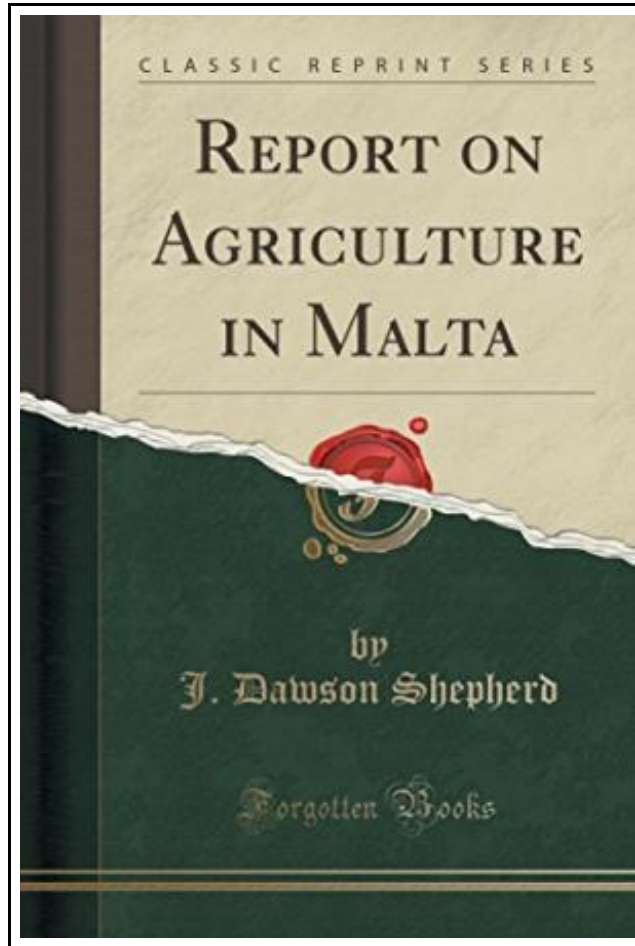


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Report on Agriculture in Malta Agriculture in the Maltese Islands is probably as old an art as it is anywhere. The Megalithic inhabitants must have been proficient in its practice. There is some evidence of an abundant population in those days, and food supply must largely, if not entirely, have been grown on the spot. Carvings of domestic animals in Stone Age ruins point to stock-keeping, and, with only a little imagination, the existence of cotton or other fibre cultivation and a weaving industry can be conjectured from the voluminous skirts carved on a tiny figure bearing every evidence of Stone Age, art and found among the Megalithic remains. There is, however, little agricultural history available. During the Phoenician period, cotton was certainly cultivated, and the products of its cultivation are referred to during the Roman period. Coming to more recent times, we find it evident that the Knights of St. John thought very little of Maltese agriculture. They described Malta as an arid rock, not growing half enough to feed the scanty population. The population at that time was estimated at 20,000, and a census in 1632 gave it as 50,113. As late as 1862, Leith Adam drew a sad picture of the summer cultivation. According to him vegetation existed only in gardens. Either Leith Adam was mistaken, or summer cultivation has made great strides, for his description is far from applicable now. To appreciate the agriculture, more than a passing glance is necessary. Approaching Malta from the sea, one notices the resemblance to parts of the Adriatic and Syrian Coasts, which likewise seem devoid of vegetation. To have anything like an idea of...

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