

Jerusalem,
February 11. 1905.

No. 6.

Sir, In continuation of my Quarterly reports on the economic and administrative condition of this Province, I have the honour to state that, during the three months ended the 31st of December last, the trade of this Consular district may be said to have been fairly flourishing. The total value of the exports and imports together showed, it is true, a diminution of about 13 per cent, when compared with the value of the exports

Walter Townley, Esq.
His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires
Constantinople

may be recognized in his
own capacity.

Believe me
Yours sincerely

John Dickson

C. Allen Young Esq.
British Embassy
Constantinople

Exports and imports in the similar period of 1903, but there was a considerable increase as against those in the immediately preceding quarter. However, the figures obtainable, of the imports and exports, are only approximate, and cannot be taken as an absolute indication of the state of trade. It is from the Returns of Shipping that a more correct estimate of the commercial prosperity of the Province can be formed, and these have shown for several years past a steady increase, more particularly in the amount of tonnage.

The

The total value of the Exports and Imports during the quarter ended the 31st of December last, was £217,630 as against £251,080 in the like period of 1903. There was a diminution in the Exports of about 32 per cent, the value of the Exports during last December quarter having been £74,640 compared with £110,940 during the three months ended December 31st, 1903.

The Imports showed an increase of over 2 per cent, the total value of the Imports during December quarter 1904 having been £142,990 as against £140,140 in the similar period of 1903.

With regard to the Returns of

of Shipping during the three months ended December 31. 1904, there was an increase of 10.5 per cent in the number of vessels and 13.9 per cent in the amount of tonnage, compared with the Returns for the similar period of 1903. 168 vessels of a total tonnage of 176,415 tons entered and cleared at the port of Jaffa, as against 152 vessels and 154,877 tons during the Quarter ended December 31. 1903.

The number of steam vessels increased 11.6 per cent and the amount of tonnage of 18.8 per cent, there having been 125 steam vessels of a total tonnage of 174,418 tons that visited Jaffa during

during December Quarter 1904, as compared with 112 vessels and 153,092 tons in the corresponding three months of 1903. The number of sailing vessels was 43 of an aggregate tonnage of 1997 tons as against 40 vessels and 1785 tons during December Quarter 1903.

The Returns of British Shipping during the three months ended December 31. 1904 showed the same figure as regards the number of vessels, namely, 36 (all steam), but a diminution of 4 per cent in the amount of tonnage, as compared with December Quarter 1903, the total tonnage in December Quarter 1904 having been 43,502 tons as against

45,353

of 45,353 tons in the like period of 1903.
The following was the number and
tonnage of vessels of foreign nationalities
which entered and cleared at Jaffa
during the three months ended 31st
December last, namely: Ottoman 43 -
of which 40 were sailing vessels -
(tonnage 4100 tons); Austrian 27 (tonnage
40,605); Russian 26 (tonnage 34,398);
Italian 13 (tonnage 13,246) 3 being
the sailing vessels; French 11 (tonnage
26,369); German 8 (tonnage 10,586);
Greek 3 (tonnage 2,435); and Belgian
1, (1,174 tons).

The administrative state of this
Province still showed a lamentable
inefficiency

inefficiency in the Department of the Police
and Sendarmerie. As was pointed out in
previous reports it is hardly possible
that a city like Jerusalem, with an annually
growing population, should enjoy immunity
from crime for any length of time. The
number of petty thefts and robberies had
considerably increased during the past
Quarter, and in scarcely a single
instance was there detection of the offenders.
Foreign residents seem to have been
the principal victims, and several
have had their farm-yards swept
clean of all their poultry in one
night, or suffered the loss of other
domestic animals. The inability, or
inertness

inertness, of the police to arrest the
thieves naturally induces house-holders
to provide for their own protection. The
result is that revolver shots are constantly
heard during the night, the discharge
of firearms being resorted to on the
faintest alarm, and instances have
been recorded in which innocent
persons have had narrow escapes
from stray bullets. More serious
accidents of this nature would probably
lead to acts of retaliation, and the
public tranquility might thus become
endangered. An efficient and vigilant
police force is, therefore, all the more
needed if future disorders are to
be

be avoided.

In the outlying districts the state
of affairs was not very satisfactory. -
Accounts from Hebron and Gaza testify
to mal-administration on the part of
government officials, and to instances
of a fanatical spirit among the
Mohamedan inhabitants. In the former
place the body of the Chief Rabbi of the
Jewish Community, who had just died,
was disinterred and exposed to insult,
and in the latter the Acting Caimakam
manifested his ill-will to the English
Medical Mission, long established there,
by cruelly persecuting two Mohamedans
- one an Egyptian - who (although not
apostates

the habit of frequenting the Mission.
 to I regret to state that the Mutessarif
 of Jerusalem seemed rather inclined
 to endorse the proceedings of the
 of Acting Caïmakam, but as a new
 Caïmakam has, in the meanwhile,
 been named to Gaza from Constantinople,
 it is to be hoped that matters
 will somewhat mend in that
 District.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
 Humble servant

John Dickson

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Jerusalem,
February 15. 1905.

No. 7.

Sir,

With reference to my telegram of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that five battalions of Redifs left, in the course of last week, this Mutenarifat by land for Akaba, where it is stated they will embark for Yemen.

Three of these battalions started from Jerusalem, and were to proceed across the Jordan to be conveyed by the Damascus-Mecca

Walter Townley, Esq.
His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires
Constantinople

General Beckton

No. 6

Recd? Feb 3

By Post.

Mutunarifats of Jerusalem

reporting on condition of
during winter ended

Dec. 31. 1904.

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