

cities of Haifa and Acre (Himadeh, 1937: 236).

Soap was largely manufactured at home. In addition, soap was also manufactured on a larger scale by the small soap workshops, estimated at 42 and located mainly in the Nablus area (Ameri,1974:102; Himadeh,1937:236). Not all that was produced was locally consumed. The surplus produce from both olive oil and soap was sold in the markets. The exchange value obtained was usually used to supplement the fallah's income. Exchange in the market, in the case of home produced soap was either directly made by the fallah himself, or indirectly, through the Head of the hamula or the merchant.(15)

Until 1914, the annual production of olive oil was estimated at 7,000 tons. Over 50 per cent of this produce was sold to local and neighbouring markets (Himadeh,1937:266). In 1913, the annual production of Nablusi soap was estimated at 500-1000 tons, that from Haifa at 300 tons and the annual soap production from Jaffa was put at 200-300 tons (Ameri,1974: 103). The annual value of exported olive oil soap until 1913 was, on the other hand, estimated at P.L. 200,000 (Himadeh,1937: 216, 266).

By the turn of the century, the agricultural oil industry had begun to undergo fundamental changes. During the first world war, Eastern Oil Industries, Ltd., a company registered in London, established a branch in Palestine. In the second half of the 1920s, Palestine Oil Industry, "Shemen Works", Ltd. (Shemen is the Hebrew word for oil) was founded in Haifa by two European (Jewish) capitalists. It bought Eastern Oil Industries' branch and combined it with its works. The founding capital of "Shemen" Company was estimated at P.L.140,000.(16)

"Shemen Works" produced all related oil products such as, refined olive oil, oils other than olive, toilet and washing soap, cattle