its citrus exports were restricted to fewer markets, especially that of the United Kingdom, which resulted in further price decrease for its citrus. The price decrease was so great that profit from oranges went down from 168 mils to 10 mils per box from the 1932-1933 season to the 1938-1939 season, respectively.[39] Even in the United Kingdom, Palestine was denied "Imperial Preference" for its exports, which contributed to the decline in citrus profits.[40]

This crisis in citrus was further aggravated with the onset of WWII, when shipping space was primarily reserved for the war efforts, and sales of citrus were mostly confined to the local and regional markets, including the allied troops in the area. The loss of the traditional European markets combined with the shortage of fertilizers and the neglect and abandonment of groves all contributed to a fall in production to about half the peak season of 1938-1939.[41]

The severity of the crisis prompted the government to issue loans and remit property taxes to the citrus growers. The total amount of loans advanced to the citrus growers for the period 1940-1945 was about £P 3,660,000 of which 47 percent went to Arab growers and 53 percent to Jewish European growers.[42] This amount was more than twice as much as all other agricultural loans extended by

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[39]Nathan et al., 210; also see figures given in *Survey I*, 337-8.

[40]Smith, 25.

[41]*Survey I*, 339-40.

[42]Ibid., 355-6.