

to the general interests of the colonial state, meant that the British were quick to respond to their complaints. In 1923, the government appointed A. Nabulsi as the head of the "Palestine Commercial Delegation" to Egypt and offered him means to improve his competitive status. (24)

The situation, however, was quite different for the poorer classes within the fallaheen who manufactured soap at home and needed to exchange their surplus oil to supplement their meager living. The loss for these fallaheen meant virtually total ruin and, ultimately, proletarianization.

A case in point are the fallaheen in the village of Rameh in the Galilee area. Hundreds of fallaheen were forced to quit oil production and look for employment outside their village. The irony in this case was the way the state handled their complaints. After a long protest by the fallaheen, a petition was sent to the government demanding that it listen to their grievances. The petition read as follows:

Shemen is importing duty free seeds..It mixes these seeds with olive oil and sells the produce for very cheap prices...Shemen is making it impossible for us to sell our 'pure' oil..

In response, the government agreed to a meeting between the village representatives and government officials. However, when the villagers' representatives arrived at the meeting they found, to their surprise, that the chairman at the discussion table was himself the head of the "Shemen" Company. The village representatives left the room without uttering a word. (25)

The Citrus Industry

The contradictory character of the process of capitalist development of agriculture, that is, the development and expansion of