

tractors to prevent the Zionists from ploughing the land.

In this incident one old man was reported killed and others injured. (35)

After this incident about half of the peasants were forced out of the village and the other half managed to resist and stay on the land for five more years. From 1925-30 attempts were made by the government to convince the J.N.F. to lease the land to the peasants with the condition that the lessors, after a certain period of time, become the rightful owners of the land. The Jewish National Fund refused.

The J.N.F.'s refusal prompted the High Commissioner, Chancellor, to ask Lord Passfield to issue an order of expulsion to the settlers. Thus, in a letter to Lord Passfield, the High commissioner wrote:

Directors of J.N.F. have been asked to agree to lease land to Government but it is unlikely that they will consent except on conditions which government would be unable to fulfill. After very careful consideration I am satisfied that in the event of it being impossible to arrange voluntary lease expropriation lease will be necessary. I ask you for enactment immediately of ad hoc legislation empowering me to expropriate lease of this land for a period of five years on payment of fair compensation.(36)

During consultation with the government the J.N.F. sent agents to try to strike a separate deal with the peasants. On this, one report said:

The Jews are leaving no stone unturned to entice the Arabs of Wadi al-Hawareth to accept their offer. Hankin offered to these Arabs a tract of land in the village of Jeida, Nazareth sub-district. He then offered them a tract of land in Transjordan, which the Arabs completely refused. In order to allure them, he then offered to lease to them a tract of 5,000d. at a very low rent and also to lend them P.L. 2,000 for a period of three years without any interest if only they would affix their signature or seals on the contract of lease.