

Jewish Farmers in Maine.

The *Journal* of Lewiston, **Maine**, gives the following account of Jews at farming in that section:

A new and interesting feature of the redemption of the abandoned Androscoggin county farms has become noticeable this year and shows that the French-American element is not the only one that is at work at the divinely inaugurated task of replenishing and subduing the earth.

A startling number of Hebrew farmers have made their appearance in this country, and their farms are becoming rich and fertile as the result of hard labor persistently indulged in from morning till night. Over in Webster the writer came upon a little community of Jewish farms the other day, and found that though they had commenced in a small way, they had worked up to quite respectable establishments.

In a ride through Greene one day lately a tone that was not French and sounded strangely familiar to cosmopolitan Lewiston was heard about an old farm house, whose gray gable had faced the north-easters for upward of ninety years and where the stories of Ruth and Samuel and Jacob and Joseph and other illustrious ones of Hebrew history had been known to the rafters before those strangers from a Russian village came to say them over and over in their Sabbath Bible readings.

Over in Bowdoin the other day a Jewish wedding was attended by over one hundred farming people of the race who are located in this region. The same week a young man and woman of the Hebrew race were married according to the Mosaic law in Webster. At the last Jewish church holiday in Lewiston a large number of long-bearded farmers from the country put in an appearance and surprised even themselves by their numbers.

Within a year a large number of Hebrews from Canada have come to Lewiston to settle, and the result has been that the trades most followed by Jews, bone and rag-picking, peddling, junketing and shopkeeping have been over-crowded, so that those who have saved a little money ahead, those who have resided here the longest, have gone out upon the farms and are turning back the worn-out fields and pastures, and clearing new lands for their homes. They are natural agriculturists and have the ability, as is claimed for them by the leaders of the new Palestine purchase scheme, to make even an old sucked-out country like the Holy Land bloom like a garden.