Re prices of Kosole and sahtiyan made at Kayseri tannery.

Petition from the cobblers'/dikiciyan esnaf kullari: Are both Muslim and zimmi. Formerly, because we were paying an excessive price for the Kayseri sahtiyan that we use in manufacturing, an imperial order sent a mubasir inspector to Kayseri. In consultation with Kayseri tanning masters/ustas, the prices were set at 3.5 kurus for high mestek and sahtiyan and 3 kurus for high quality tan-liquor sahtiyan and 110 paras for inferior sahtiyan. Henceforth, we agreed to buy it at these prices.

But the Istanbul kadi efendi made some investigations and stated the valuations of the tanning masters was too high. The ustas countered with prices of 4, 3 and 130 paras.

NOTE the role of the state in setting prices and NOTE also the close
network linking Istanbul cobblers and Kayersi tanners.
For a long while the ihtisab naziri has been regulating the sale price of the various kinds of shoes made and sold by the haffaf esnafi. He summons into his presence the persons he needs to and sets the price, taking into account absolutely everything involved in the production process; sets a moderate price. Thereafter, a copy of the defter is made recording the sale price of all the different kinds of shoes and this defter is sent to the various mahalles. In regards to the current price of kosole, sahtiyan and other matterials, he carries out investigations and communicates the results of his findings. Actually, the guild hasn't paid attention to these matters for a long time and has sold as it likes; the ihtisab will pay close attention to this.
Cat says: The Tanzimat hayriye abolished monopolies; the debbag esnaf had the exclusive right to buy the deri of animals that the kasab esnaf slaughtered and these could not be sold to anyone else. This is against the Tanzimat. Ordinances have been decreed that anyone at all under whatever circumstances can buy the deri of the animals the guild slaughters.

Document says. There are commercial treaties that require freedom of trade, for merchants of friendly powers, that require the abolition and abrogation of restrictions and circumstances which prevent their purchase of any goods, of any agricultural products and of all goods produced by agriculture and industry in the Ottoman Empire. As a result of the Tanzimat, everyone can engage in trade.

Formerly, there were quarrels between the debbag esnaf in Istanbul and the butchers/kasap and the Meclis-i Vala concerning the abolition of inhisar with the proclamation of the Tanzimat Hayriye. And the Izmir tanner's guild petitioned that they had the exclusive right to buy the hides of the animals slaughtered by the butchers' guild; this is contrary to the Tanzimat hayriye. Need to take care that the orders of the sultan are obeyed. Orders issued in 1256/1840 state that skins tanned by the Izmir tanners' guild and skins that arrive from the provinces first of all are bought at the market price for the Beykoz debbaghane according to the amount it needs. After this, the hides that remain can be bought at market price by merchants and by the tanner's guild. (NOTE: that is, since the 1840 orders, the Izmir tanners guild has no prior claim on the skins of the butchers; only the Beykoz est does. Tanzimat here has broken the monopoly.)
Some foreign merchants had a contract with the kasab esnafi in Izmir to buy raw leather; there is a petition from the Izmir debbag esnafi, which has contract to deliver a certain quantity of leather to the Beykoz debbaghane amire, that foreign merchants withdraw from this contract.

The debbag esnaf wants the complete monopoly on leathers/deriler produced in Izmir and wants these to be sold to them at a low price. The guild has no authority to do this and it cannot proclaim the official prohibition of selling deri to foreigners. The guild cannot dictate that the deri owners sell at below current market prices and the fact is that foreign merchants' practice is to pay such current market prices.

This time, after the period of the contracts has expired, the deri owners will not make contracts to deliver deri at current market prices to foreign merchants. For the normal amounts of leather that are needed, the debbag esnaf will not offer a lower price than others are paying. The deri that are produced will be delivered to the guild at the current market price and the vali has been informed of this.

NOTE how the state has abandoned the monopolies and guild practices and thus the guilds do not offer deri to be delivered. The... The petition from the guild itself reads: the kasab esnaf of Izmir sells the deriler to us, and do not sell outside because of a firman. Last year, 1264-5, the current market price, with a price of 27.5 kurus per deri,
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LEATHER INDUSTRY. In Jedikule the firm G. & N. Pintza has a tannery and leather factory which employs 80-100 workers. The establishment is not equipped with modern machines, works with beef and calf hides for soles and upper leather and reaches a return (end of page 11) of around 500,000 Frnks.

Another tannery and leather factory between Jedikule and Zeitun-Burnu financed with Belgian and Swiss capital, and employing 60-80 workers and has modern equipment. This factory produces mainly sole leather, some top leather with an annual worth of around 1 million Frnks.

In Jedikule there is an American pelt finisher, employing 60-70 workers and finish approximately 20 pelts per month. Generally pelts of sheep, lambs and goats from Anatolia are exclusively worked, these are de-haired and cleaned from other matters. The prepared skins are then packed in barrels and sent to America.

In Jedikule there is a Croatian who produces Darmsaiten, and employs 10 men. His product finds a market in

Abbreviations
BBA= Başbakanlık Arşivi, Istanbul.
k und k= Austria-Hungary, Berichte der k.u. k. Österr.-Ung. Konsularamter über das Jahr.... Vienna, xix, 1, 1901, Konstantinople.