

"Hebrew labor only" were not entirely effective in preventing the penetration of Palestinian-Arab labor into Jewish economic enterprises and/or in the complete elimination of existing Arab proletarian employees. It is estimated, for example, that by the 1940s the number of Arab wage workers in the cities was between 35,000-37,000, of whom only 6,000 worked in Arab-owned industries, 3,000 in Jewish and international concerns, 12,000 in private home services, and the rest in governmental and public works.⁷² From these figures, it is difficult to guess how many of the Arab workers had actually occupied proletarian class-locations. We only know for sure that 12,000 private service employees were not proletariat.

Percy Lund provides employment figures in terms that are more helpful for identifying the class distribution of the Palestine population: in 1931, 59 percent of this population belonged to the peasant class; 12.9 percent were employed in construction, industry and mining (as compared to 30.6 percent among Jews); 6 percent were in transport; 8.4 percent in trade; and 1.3 percent in clerical work. One may only conclude from these that the Arab working class constituted then less than 18.9 percent of total population (industrial, construction, mining and transport workers).⁷³ These figures do not distinguish between the self-employed peasant and agricultural cash-croppers, employed on the commercialized citrus plantations. The latter, in fact, represent the only "steady" wage-earning segment of the Arab labor force, in the sense that their source of employment was guaranteed, as Arab citri-culture remained competitive in foreign markets, despite the Zionist "boycott of Arab produce" and the popularization of Tozeret Ha'aretz slogans. This, however, must not divert our attention from the fact that this "steady" labor force was employed only seasonally,