

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten notes on the left page]*

16 Janus.

11 Janus.

1906.

Consular  
Turkey

seen at Beirut  
20/1/06 17 Janus  
36

Jerusalem  
February 1906

No.

Received by Post / much

(Subject.)

and Dickson  
"Conf."

Circassian & other Colonists east  
of the Jordan -  
Returning forms resp. filled in, and  
offering remarks on the subject.

Last Paper.

(Print.)

(Minutes.)

Mr. Lykes  
Muss.

(See beyond of.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

*[Vertical handwritten note on the right margin:]* looking in Damascus to come to Am Sweitish when the Consul fills forms...

13

Jerusalem,  
February 12. 1906.

No. 4.  
Confidential

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge  
the receipt of Your Excellency's Despatch  
of the 12<sup>th</sup> of December last, respecting  
the movements of Circassian and other  
Moslem refugees from Russia, and  
I now beg to enclose herewith the  
form transmitted by Your Excellency  
filled in to the best of my ability  
as regards the settlement of  
Circassians east of the Jordan.

Yours  
There

Your Excellency  
The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Sir N. O'Connor, G.C.B.

... to Sir Swellish when the content of the Government's report ...  
... in Damascus to come to Sir Swellish when the content of the Government's report ...

There are no Moslem refugees established in this Consular district as Colonists, but I have succeeded in obtaining some information as to the settlement of such people east of the Jordan, and I venture to submit to Your Excellency the following remarks on the subject.

As Your Excellency is aware the Circassian people inhabit the eastern shores of the Black and the western margin of the Caspian seas, in the region of the Caucasus, and are composed of five great tribes

33 1  
tribes or Clans, with their sub-divisions. The first, the Circassians proper, occupy the north-eastern shores of the Black Sea, and consist of the following minor tribes, namely:— the Adygé, the Shabsoukh (a section of the Adygé), the Ubykh, and the Karbatai. A little further to the South-east, is the small clan named the Abaza, and still more to the south, on the shores which form the apex of the Black Sea, are to be found the people named Kartwell with the following sub-divisions, namely;— the Mingrelians, Smeretians

the Viceroy (Mirkel) is to come to this Viceroy when the contact of the Government is soon waiting in Caucasus to come to this Viceroy when the contact of the Government is soon

Meretians, Groozians, and Laz.  
On the western shores of the Caspian,  
and extending inland as far as  
the boundaries of the Kartwell,  
is a fourth clan named the  
Lesgians, who are composed of  
the Andi, Avar, Dargua,  
Kazi Kumykh, and the Kurins.  
North of these also on the shores  
of the Caspian and near the river  
Terek, are the fifth tribe, - the  
Chechens, who are not pure  
Circassians, though commonly  
classed with them.

After

39 1  
After the conclusion of the  
Russo-Turkish war of 1877, a  
large number of Circassian refugees,  
mostly from Bulgaria, and supposed  
to be implicated in the "atrocities",  
as well as others from Asia Minor,  
arrived at different times in Damascus,  
and were finally given lands at  
Kuneitra, in the Sanjak of Hauran  
where they have since greatly  
increased by the addition of other  
families, and are now a thriving  
Colony. Later on off-shoots  
from the Colony at Kuneitra,  
and fresh immigrants from  
Asiatic

Am-Sweleh (marked Hamman on the maps) was the contact of the Government is given.  
waiting in Damascus to come to Am-Sweleh where the contact of the Government is given.

Asiatic Turkey settled at Gerash and Ammān, and, in more recent years, they spread to the valleys of Wady Seir and Wady Naxair, well watered spots in the Kaza of Ammān, both Gerash and Ammān being comprised in the Sanjak of Kerak. A few families of Turkomans from Central Asia have settled at a place called Umum Rumman, in the Nahie' of Gerash, and it is stated that about 80 families of Circassians from the Caucasus are at present at  
Damascus

Damascus waiting the permission of the Turkish Government to occupy a tract of land at a place called Ain Sweileh, about half way between Salt and Ammān.

The Circassians at Kuneitra, Gerash, and Ammān, will probably amount in number to about 12,000, and they are increasing rapidly and spreading over the whole country east of the Jordan to the exclusion of the Bedouins and the sedentary Arab population. They are a hardy and industrious people, but have a bad reputation on account of their cruel nature, and thieving propensities

propensities. In the event of an occupation of Palestine at some future period by a European power, they would most likely cross the Jordan and attack and plunder the Christian inhabitants, and would further have to be taken into account as a formidable opposing force (especially if backed by the Turkish Government) to a foreign invading army.

I have the honour to be,  
With the highest respect,  
Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,  
Humble Servant

John Dickson

Moslem Emigrants from Russia in Vilayet of Syria - Samjaks, Hama & Latakia

Village	Name	Kaza	No of Houses	Year of arrival	race	Occupation	Remarks
Kunabir	-	Kaza	300 to 400	1879-1882	Circassians - mixed Tribes	Agriculture	Emigrated from the Caucasus, 1877
Gorash	Nahie'	-	350 - 400	1890-1891	Three Circassian Tribes of Chechen, Shetsookh and Kabartai	Do	From 185-1880 of the Black & Caspian Sea - Caucasus
Amman	Do	-	600 - 700	1891 - 1896	Chechens and Shetsookh	Agriculture and Shop-keeping	Do
Wady Sir	In Nahie' of Amman	-	350	Do	Chechens, Shetsookh and Kabartai	Do	Do
Wady Bani	Do	-	170	1900	Do	Agriculture	Do
Umm Humam	In Nahie' of Gorash	-	50 - 60	1886	Turkoman	Agriculture + Charcoal burning	Do

Note - About 10 or 12 Circassian families have recently arrived at Latakia and with the Government to Latakia. Some at Sir Jweleh (marked Hamman on the maps) between Salt and Amman, and 80 more families are, it is reported, waiting in Damascus to come to Sir Jweleh when the contact of the Government is given.