the price of one ton of wheat was P.L.11,300; P.L. 10,500 in 1933; P.L. 9,600 in 1934 ; P.L. 8,900 in 1935 and P.L. 9,440 in 1936 respectively. (51)

For the indigenous wheat producers it was not just a matter of lowering their prices and trying to compete in the market. The fallaheen were unable to dispose of their wheat for any price. By 1930, the problem of wheat "dumping" was the straw which broke the camel's back. Many fallaheen had already mortgaged part or all of their wheat produce to money lenders who were also wheat merchants. Closing the market to locally produced wheat meant the merchant himself could not dispose of the crops. In 1930 it was observed that wheat crops had been lying on the ground since 1928. In a communique issued by the government of Syria it was reported that "..the people of Jaffa alone lost P.L. 100,000 in cereal only". The communique which was cited earlier in the chapter also made reference to the "bankruptcy and ruination " of the wheat merchants. (52)

For the already indebted and bankrupt fallaheen, however, the consequences were more severe. The High Commissioner, Chancellor, describes their economic plight in 1930:

> Although the local prices of wheat have fallen continuously from P.L. 16 per ton in 1929 to P.L. 6-7 today, in consequence of the dumping of foreign wheat and flour at lower prices than are obtainable for the local crop, a large part of last year's wheat crop held by grain merchants is unsaleable and this is preventing agriculturists from disposing of this year's wheat crop ...The Bulk of the crop is already mortgaged to money lenders, most of whom are also grain merchants, for past loans. Since wheat is the most easily marketable commodity and the common local medium of exchange or barter in rural areas, these loans are usually expressed in terms of kilos of wheat with a proviso for the proportionate increase in the quantity to