

markets.⁶² By the mid to late 1930s, it appears that the same output was maintained.⁶³ Figures for the WWII period are inconsistent. According to the same source, *A Survey of Palestine*, the output of olive oil was “around 10,000 tons,” while on the next page, the figures given for the seasons 1940-1941 to 1944-1945 came out to an average of less than 7,000 tons.⁶⁴ Even if the higher output figure is accepted, it still does not reconcile to the increase in the cultivated area, especially that most of the trees planted in the 1930s, when most of the increase occurred, had matured by the start of WWII.

Nonetheless, olive oil always suffered from low prices during the Mandate period with the exception of the WWII years. The low prices were primarily because of the government’s policy of granting tariff exemptions for the Jewish European industry on the imports of olive oil, which undersold the local product. This was in contradiction to the policy of the Department of Agriculture of encouraging Arab peasants to cultivate olives.⁶⁵

Thus, although Palestine had always had an ample supply of the olive crop,⁶⁶ even in low crop years, the import exemptions had serious repercussions, especially in the 1930s, on the Arab peasants. In 1930, the Johnson-Crosbie Report

⁶²Himadeh, “Industry,” 216.

⁶³Brown, “Agriculture,” 148; *Survey I*, 315.

⁶⁴*Survey I*, 315-6.

⁶⁵Smith, 173.

⁶⁶Johnson-Crosbie Report, 40; *Survey I*, 517.