

is that in almost all cases of "land transfer" or sale, all cultivators were still on the land at the time of the transfer. Thus, in a memorandum by the High Commissioner to Chuckburg, a Colonial Officer, it was said that in the case of four villages only, tenants were evicted before the sale. In most cases, the High Commissioner stressed, the tenants were still on the land at the time of the sale. (23) This fact was also recognized by some Zionist land dealers involved in land purchases. In one instance, Bentwish, a Zionist official and land broker, made reference to three villages where all the inhabitants were on the land during the time of the transfer.

In reference to the tenants of Gingar, Tel-al-Fir and Jaloud who are living on the land at the time of purchase, the Company [i.e., L.D.C.] agrees to keep them on a perpetual lease of 100.d. per family, such areas to be assigned together on one side. The yearly rent will be 6% of the cost price paid by the Company....Should at any time of the tenant, become undesirable or for any other reason the Company desires to evict them it cannot do so without the written consent of the Governor of the District. (24)

The Palestinian direct producers suffered severe consequences as a result of the transfer of the Marj land. In the early 1920s, over 1,746 families or about 8,730 people were expropriated. (25) This number however, did not include the Beduins, who through the winter months lived in the hilly land and were accustomed to going down to the Marj after harvest to pasture their flocks. With the expropriation of the land both peasants and beduins were also expropriated. (26)

Official British government figures on the expropriated peasants from the Marj put the number lower. The Northern District Commissioner estimated the number of "farmers who lost their land as a result of the transfer of the Marj to the Zionist Organization, at 1,270 families". (27) Yet these figures according to the Director of Survey