We express herewith our compassion with Mr Jacowsky and hoping you'll deliver our statement to the right place,

We undersign our names in sending you our anticipated thanks

(Signed) Wolf Eisenstein
L. Rubinowski
Louis Finck
M Shapira
B. Warsawski
J. White
Abr. Steinberg

L. S.
American Hebrew congregation Sifereth Jerusalem in Jerusalem

" Copy " 11

AMERICAN CONSULATE.

Jerusalem, June zth, 1908.

The Honorable

Assistant Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to send you herewith a report in duplicate with regard to the information desired relative to the demand abroad for American woods and the supply and consumption of native woods in the Jerusalem district.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

Thomas Rickllas
American Consul

AMERICAN CONSULATE.

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REPORT.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR LUMBER IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

The consular district of Jerusalem, comprising southern Palestine, is destitute of wood for commercial purposes, and if the same destuctive practices continue as during the past the country will be soon denuded of trees.

Prior to ten years ago the wood used for fuel was principally supplied from small forests, so called, consisting of scrub oak, the sprangling branches of which spread out over the ground, the largest not more than ten feet long, and these standing upright from two to four feet high. In former years the stems were cut off from the roots, from which sprouts again grew, and in the course of four or five years furnishing a new supply; but since wood for fuel has become valuable the roots are dug up and disposed of with the branches, and in a few more years even this scant source of supply will be destroyd.

The extreme high prices paid for wood in recent years has tempted the native people to cut down and market their olive trees, and the depletion of the olive groves has commenced, it is estimated that at least ten per cent of these trees have thus been destroyd within the last ten years. To stop this waste a law was enacted, with heavy penalties attached, prohibiting all from cutting down or marketing olive wood, but means to evade its provisions was soon learned, and after a short time all efforts ceased to enforce the law and the destruction of these valuable trees goes on with greater vigor than before, so that at present wood for fuel

fuel is largely supplied from the olive groves, and the young trees planted fall far short of the number thus destroyd.

There is a very narrow belt along the river Jordan whereon bu brush and small trees grow, also a small grove of Acacia near the dead sea, these, with patches of scrub oak, (the last named is be - ing rapidly converted into char-cal and fuel and will soon be exterminated) constitutes the available supply of wood of this district out side of the olive groves, and they have but little commercial importance.

The growth of trees in this country especially in the mounta- inswhich constitutes its greatest portion, is slow and the trees at the best are scrubby, the only part that could be utilitzed for wood culture with a promise of rapid growth and good results, is the valley of the Jordan, this valley could be put under a system of irrigation, and as the soil is deep and quite fertile it offers a splended opportunity for enterprise directed to-wards the culture of food products, fruits, fiber, or wood, that would amply repay the out lay; it seems incredible that this rich and fertile valley should remain barren and unproductive with all of the necessary elements at hand to make it one of the garden spots of the world.

Herod in the old days conducted a small stream of water many miles at great expense to this valley, by means of which a desert place was turned into a veritable paradise, what was then accom- plished with a small stream could be done upon a vast scale by the waters of the Jordan river, and the small plot around Jericho gives ample proof of the immense possibilities capable of being developed in the rich and fertile valley of the Jordan.

Jordan. It is not at all probable that this country will ever produce the wood consumed here, the country at present is barren of trees, the shallow depth of soil covering the mountainous part would preclude the hope of tree production except in a limited amount and of those species adapted to such conditions. The Olive can be grown upon considerable tracts and its production greatly increased, but under the existing conditions the small quantity of soil upon the mountain sides is utilized for agricultural purposes and the chances are remote that it will ever be devoted to timber culture.

The total amount of wood imported at Jaffa, the principal port of this district, for the year 1907, was 10650 cubic meters, estimated at $150,000.00 Imported principally from Austria and Roumania. Austrian lumber is dividedinto three classes, viz:- Boards, Posts and Beams for roofing.

Nearly one half of the quantity of wood imported at Jaffa is used for making boxes for shipping Oranges, the ordinary size of such boxes is: Length 68 ctm, Breadth 34 ctm, Height 27 centimeters.

About 600,000 boxes of that size were required in 1907.

The cost of such a box is about 20 cents at Jaffa.

The kind of wood in demand in Palestine is Pine and Fir, they compose 90% of the total consumption.

The lumber imported from different countries to Jaffa is in the following proportion:-

Austria	70%
Asia Minor	12%
Sweden	11
Russia	5
America	2

A small quantity of American Pine is brought from Marseilles, Ash for Spokes and Felloes from Russia, and Beach from Austria.

An inferior quality of white pine is brought from Austria-Hungaria, a good quality of pine from Sweden and pine, a little inferior to that which comes from Seden, is brought from Russia, Walnut and Cypress and two kinds of pine from Asia-Miner, and Pitch or hard pine from America.

There are small Oak forests on the east side of the Jordan from which lumber in small quantities are procured, the crooked limbs are used for plows, and handles for implements are made from the timber.

RETAIL PRICES OF LUMBER IN JERUSALEM.

White Pine from Austria-Hungary.

STRIPS AND SQUARES.

W.W.	4 met.	5 met.	6 met.	7 met.	8 met.
24x48	$ .11				
28x58	.14				
34x68	.18				
70x150		$1.18	$1.38	$1.68	$1.95
50x100	.40	.53½	.65		
48x48	.18				
57x57	.21½				
68x68	.31	.45	.55	.75	
75x75	.40				
95x95	.68				

BOARDS. 4m. x 26 cl.

Thickness. Inches	W.W.	Price. $ ¢
1/2	12	.25
3/4	17	.35
1	24	.45
1&1/4	30	.62½
1&1/2	36	.70
2	45	.92

LATHS.

12x28 W.W.

Per bundle of 50 $1.17

Thomas R. Wallace

American consul.

Swedish Pine.

1	inch	thick	20 cts.	wide	Per met.	$	.19&1/4
1&1/4	"	"	20 "	"	"		.20&1/2
1&1/2	"	"	20 "	"	"		.23
2	"	"	20 "	"	"		.30
2&1/2	"	"	18 "	"	"		.34
3	"	"	13 "	"	"		.28

American Pitch Pine.

Per met. cube $ 49.50

Beach Wood.

Per met. cube $ 55.

Note. White Pine Boards are to be had in all widths at the same rates as above.

Price of wood for fuel from $I.75 to $2. per600 pounds or from about $7 to $8 per square meter.

Price of Olive wood for fancy work from $2 to $2.50 per 600 pounds or from $8 to $I0 per square meter

Rough boards and beams of all thickness the price varies from about $I5 to $20 per Square meter.

Dated at Jerusalem, Palestine, June I0th, I908.

Thomas R Wallace

American consul.