

operated on the premise that, unlike the civilized and organized Jewish workers, the Arab workers would be content with a lower standard of living. These acts were justified by the colonizers' view of the colonized. British and Zionist literature contains ample references to concepts such as "peasant culture", "backward people" and "traditional mined population", all of which were used to justify these policies. (41)

For instance, in a confidential letter by the Resident Engineer at Haifa Harbour Works, to Dr. T. Drummond Shields, General Secretary of State for the Colonies, the following reasons were given as to why Arab workers were assigned to temporary and daily work with a daily wage of 150 mils compared to the 250-500 mils paid to Jewish workers: 1) No Jewish worker wants to take a daily job; 2) No Arab workers are given piece work; 3) Jewish workers deserve a higher pay for their "leading hands and skilled workmen.....The Arabs are satisfied with 9 hours of work.. and want even more...".

In conclusion the Resident Engineer wrote:

The "natural bent" of the Arab is , as you are probably aware, to work from sunrise to sunset, and I believe that in this country to work an 8 hour day would be undesirable and uneconomic.. (42)

Racial or national discriminatory policies were even more severe when employed by the Zionist authorities in Palestine and particularly by the main Jewish labour agency, the Histadrut.

### **The Histadrut: A Racist Colonial Enterprise**

A detailed account of the Histadrut's profit oriented character and its difference from other labour unions known to the West, has been provided by the author elsewhere. (43) For the purpose of this