

throughout the country. Given the small size of the country, it appears that the number of government representatives mentioned above were more than sufficient for the task. These representatives, I argue, could have easily propagated the lease/land program had the government been more serious about a fairer distribution between the European settlers and Arab cultivators and within the latter.

Finally, the support provided by the government to the European settler mechanization of agriculture went much beyond merely the biased distribution of machinery during WWII. More critically, the relatively mechanized European settler agriculture was facilitated by the customs policies of the government. One of the first changes to the Ottoman customs system, and as early as 1920, was tariff exemptions on “settler’s effects” and on agricultural machinery and seeds. These exemptions were consolidated in 1924 in the Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance and the Customs Duties Exemption Ordinance,<sup>9</sup> and still maintained in the 1937 Customs Tariff and Exemption Ordinance.<sup>10</sup>

Another noticeable area of mechanization in agriculture was in irrigation. This primarily involved the use of electric pumps. No figures are available on the use, local manufacture, or imports of electric pumps. However, the substantial increase in the use of electric pumps, especially during WWII, can be inferred from the available data on the sale of electric power for irrigation.

---

<sup>9</sup>Sawwaf, “Trade,” 432.

<sup>10</sup>*Survey I*, 444.