

as well as the Jewish settlers; 7,700 or 58.3 per cent of the labourers were Jewish and 5,500 or 41.7 were Arabs (Gozansky,1986:146).

The large dependence on wage labour was partly related to the fact that many private settlers used land and agriculture simply as a way of making profits.

The phenomenon of absentee landlordism within the Jewish economy was widespread. In a 1938 survey, for example, it was reported that 34 plantation settlements were owned by 1,515 farmers who lived on the land and 1,113 absentee owners. In these farms an estimated 10,000 wage labourers were employed, that is, 4 wage labourers for each farmer. In this case as well both indigenous Palestinians and Jewish workers were hired: 6,500 Jewish labourers and 3,500 Palestinian labourers (Gozansky,1986:146).

Wage labour was also used in some co-operative settlements, particularly the Moshav. A 1941-42 survey conducted by the Jewish Agency revealed that out of a total Jewish agricultural population of 134,276, 63,454 or 47.3 per cent were wage earners involved in various occupations. Of these, 27,114 persons or 42.7 per cent were agricultural wage labourers and the rest worked for industry, construction and other fields. (22)

The exploitation of labour power in general, and within agriculture in particular, has received very little attention by most Israeli official writers. In fact by over-emphasizing co-operative labour arrangements, authors have totally ignored the exploitative nature of production relations within the European Jewish economy.

Not only relations of production within the Moshav and Kibbutz were misrepresented, production relations within the private settlements,