

appears that in the Magistrates Court of Haifa alone and for the sub-District of Haifa, with a population estimated at 67,800, there were heard 8,701 proceedings for debt, issued 4,872 orders for execution and filed 2,756 applications for imprisonment for debt. (62)

## Two: Collective Punishment

Collective punishment, which meant punishing the whole village if one villager defaulted was also widespread. In a Petition from the "First Arab Rural Congress" to the District Commissioner, the following was reported about the case of the Zeeb village:

On the morning of the 23d of May, 1930, a detachment of British troops raided this village, entered houses, disturbed the people and beat many of the inhabitants which resulted in the wounding of three villagers. These measures were taken, we were told, in execution of an order issued by the assistant District Commissioner, Northern District, under the Collective Punishment Ordinance, although execution should have been made through the proper established Execution Officer. (63)

## Three: Seizure of Crops

The phenomenon referred to as 'attaching crops to taxes' was prevalent throughout rural Palestine during this period. This entailed assigning a police man to guard a cultivator's crops in order to prevent him from selling his produce until his taxes or debts were paid. To add insult to injury, the cultivator was also required to pay and feed the policeman while the latter was on duty. (64)

The seriousness of the phenomenon of "crop attachment" made the District Officer of Jaffa in 1930 file the following explanation:

The information given... at Lydda, that sometimes a man's whole crop is attached for taxes is correct. The further statement, however, that he is prevented from selling a part of it in order to redeem the rest needs qualification.. The crop of the villager is the only thing that a revenue officer can find if he wants to attach for taxes. This crop can be got hold of only before