

15,783 tons of groundnuts, valued at P.L. 220,382; 9,770 tons of sunflower seeds, valued at P.L. 78,840 and 2,180 tons of copra worth P.L. 44,872 were imported by this Company. (19)

In addition to the importation of seeds, "Shemen" imported unedible or unrefined olive oil from Syria for manufacturing purposes. Trade between Syria and Palestine was also duty free in accordance with the "Palestine-Syria Trade Agreement" of 1923, which was amended in 1929 in the "Palestine -Syria Custom Agreement". This agreement stipulated that "goods which are the produce of Palestine and Syria may enter into either country, without payment of custom duties." (Brown, 1937: 130) This allowed the company to import thousands of tons of unrefined olive oil from Syria. (20)

Non- edible olive oil imported from Syria was refined and re-exported back to Syria. (21) In 1930, the value of edible olive oil exported to Syria amounted to P.L.19,394, P.L. 19,639 in 1932, P.L.20,786 in 1933, P.L. 32,787 in 1935 and P.L. 91,068 in 1937. (Brown:1937: 259)

Moreover, the legal situation which enabled the oil industry to import cheap raw material had also contributed to the expansion of edible oil export. Edible oil other than olive (i.e., extracted from sesame seeds, sunflower seeds..etc.,) was also exported in large amounts by this Company. In 1930, the value of exported oil, other than olive, amounted to P.L. 1,549. The value of exportation rose to P.L. 29,826 in 1932; P.L.35, 978 in 1934; P.L. 51,129 in 1936 and in 1937 the value of exported oil other than olive amounted to P.L.112,400. (22) The production and export of various kinds of soap (toilet and other perfumaries) by the company had also expanded during the 1930s.