

er is paid less. It is harder to reach the quotas, and the chance for premiums is smaller than in picking. Since an industrious worker from Gaza's output is twice the requirement, it brings a saving of tools and supervision to the employer.

Women workers from Gaza are already in textile factories in Kiryat Gat. This outflow of labor has destructive and discouraging effects on the local agriculture. Orchard owners of the Strip are having difficulties finding workers to complete fruit picking, and the employed age in the Strip's orchard has gone down to ten; i.e., children are employed for rock-bottom wages in order to secure the continuation of the picking. The ratio between manpower resources and labor demand can be maintained in equilibrium due to the policy of employing refugees. Today, no less than 20,000 refugees from all the camps in the Strip are registered in the official Labour Exchange, and the majority are hired in seasonable jobs in the Strip and outside. The number of desperate job-seekers constantly calling at the agency for any kind of job reached, at a point in 1970, 4,000 workers. This number does not include 6,000 women flooding the agencies with their demand for jobs; most of them want to work in order to improve the family income and to survive more easily in the competitive race against the cost of living. When the main breadwinner of the family has trouble facing the cost of living on his income, his wife and/or children join him. And, indeed, the sewing workshops, engaged families in confection job work ordered by big factories in Israel, are hiring hundreds of women from Gaza. This is also the case in the rug and light furniture factories, which are crowded with boys. The Israeli Labor Ministry has also opened six training centers in the Strip which produce skilled trades-