

Moreover, pressure placed on the land as a result of indebtedness, land dimunition and the shrinking of the size of cultivable land had pushed land prices further up and increased rent on land. In one instance it was reported that some peasants had to pay 50 per cent of the produce as rent to the landlord. The most common rent paid during this period was recorded at 30 per cent of the produce with the tenant paying the tithe, or 40 per cent and the landlord paying the tithe.

(78) Yet, of particular significance in this period was the emergence of money rents as an increasingly favoured arrangement between the tenant and the landlord. Money rents, varying between 50 mils to 250 mils per dunam were commonly used. (79)

Dimunition of land, higher rents and higher land prices had also led to competition on land. Competition, in turn, escalated still further the value of land. Thus in one case where land was described as "... owned, but not yet settled, by Jews, of which Arab tenants in an adjoining village rent 5,600d", the following was reported:

Up to the year 1926-27, the cultivators paid 20 percent of the produce in kind. Since then, the lease has been put up to public auction and in 1927-8 produced P.L. 260, in 1928-9, P.L. 400 and in 1929-30 P.L. 525. (80)

The rise in rent, which in this case amounted to over 100 per cent, meant that, while the class of landowners could continually expand their capital, the cultivators were sunk further and further into indebtedness.

Extensive data has been provided in this chapter in order to remove any doubt about the real nature of so-called "land transfer" in Palestine.

The cases of the Marj, Zeita and Wadi al-Hawareth, among others, demonstrate that legalistic, political and blatantly illegal forces