

imported seed of China. (38)

It is quite logical to ask why a capitalist would import an expensive commodity when he could use a locally produced cheaper one? The answer to this question, as will become clear in later chapters, lies within the context of the overall history of Zionist settlement in Palestine. This history, it will further be shown, was based not only on colonial capitalist drives or immediate economic gains from Palestine as a destined colony but more importantly on establishing what the Zionist movement in Palestine saw as bases for a new political reality, namely, the future "Jewish state".

It suffices, at this point to note that neither the goals of Jewish settlement in general, nor this phenomenon - 'Jewish boycott of indigenous Arab products' - in particular, was clearly understood by official administrators during the colonial period. The Director of Survey, Simpson, declared the case of boycotting locally produced sesame to be "curious" and "beyond comprehension" (39) and, in a letter addressed to the Principal Secretary of State for Colonial affairs, the High Commissioner, Chancellor, announced: "We are still in ignorance as to why the Industry [Shemen] does not, as one might expect, use the local produce...". (40) Ironically though, the letter was written as a direct response to the problems which were raised by the Jewish boycott of Arab products.

The boycott of Arab or locally produced sesame meant the closure of the only market for sesame producers. On this the High Commissioner noted the following:

Sesame seed which is produced locally..is an important local product...and it is essential that a market should be found in order that fallaheen may be able to obtain cash.