

Perhaps this sizable contribution explains the government's strict regulation of tobacco and its disregard for complaints by peasants regarding the ordinance that not only required a license for cultivation, but also the specification that a minimum of two *dunums* is required for tobacco cultivation, a figure that was jointly agreed upon by the Department of Agriculture and Customs and the growers and manufacturers.¹⁰⁵ These complaints were echoed by Simpson, who wrote:

The reason why the minimum was fixed at two *dunums* was doubtless to check the consumption of unexcised tobacco. In fact, however, it precludes the poorer man from cultivating a crop which gives a high return. It is desirable that the minimum area should be fixed at a lower figure than two *dunums*. Half a *dunum* appears a sufficiently high minimum. . . . [Another complaint concerned the provision that] renders it a criminal offense for the cultivator to smoke his own home-grown tobacco.¹⁰⁶

Although the cultivation of tobacco was primarily carried out by Arab growers,¹⁰⁷ its manufacture involved Arabs and Jewish Europeans. By 1939, there were thirteen factories manufacturing tobacco products of which six were Arab owned and seven were Jewish European owned.¹⁰⁸ The value of production of the latter factories was greater than the Arab-owned ones in 1939, but by 1942, the situation was reversed.¹⁰⁹ The greater output by Arab industrial undertakings

¹⁰⁵Hope-Simpson Report, 100-1.

¹⁰⁶*Ibid.*, 101.

¹⁰⁷Gurevich, *Handbook*, 155; Brown, "Agriculture," 64.

¹⁰⁸*Survey I*, 458.

¹⁰⁹For values of output, see *Abstract 1944/45*, 54-5, 59-60.