

definition of the concept "cultivable land". Cultivable land was defined as "land which can be brought under cultivation by the application of wage labour and financial resources of the average individual Palestinian cultivator". (6) In other words, the measure employed was not based on the fallah, who in principle had no capital and could not employ wage labour on the land, but rather on a land owner who could bring in capital and use wage labour. The "guesswork" of the Commissioner of Land was, therefore, not based on what actually prevailed, but rather, was calculated on the basis of the potential settler who would immigrate as a labourer or as a capitalist.

The first survey of Palestine directed by the Director of Survey, John Hope Simpson, based its data on both aerial and field research. The area surveyed covered over 75% of the total land of Palestine, excluding Beersheba. In various cases detailed surveys of individual villages, such as that of Bir-Zeit were also provided.

Notwithstanding this, the Director of Survey has been criticised by the Jewish Agency which claims that the aerial survey tends to underestimate the size of agricultural land. However, the reality is that what in fact angered the Jewish Agency was not the inaccuracy of this particular information but rather the whole of the report which was published after three months of survey.

In a confidential letter by the Director of Survey, Simpson, to the Colonial Officer Chuckburg, the Jewish Agency, it was reported, has rejected all the findings of the Director of Survey. Simpson was accused of being hostile to the Zionist presence in Palestine, his conclusions were deemed unjust and he was labeled as biased and anti-Zionist. (7)