

the 1920's but claims that unemployment in the 1930s and 1940s, particularly among the Jewish working class, was non-existent (Sussman, 1974:36).

Despite the absence of 'official machinery for the registration of unemployed workers or for the collection of statistics of unemployment' (Survey of Palestine, 1945-46 p.733), the following analysis will demonstrated that the (Zionist) official position on Jewish unemployment was motivated by ideological and political factors and is not supported by the available data. Unemployment was not only endemic amongst the Arabs but was also widespread amongst Jewish workers.

To begin with, unemployment among the indigenous Palestinian workers was staggering. In 1930, the Supreme Moslem Council estimated the number of unemployed Arabs at 30-35 thousand workers. That is, of an Arab labor force which during this period numbered 50 thousand, over 60 per cent were unemployed. (20)

In his survey of Palestine in 1930, Simpson collected data from various sources showing the magnitude of unemployment among Arab workers. According to this survey, in Haifa alone in 1930, there were 2,050 unemployed Arabs and 4,000 in and around Jaffa. In the town of Ramleh, 120 applicants were received for one post of scavenger overseer. (21)

The seriousness of unemployment during this period was acknowledged by all District Officers. For example, when asked whether labor supply in Palestine was sufficient to a big project the government intended to build, the Director of the Public Works Department said:

There is no difficulty whatever in obtaining all