

economic basis of this view is concerned the argument is not baseless. Cheap wheat and flour were indeed imported from France and the British newly-created colony of Transjordan. The importers were mainly Jewish capitalists.

Table 11

Wheat and Flour Imported During 1929-37, in Tons

| Year | Wheat | Flour |
|------|--------|--------|
| 1929 | 17,731 | ----- |
| 1930 | 2,207 | ----- |
| 1931 | 13,650 | ----- |
| 1932 | 27,114 | 20,058 |
| 1933 | 59,951 | 26,919 |
| 1934 | 45,318 | 24,611 |
| 1935 | 17,759 | 33,185 |
| 1936 | 21,536 | 30,630 |
| 1937 | 36,016 | 27,242 |

Source: Figures for 1929-1931 on wheat are calculated from Stein, *The Land Question in Palestine, 1917-1939*, 1984, p.144 ; those for 1932-37 (wheat and flour) are calculated from Himadeh, *The Economic Organization of Palestine, 1937*, Table VI, p. 128.

From 1929-37, an annual average of 20,000 tons of wheat were imported to Palestine (Table 11). The importation of flour which began in the early 1930s amounted to an average of 27,000 tons per year. The sharp rise in the imports of wheat in 1932,33 and 34 is partially explained by the influx of Jewish settlers to the urban centres. (43)

From the economic standpoint, imported wheat was more profitable than the locally produced crop. The price of imported wheat was estimated at 50 percent or less than the price of wheat produced by the local fallaheen. (44) The difference in prices was partly due to international competition in wheat. Yet, more importantly, the difference was largely due to the colonial policy of exempting all