

bankrupt.”³⁹

The Johnson-Crosbie committee concluded that “to provide the minimum cost of living for a family,”⁴⁰ an owner-cultivator needs 75 *dunums*, and a tenant 130 *dunums*. Another estimate by the joint Palestine Survey Commission put the minimum at 160 *dunums* with a “safer” minimum of 240 *dunums*⁴¹ for cereal dry farming. For orange growing in the coastal areas, 10-20 *dunums* was sufficient for both Arab and Jewish farmers. As Simpson points out, the variations in minimum requirements reflect the quality of land, not only between irrigated and nonirrigated lands, but also within the latter.⁴² It should be added that the minimum land required to support a family increases in response to lower prices.

The Johnson-Crosbie Report offers a rather simple explanation for the indebtedness of the peasants after WWI: the fall in prices and the inability of the peasants to act fast enough to “adjust [their] outlook or [their] standard of living to meet the changed circumstances.”⁴³ There is no doubt that the fall in prices played an important role in increasing the debt of the peasants after the war. However, the increased indebtedness cannot only be sought in the fall in prices per se, but more importantly, on the peasant’s increased dependence on and

³⁹Hope-Simpson Report, 69.

⁴⁰Johnson-Crosbie Report, 22.

⁴¹As reproduced in Hope-Simpson Report, 61.

⁴²Hope-Simpson Report, 69.

⁴³Johnson-Crosbie Report, 42.