

the only other customer for Palestinian soap, are mostly acid oil soap.”⁷¹ In the case of olive oil soap exports to Egypt, they fall from a high of 5,512 tons in 1925 to 792 tons in 1937.⁷²

Thus, a combination of a government-trade policy that provided tax exemptions for materials used in soap production, and therefore a cheaper product, and the loss of the Egyptian market, drove traditional soap making from being one of the major industries to a “dying” one.⁷³ By 1945, total output of soap was about 11,000 tons, of which only 2,500 tons were made from local olive oil and the rest from imported oil seeds⁷⁴ used in European settler factories.

Similarly, there was the 1926 ordinance that established tax exemption for the importation of seeds, nuts, and beans used for the extraction of oil.⁷⁵ Between 1928 and 1942, about 276,000 tons of such raw materials were imported.⁷⁶ For the same period, more than 14,000 tons of edible oil (other than olive oil) was exported,⁷⁷ thus surpassing the amount of olive oil export of about 8,000 tons.

⁷¹Himadeh, “Industry,” 266.

⁷²Brown, “Agriculture,” 146.

⁷³Nathan et al., 469.

⁷⁴*Survey II*, 830.

⁷⁵*Survey I*, 453.

⁷⁶*Abstract 1939*, 64-5; *Abstract 1940*, 65; *Abstract 1943*, 97.

⁷⁷*Abstract 1939*, 70-1; *Abstract 1940*, 71; *Abstract 1943*, 99.