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Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, May 31. 1890.

Honorable William F. Wharton,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington,

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the use of the Agricultural Department, my "Report on the Agriculture and Horticulture of Palestine for the month of May, 1890."

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant

Conrad

Enclosure:
1. "Report on the Agriculture and Horticulture of Palestine for the month of May 1890."—

Report on the Agriculture and Horticulture of Palestine for the month of May, 1890.

We have had no rain since the early part of the month, when we had one or two showers; nor it is likely we shall have more rain till the end of the "dry season" which has now begun, and which continues till the close of October.

This is one of the busiest months for the farmers. The harvesting of barley, which commenced on the plains towards the close of April, still occupies the peasants. The reaping of wheat and oats has been going on since the middle of this month, and the digging of potatoes has also begun. The crops are of fair quality and yield. The sowing of Sesame took place in the early part of the month.

Oats are quite a new crop in this country, and were introduced by some German farmers only a few years ago. They turned out well, and during the last two years did even better than barley; though this season, they have suffered somewhat from rust.

The present market prices of barley and wheat are respectively 40 cents and 75 cents per bushel. Potatoes sell at $1. per hundred weight.

Vegetables, including cucumbers, gumbo, artichokes, vegetable-marrow, onions and garlic, come into market in great abundance, as well as tomatoes from the Jordan Valley. Mulberries and green almonds have been brought in all month, and apricots have been ripe since the 8th instant. Apples from Gaza and Jaffa, find their way here in small quantities.

The Rose harvest came to an end by the middle of the month. The product was remarkably fine. The amount sold in Jerusalem, chiefly from the Valley of Roses, reached about 12 kantars or 7,200 lbs. This, bought principally by the convents and other religious institutions, is not sufficient to satisfy the demand, a further supply of the flowers having been brought here from Nablous, Tyre and Sidon, and manufactured into rose-water.

~~I am, Sir,~~
~~Your obedient Servant~~
Henry Tillman
Consul

United States Consulate,
Jerusalem May 31. 1890.