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United States Consulate
Jerusalem,Syria,July 6,1904.

Hon.Francis B.Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington,D.C.

Sir.

In connection with carriage roads in this Consular District it may be of some interest to report that on the Jerusalem and Damascus road the section (going north)between Bireh and Sinjil(St.Giles) has recently been completed and opened to the public. I reported the opening of the section between Jerusalem and Bireh in 1901,November 23 d., and gave a list of all the other roads for carriages which existed up to that time.For convenience these may be repeated:-

Jerusalem to	Hebron	23	miles
" "	Jaffa	40	"
" "	Jericho	22	"
" "	Mt Olives	4	"
" "	Bireh	10	"
The new section Bireh to Sinjil		13	"

To these must be added a branch leading off the Jaffa Road to Ain Karim, a place for outings,3 miles,making the distance from Jerusalem to this village 5 miles,and a branch leading off the Hebron road from the Pools of Solomon to the gardens at Artas,2 miles.

So many inquiries are made of this Consulate about carriage roads in Palestine that I may repeat also that from Jericho to the Dead Sea,the Jordan,and back to Jericho carriages pass when the mud is not too deep although there is no made road.Carriages go from Jaffa to Gaza,40 miles, from Jaffa to Haifa at the foot of Mount Carmel,60 miles, and from Gaza across the desert to ~~Beer~~ Beer Sheba,although no made roads exist.Beer Sheba is nearly two days' journey south of Hebron.

The section between Sinjil and Nablous(the ancient Shechem)17 miles,is graded in sections amounting to about half the distance.It is hoped that after something more than a year the remaining part will be completed and the road opened the entire way from Jerusalem to Nablous,40 miles. This will be a great boon to travellers as all these roads are.

There are rumors especially in the English and American papers,of other roads already projected and even railroads, but probably years must pass before these will be built and as soon as any one of them is surveyed or built the Consul will not fail to report the fact.Distances are not great but the country is hilly and rocky and,with limited means,road making is a slow process.