No. 67

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Palestine,
Oct. 1, 1884.

Hon. Alvey A. Adee
Third Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith my accounts and returns with the necessary enclosures and vouchers for the third quarter of 1884 ending September 30th, amounting respectively to $160 50/100 for salary of Interpreter and Guards and $161 84/100 for rent and miscellaneous expenses and to advise my drafts for the same at fifteen days sight in favor of Messrs Jacob Valero & Co., bankers in this city.

I remain, respectfully
your obedient Servant

U. S. Consul

Enclosures

1. List of letters received during 3d quarter, 1884
2. List of letters sent during 3d quarter, 1884
3. Salary of Interpreter and guards with two enclosures.
4. Rent and miscellaneous expense account with 5 enclosures.
5. Statement of Invoice Book.
6. Record Notarial Service fees for 3d quarter 1884

No. 68.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria,
October 7. 1884.

Hon. Alvey A. Adee
Third Assistant Secretary of State
Washington. D. C.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches nos. 34 and 35 dated respectively July 12, and August 6, 1884. No. 35 was answered in my despatch no. 65 of date September 3d 1884. On the 12th of August I received a letter forwarded by the Department of State.

I acknowledge the receipt of the following blank forms and circulars pertaining to vessels and seamen under act of June 26, 1884, namely:-

Four

Four copies blank forms "A"
Four copies blank form "B"
Four copies blank form "C"
Four copies blank form "24" and
Circular dated Washington July 30, 1884, to Consular Officers of the United States at maratime ports.
Also
Circular dated washington July 1884, respecting the endorsement of accounts and returns.

I remain, respectfully,
your obedient Servant

U. S. Consul.

No. 69.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Palestine
Oct 21, 1884.

Hon. Alvey A. Adee
Third Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D. C.

Sir

I have the honor to present the following report upon the business and commerce of Palestine during the year ending September 30. 1884

After three years of interruption of the regular course of the business and commerce of Palestine very little can be said of its prosperity. Two years ago we suffered from the war in Egypt last year from the effects of the cholera there, and this year the Cholera in Europe has practically shut ded our main seaport and cut us off from any direct communication with the out side world

There is no cholera in Egypt nor has there been any there since last year, nevertheless all steamers coming from Egypt are subjected to five days' quarantine at Beirut. They are not allowed to touch at Jaffa since it does not possess a quarantine station. All steamers arriving at Egypt ports from Europe pass their regular time in quarantine before coming to the Syrian Coast. Consequently these extra five days of quarantine at Beirut are as unnecessary as they are unjust. It is however, one of the many ways which Turkey devises to hinder foreign travel and traffic and to inflict hardship and loss upon her own people. Were not the capacity of these people to endure suffering almost unlimited their condition would be worse than wretched. The good crops of the past year have saved the land from famine, but that

under

under the circumstances any business should be done or any taxes collected is a matter of wonder.

In spite of the adverse conditions now hinted at this Consular district has to report for the last fiscal year ending in March 1884, an income from the Military and land taxes of 45,000 T.L. from the tithes and sheep taxes of 70,000 T.L., from the religious and endowment funds of 15,000. T.L., from the Jaffa road of 1700 T.L., making a total of 131,700 T.L. or about $ 585,000. This amount of money raised as it is from an impoverished people and with no help from their Government, represents a burden which the inhabitants of civilized lands cannot realize or imagine. I do not intend to recount the hardships of these people but a single example will illustrate the crouching manner in which they are burdened by taxes, as follows:- in hundreds of cases the Government tax on a vineyard has been more than the proceeds of the sale of the entire crop. The farmer receives nothing for his time, labor, and other expenses and he has even to add money obtained from other sources to the amount realized from the product of his vineyard in order to satisfy the demands of the Government.

Under a Government that would interest itself in welfare of its subjects and help them to develope the resources of the country this ancient land might become one of the most prosperous on the globe. The natural conditions such as climate, soil, water supply, &c, are all favorable to growth and prosperity. At present, however, a great deal of land lies idle and that which is cultivated is made to yield, owing to deffective methods, only about one fourth or one half of what it would otherwise produce.

The exports from Jaffa according to the tables herewith enclosed, amounted during the last year to $ 896,550, a falling off of fifty per cent from the preceding years, and the imports amounted to $ 614,175, a falling off of fifteen per cent. In the list of imports "American goods" aside from petroleum make but a paltry show, namely, $1,000 and these were brought by way of England.

A glance at the table headed "Return of navigation at the port of Jaffa" will explain why there are no more American goods brought to this country. Austrian, French, English, and Russian Steamers are the only ones that touch at Jaffa consequently goods from these countries are found in the shops and stores of Palestine, instead of goods from America. Could American goods be brought to the country in American ships there is no reason why a fair share of the trade of the country might not be in the hands of Americans.

