No. 21.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, Syria,
January 1. 1892.

Hon. William F. Wharton,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I send you enclosed herewith the accounts and returns of this office, for the quarter ending December 31. 1891, as per the subjoined list of inclosures.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,

Conseil

List of inclosures:

1. Rent & miscellaneous expense accounts.
2. Account losses by exchange.
3. Salary of Interpreters and guards.
4. Digest of Invoice book.
5. Record of Notarial services.
6. Register of Official letters sent.
7. " " " received.
8. List of U. S. Citizens, Jerusalem
9. " " " & employes Jaffa
10. Names of employes U. S. Consulate Jerusalem,
11. List of letters sent Departments.
12. Names of Deceased American Citizens.

No. 21.

United States Consulate,
Jerusalem, Syria,
January 14. 1892.

Hon. William F. Wharton
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 11. dated December 11. 1891. Also Circular respecting death of American citizens, and Circular respecting fire statistics & building construction, dated respectively No. 20. & Dec. 1891. A copy of the President's message, Dec. 1891, has likewise been received.

I inclose herewith a letter to the Department of State from Mr. Asad Jamal well known to me as representing the Protestant Community in Jerusalem.

I remain respectfully
Your Obt. Servant.

W. S. Conseil

Inclosure.
Letter Asad Jamal to the Secretary of State.

Jerusalem, January 18. 1892.

Report in reply to Circular from the State Department, Dated December 1. 1891.

The numbers in this report follow the order of the questions in the Circular.

Fire statistics and Building construction.

1. Jerusalem, Palestine.

2. 45.000
3. City inclosed by a wall two and one half miles in extent; half the buildings are outside the walls.
4. Buildings almost universally of stone.
5. No large house built of wood, only small shops.
6. In 1889 two: in 1890 one:- in 1891 one.
7. Two of the number mentioned under No. 6.
8. Ditto.
9. $10.000
10. Complete loss.
11. No insurance companies and nothing ever insured.
12.
13. All.
14. All.
15. None.
16. None.
17. Under the military department. When called upon the soldiers take axes & march out just as they do when going to a parade. They never run to a fire. They have in the barracks, for use in the city one tub holding about half a barrell and a little pump with ten or twenty feet of leather pipe. This "steamer" is never used for they never have any water. When the soldiers get to the fire they smash up everything they can with their axes. It is probable not one in a hundred of the soldiers stationed here,- the garrison is changed every year-, ever saw a fire and when one occurs they simply do not know what to do. A photographers shop was burned in 189, and soldiers stood within forty feet of the house and did not move from their tracks,- did not give any alarm
18. None whatever.
19. The city police will investigate if well paid. In general nothing is done.
20. Two of the four mentioned under No. 6.
21. Shopkeepers are allowed to keep four cans, twenty gallons

in all, of petroleum in their shops at a time. The rest of their stock must be stored in a government house outside the walls and pay a certain sum, a small amount per month for storage. The same is true of what is called "spiritus" a cheap kind of alcohol used in lamps and in small stoves.
"Explosives" are not allowed to be kept by shopkeepers.
22. No law regulating heating, lighting, &c. The city government has rules for building which refer solely to the external portions as related to the rights of neighbours; the character of structures, materials, walls, &c., are not taken cognizance of by the rules referred to.

The introduction within the past few years of iron girders for roofs has revolutionized the method of constructing houses in Jerusalem so that the old massive stone arches four and even eight feet thick are done away with. These girders come from England and Belgium. A few small shops outside the city, one large bakery, and one pouring mill, are covered with corrugated iron which is brought from England. Lumber of all kinds is brought from Europe and is very expensive. Formerly none was used except for doors and windows. Now it is used for floors to some extent and one or two new houses, all small with two or three rooms each, are built every year, entirely of wood.

(S.) Selah Merrill
Consul.

Jerusalem, January 18. 1892.