No 29

U. S. Consulate
Jerusalem January 2, 1895

Honble Edwin F. Uhl
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir

I beg leave to inform you that I have just returned and taken charge of the Consulate after an absence of thirty days, a leave of absence having been granted me by the Department

I left my post on November 22nd and returned & took charge Dec. 22nd. During my absence the Vice Consul was in charge of the Office The Vice Consul served gratis during my absence and would make no other terms.

I am Sir

your obedient servant

Consul

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, January 2, 1895.

~~No. 30.~~

Honble Edwin F. Uhl
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the following despatches, circulars and documents not previously reported, received during the quarter ending December 31, 1894.

Despatches No^s 15, 17 & 18 dated respectively Sept. 25 & Dec. 11 & 13, 1894.
Circular of Sept. 29, 1894, reg. Reports to the Treasury Department
Consular Reports No^s 167 to 170 inclusive for August, September, October & November 1894.
Custom Tariff Pub. No 227
Tariff of 1890-94, on imports with the U. S.

I am, Sir

Your obedient Servant

No 30

U. S. Consulate, Jerusalem
January 10, 1895.

Honble Edwin F. Uhl
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir

In reply to your despatch No 19 dated December 20, 1894 I beg leave to enclose Mr Herbert Clerk – the Vice Consul's letter to me in which are written the terms on which he assumed charge of the Consulate during my recent absence

I am, Sir

your obedient servant

Consul

No. 31.

U. S. Consulate.
Jerusalem January 15. 1895.

Honorable Edwin F. Uhl,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington. D. C.

Sir:

In reply to your Despatch No. 15 of Dec. 13. 94. I have the honor to inclose herewith "Report on the Colocynth Plant in Palestine."

I am Sir
Your obedient Servant

Consul

Inclosure:
1. Report on the Colocynth in Palestine.

The Colocynth Plant.

The Colocynth, or bitter apple, grows abundantly on the maritime plain that lies between the mountains of Palestine and the eastern shore of the Mediterranean. It is found from below the city of Gaza on the south to the base of Mt. Carmel on the north. The dwellers along this plain pay little attention to this plant & spend neither time nor labor in its cultivation. It grows without cultivation, the soil & climatic conditions producing it without the help of the husbandman. With some attention the plant would undoubtedly bear a larger & richer fruit - richer in that pulp which makes the Colocynth valuable. But there is no object in thus improving the plant and its yield as nature alone now supplies far more than the natives can find a market for.

The soil of this maritime plain is a light brown loam, very rich, and almost without a stone. In places where the loam has been mixed with sand the colocynth plant seems to thrive best. Very little rain falls on parts of this plain. The plant in question does not suffer from this lack of moisture. The climate is warm the year round & during the summer months the heat is intense; so that the conditions necessary for the successful raising of the colocynth would seem to be a good soil, somewhat sandy, a warm climate & little moisture.

The plant itself resembles our common cucumber, but its fruit is globose, about the size of an orange, of a light brown color. Its rind is smooth, thin & parchment like. It is known as a Turkish Colocynth & is superior to the Spanish

and Brazador varieties in the amount of pulp its fruit contains. The pulp constitutes 25 per cent. of the fruit. The rind and seeds are valueless.

The fellahin gather the fruit in July and August before it is quite ripe. It is sold to Jaffa Jews who peel it and dry the pulp in the sun. It is then molded into irregular mass balls, packed in boxes and shipped - mostly to England.

The average annual shipment from Jaffa is 10000 pounds. Though this year shipment amounted to only about 6000 pounds. This amount could be increased indefinitely if there were any demand for it & a price paid that would make it an inducement for the peasants to gather and prepare it. The price now paid for the Colocynth pulp, prepared, packed for shipment & delivered on board the steamers in the port of Jaffa is about thirty cents a pound.

There seems to be no reason why this plant should not be successfully grown in certain parts of the United States. The soil & climatic conditions are certainly adapted to it.

Consul

U. S. Consulate,
Jerusalem, Jany 15. 1895.