In the single item of petroleum America has hitherto had the advantage, but here Russia is begining to crowd us very close. During the past year the oil sent to this country has been so bad that people are begining to inquire if after all it was not Russian oil that they were using. Unless American manufacturers take more pains in the future than they have for two seasons past people will be only too glad to turn elsewhere for their petroleum supply. What I refer to now was a universal complaint during the past year. Some complaint was heard the year previous but this year it has been as I have said universal. A few minutes after the lamps were lighted the light would dark down and burn dimly. No amount of coaxing trimming or of fussing with wicks would induce it to give a bright or even a natural light. Unless a better article is sent to this country American will deserve to lose its petroleum trade. I will not specify the names of firms sending oil here, or names which appear on the cases but I wish that this information could be made public for the benefit of all manufacturers concerned. Besides I decide on behalf of the large number of people who have complained to me of American petroleum and who have suffered from the inferior article that has been sent to Syria past year, to have it known that I have communicated the facts to the Government.

Manufeture of Tiles

As to business and trade in Palestine I see many ways in which capital could be invested to advantage provided the conditions on the part of the Government were all that could be desired. As matters are at present money is safer in a civilized country. But even now if one chose to take the risks I think that certain branches of manufacturing might be introduced to good advantage. For instance most of the new houses that are now built,- and last year permits were granted for 100 new houses and for 150 repairs,- have tile roofs. These tiles are imported from France. But in Palestine there are extensive beds of the finest clay and, were a company formed to manufacture these tiles upon the ground, a considerable business could be built up since they are coming more and more into general use.

Another interest that could be made very profitable here is that of canning fruit. Fruit grown with almost no labor or expense and which apples and pears do not do well such fruits as apricots, quinces, peaches, plums, and some other kind that are usually canned grow here abundantly and to perfection. Still another interest is that of making and exporting wine. A great deal is made and consumed in the country while at present only a comparatively small amount is

is exported. The following details will show the cost of producing the wine. One Kantar of grapes that is 600 pounds, will yield 70 bottles of wine. And one bottle of wine is equal to four bottles. Therefore one Kantar of grapes will produce 280 bottles of wine. But the Kantar of grapes would cost a little less than four dollars and the cost of making the wine would not exceed two dollars 280 bottles of wine would cost less than six dollars or a fraction ove two cents a bottle. This is on the scale where only two or three Kantars are made at a time, but were wine made on an extensive scale the cost per bottle would be still less.

Importing lumber and ready made articles.

In connection with houses I think that a large trade could be created at once by importing ready made windows and doors. Were the effort made to introduce such doors and windows would come at once into demand throughout Syria and Palestine. At present doors and window are all hand made and of such lumber as can be bought here. The best lumber is hard, full of knots, coarse grained difficult to work, corresponding to our inferior qualities of hemlock. It is not fit to make doors and windows of still it is the best that is brought to the country. The lumber found here is brought from Austria and some parts of Europe and Turkey and is not only inferior quality but very extensive. I do not know why a profitable business might not be done by importing lumber directly from America to Jaffa, Beirut, and Gaza. During the past summer an attempt has been made to build a bridge over the Jordan opposit Jericho. The bridge is not completed and is not likely to be. But I wish simply to call attention to the fact that a large part of the timber for the same was brought to Jaffa from Europe and transported to the Jordan by means of Camels. The lumber dealer who furnished it sent down in this way some thing like 250 Camel loads of lumber.

Furthermore much might ~~be~~ be done in time by importing houses already framed. Such houses would never displace entirely the stone houses of the country but for many purposes they would be of great service and hence would be in demand. Also all kinds of household furniture might be shipped to this country, ready made, in pieces, and put together here.

Were a company formed in Jerusalem for making ice by machinery they might soon establish an extensive and profitable business.

Besides what I have enumerated American hardware of all kinds, stoves tools, cutlery, cooking, utensils, also crockery and glassware, groceries and cotton goods waved. It appears to me, find a ready sale here provided the cost of getting such goods to this market did not effectually prevent this being imported.

At present the almost universal demand is for cheap goods, utensils, furniture, &c., the people having never yet learned the fact that to pay a good price and thereby secure a good article is in the end the greatest economy.

The Consular agent at Jaffa calls attention to the partial failure of the various Jewish colonies near that place and says that thus far experience proves that the time has not yet arrived for establishing such colonies in Palestine with any hope of success.

The rain fall in Jerusalem during the rainy season of 1883 – 1884 amounted to 31.900 inches and the number of rainy days reached as high as seventy.

The following table will show the value of declared Exports from the Consular district of Palestine to the United States of America during the year ending September 30 1884

Articles	Quarter ending				Amount
	Dec. 31 1883.	Mar. 31 1884	June 30 1884	Sept. 30 1884	
Olive wood work and miscellaneous goods	$388.06	$485.68	$167.59	$1436.47 Total	$2477.84.

I remain Sir respectfully
Your obedient Servant

U. S. Consul

Enclosures

1. Duplicate of above report
2. Duplicate of copies of "Exports", "Imports", and "Returns of Navigation" at Jaffa for year ending September 30 1884