

threshing.....

The only way to do this is to place a guard during the time that threshing is going on. This guard fully gives the impression that no crop may be disposed of before the tax is paid. He is, of course, kept at the expense of the defaulters, and his wages are an additional burden. Rather than pay these wages the defaulters often incur debt in order to pay off the tax and get rid of the guard. The impression therefore remains that attachment could not be removed until the whole tax is paid. In fact the villager finds a great deal of difficulty in threshing, and then selling just a part of his crop while attachment is going on at his expense. To deal with a small crop in bits is not easy, nor is the disposal of it in small quantities easy. It means a special journey to town, where he may have to spend a day or two before he can sell and get his money...in many cases, the only way out of it has been to incur debt... (65)

The policy of "crop attachment" was even deemed exorbitant by some British officials themselves. Responding to this policy, the District Officer of Jaffa stated the following:

I feel it is my duty to mention a frank opinion in regard to the collection of taxes in the villages.. I believe that at least 50% of the rural population, on account of their very small incomes, which do not exceed P.L.30 per annum per family of six persons, ought to be relieved from all taxation. To such persons the price of crops is immaterial, as they have practically nothing surplus to sell..The villagers, have in these cases paid, by allowing themselves to suffer privations or by incurring debt..I am...thoroughly convinced that if these villagers were to refuse payment and say 'we are sorry, but we would pay if we only could' we should find ourselves totally unable to collect the taxes by legal methods. This is a point which deserves the serious consideration of Government..I submit therefore that it is essential that a minimum be exempt from taxes with as little delay as possible. The amount which these villagers pay is not great, but in proportion to their income it is excessive. (66)

As a result of the policies of "attachment" and "seizure" many orders of seizure were imposed and the crops of many cultivators