

The Mukhtars were remunerated with a commission of 2-5 percent of the taxes collected. So far as the actual collection went, the Mukhtar was sent to the village, accompanied with a British supervisor, usually a police officer, empowered to seize the crop in cases of default.

A report by the "Rural Taxation Machinery Committee" described the act of collecting commuted tithe as follows:

The Mukhtar goes to the village..accompanied with a seizure officer and a police..The Mukhtar calls on the defaulter to pay the amount due. If payment is not made, the seizure officer seizes the movable property of the defaulter..If the amount due is not paid within 2-3 days, the articles will be sold by public auction. If no articles movable are there..seizures will be laid on immovable property.
(60)

In order to be able to collect taxes from a heavily indebted population, and in order for the new methods of tax collection to work, force and violence became the only viable approach. Some of the means used in collecting taxes were:

One: Imprisonment

Imprisonment as a form of forcing the agricultural producers to pay taxes was a frequent occurrence during British rule. In one case the following was reported: "..Tulkarem District Officer had summoned three peasants of the 'Tayeh' family and sentenced each of them to 10 days imprisonment.." (61)

In 1929 and for a period of two months only, Simpson estimated the warrants and imprisonments obtained from the Supreme court at 2,677 warrants issued for debt and 599 persons imprisoned. On the same, Simpson wrote:

A report on this point was received from the Director of agriculture in respect of the Haifa district for the past year (1929). From this it