such prove to be the case, let the arguments against a system be held in reserve, and let the actual situation be met in that same helpful spirit which has characterized so many of its important and beneficial decisions.

JOSEPH JASTROW

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
March 2, 1910

*AN AMERICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTION IN
PALESTINE. THE JEWISH AGRICUL-
TURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
AT HAIFA*

A NEW American institute of research has just been incorporated in New York under the title of the "Jewish Agricultural Experiment Station," with a board of trustees composed of Mr. Jul. Rosenwald (Chicago), president, Mr. Paul M. Warburg (New York),

treasurer, Miss Henrietta Szold (New York), secretary and Dr. Cyrus Adler (Philadelphia), Mr. Sam S. Fels (Philadelphia), Judge Jul. W. Mack (Chicago), Dr. J. L. Magnes, Mr. Louis Marshall, Dr. Morris Loeb, Mr. J. B. Greenhut (New York) and Dr. O. Warburg (Berlin, Germany), members of the board.

This new experiment station is to be located at the foot of Mt. Carmel in Palestine, seven miles from Haifa, and is the first agricultural institution of research supported by private American capital to be established in a foreign country. The funds for the station have been furnished by several philanthropic Jews. Messrs. Jacob H. Schiff, of New York and Jul. Rosenwald, of Chicago, have furnished the first \$20,000 necessary for the initial equipment. The minimum budget of \$10,000 a year has been assured by Messrs. Schiff and Rosenwald, together with Mr. Paul M. Warburg (of Kühn, Loeb & Co.), Mr. Is. N. Seligman, Mr. Isidor Straus and others.

As an American institution in the Levant and carrying the American experiment station idea abroad, this newly incorporated institution can not fail to interest American experiment station workers, since its purposes are the scientific study and development of the agricultural resources of one of the oldest parts of the old world, as rich in latent wealth as it is in historical and religious interest.

The director of this new station, Mr. Aaron Aaronsohn, is already known to quite a circle of experiment station workers, having spent a number of months in making comparative studies of the agricultural, climatic and botanical conditions of our southwestern country, for the purpose of comparing them with present conditions in Palestine, in which studies he has been deeply impressed with the remarkably close agricultural resemblance existing between California and Palestine. Mr. Aaronsohn is peculiarly well equipped to establish such an institution in Palestine, having spent fourteen years of his life in agricultural and botanical explorations throughout that region and having made himself familiar with Turkish, Arabic and

Hebrew, as well as French, German and English. He is a graduate of the Agricultural School of Grignon, France, and has attracted the attention of the scientific world through his discovery of the long-sought wild prototype of wheat. His discoveries in Palestine of drought-resistant stocks and dry land grains and forage plants, as well as the possibilities of American breeders utilizing his wild wheat, have led Dr. Galloway, the Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, to request Mr. Aaronsohn to prepare a bulletin, which is now in print, giving in some detail the bearing of his studies in Palestine on the many agricultural problems of the United States.

While the special aim of the institution will be to put the Jewish colonists and farmers of Palestine and the neighboring colonies in a position to carry on agriculture in a rational and progressive manner, Mr. Aaronsohn's idea is to assemble as complete an equipment of the official agricultural publications of the United States as possible. Through the liberality of the Office of Experiment Stations and the directors of various state stations, supplemented by private gifts and purchases, Mr. Aaronsohn has already assembled what will be the most complete set of American experiment station reports and bulletins to be found anywhere in the Old World. It is his earnest desire to make this set of American experiment station reports absolutely complete and he will keenly appreciate any help given him towards this end.

As the study of plant pathology is quite unknown in Palestine, Mr. Aaronsohn has purchased as a nucleus of pathological work the collection of the late Professor W. A. Kellerman of about 24,000 specimens of fungi, and the Department of Agriculture has offered to supplement this with about a thousand other numbers. To these American numbers Mr. Aaronsohn proposes to add his own personal collections of agronomic, botanical and geological material, and altogether they will prove of invaluable assistance in the comparative studies which he proposes shall be carried on at the station.

The buildings will be of stone and practi-

cally fireproof, but to give further guaranty against loss Mr. Aaronsohn proposes to install steel shelving for the books and metallic cases for his collections.

It is also Mr. Aaronsohn's purpose to have a visitors' laboratory, with proper facilities, which will be placed at the disposal of properly accredited visitors from abroad. Those who have taken advantage of the marvelous facilities of the Naples Zoological Station will appreciate how much this means in a country like Palestine, where there are few facilities for scientific investigation.

It is Mr. Aaronsohn's intention to publish at least the annual reports of his station in English, although naturally his circulars and bulletins containing the practical results will for the most part be published in Hebrew, Turkish and Arabic.

The founding with liberal financial support of this new station in the eastern Mediterranean region will go far towards introducing American methods in the study of agricultural problems throughout the whole Mediterranean region and facilitate the exchange of plant industries between that region and the United States, which has been already begun by the agricultural explorers of the department, and by such men as Dr. L. Trabut, the government botanist of Algeria, and which has proved of such mutual aid to both regions.

DAVID FAIRCHILD

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF
WASHINGTON¹

THE Carnegie Institution of Washington has just issued its eighth "Year Book," a volume of about 250 pages, containing a résumé of the work accomplished under the auspices of the institution during the year 1909. The "Year Book" comprises the annual reports of the president, the executive committee and the directors of various departments of research, together with reports upon the progress of other investigations carried on by individual grantees and associates of the institution. There is also included a

¹ Statement supplied by the Institution.