

will focus on the techniques of data collection used by both sources. It will also look at the criticism which has been launched against each party.

The major criticism of the data collection techniques used by the Commissioner of Land is that the report was published prior to any land survey in Palestine. According to one critic, the data provided by the Commissioner of Land was no more than guesswork based on information provided as early as 1921 by Zionist and British sources in Palestine. This view is further supported by other writers who argue that the Commissioner of Land's information was obtained from Zionist land purchasing companies in the Department of Agriculture and Settlement of the Zionist Organization of Palestine (later the Jewish Agency) (Himadeh, 1937:44).

The strongest criticism of the Commissioner of Land's estimate has in fact come from the Director of Survey who observed that almost the same estimate had previously been quoted by Dr. Rupin, the Head of the Colonization Department of the Zionist Organization. The latter's information in turn, has been based on data provided in 1921 by Lord Stanhope in the latter's speech in the House of Commons. (.

However, despite its unscientific nature, the Commissioner's estimate continued to be used by both Zionist and British officials. Writing on this, Simpson says:

It is unfortunate that these figures have been widely quoted and frequently accepted as accurate. They are in fact far from accurate, as there were no statistics available at that time for which anything in the nature of an exact estimate could have been quoted. (5)

Moreover, the Commissioner of Land was also criticised in terms of the conceptual framework he employed, especially with regard to his