

sent to Palestine in 1930 to study the causes for the 1929 peasant revolt. The reference to the Fallaheen will be quoted at length since it highlights various aspects of the revolt usually absent in the literature:

It has been argued before us that the Arab Fallah takes no personal interest in politics and that the present state of popular feeling, which in every village and most country districts finds its expression in such cries as "down with the Balfour Declaration" and in demands for a national government is the result of propaganda promoted artificially and for personal ends by men who wish to exploit what may be, so far as they are concerned, quite genuine grievances...

The contention that the Fallah takes no personal interest in politics is not supported by our experience in Palestine. No one who has been about the country as we have been and who has listened to the applause which greeted many passages in the addresses read to us by village heads and sheikhs could doubt that villagers and peasants alike are taking a very real and personal interest both in the effect of the policy of establishing a national home and in the question of the development of self-governing institutions in Palestine.

No less than 14 Arabic newspapers are published in Palestine and in almost every village there is some one who reads from the papers to gatherings of those villagers who are illiterate. During the long season of the year when the soil cannot be tilled the villagers, having no alternative occupation, discuss politics and it is not unusual for part of the address in the Mosques on Friday to be devoted to political affairs.

In conclusion, the report added: "The Arab Fallaheen and villagers are therefore probably more politically minded than many of the people of Europe". (56)

Alongside the transformation from peasantry to proletariat there also emerged a qualitative change in the forms of political resistance amongst the Fallaheen. Unlike their Jewish counterparts whose working conditions were officially guaranteed by the Histadrut, Palestinian