

Whatever economic developments did occur (aside from the activities of Jewish-Zionist enterprises - which for ideological reasons had minimal impact on the Arab sector) they were generated primarily by the colonial administration, through the Department of Public Works, the police, and civil service, and jobs created to service the army's logistic infrastructure. Jewish industries and the Arab urban economy were secondary in absorbing Arab labour (Taqqu, 1977:42-51; Migdal, 1980: 22-24).

### The Colonial Roots of Proletarianization

Many of the features of peasant-proletarianization which were crystallized later in the period under study were shaped by the patterns of employment that emerged under British rule. The source of this transformation must be sought in the deteriorating level of subsistence led by the Palestinian peasant and the colonial policy of employment favouring village workers. The policy was instituted by the Mandate either because of the low wages peasant-workers were ready to accept, or as an intentional design to relieve rural unemployment (Taqqu, 1980:261, 269). Uppermost in the mind of the Mandate government was the fear of rural political unrest that might be engendered by landlessness caused by land sales to the Jewish Agency and the resulting evictions of tenant farmers. A High Commissioner report in 1932 stresses that "a continued increase in the class of landless Arabs was a social peril against which steps should be taken without delay, in spite of the practical difficulties and political objections and the certainty of resentment on the part of the Jew ... there was a risk of the landless Arab class producing economic results which would serve as a focus for discontent and might even result in serious disorders." (Sire A. Wanchope, quoted by Graham-Brown, 1977:47).