or reservation applicable to the case.

The said Kassas holds a certificate from the Military authorities exempting him from Military service in recognition of his service as Consular Guard.

A Copy of this report is, as directed, transmitted to Mr. Straus through the Consulate General.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant

Consul

No. 48

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, April 26, 1888.

Honorable George L. Rives,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington D. C.

Sir:

Referring to your Circular of the 9th ultimo, I have the honor to present the following

Report upon Rice and Sugar.

Rice is not grown in Palestine; and Sugar is never manufactured here. Though the Sugar cane is grown in small quantities at Jaffa and Ramleh, it simply is used for chewing; and is sold for from two to four cents per cane.

Along the coast of Syria, where it is more abundantly produced, and is of better quality, it retails at about one cent per cane.

The fertile plains of Sharon and the Valley of the Jordan would produce the sugar cane in great abundance; and it not being more largely grown and profitably manufactured, is only another instance of the



anomalous condition of things existing in this country.*

It is perennial here, and where once planted does not require renewal; but when cut down, shoots out canes from the original stump or stock, without the least cultivation. The cane grows from five to ten feet in height, and "tassels" or flowers in the month of February. The canes are cut from January to March, and, during that time, may be found in the Jerusalem market. They are much used by the natives, but only in the way above mentioned viz: for chewing. Used in this way, it is considered wholesome and fattening, those indulging in it soon showing its effects in their improved appearance, and the smoothness and delicacy of their complexion.

As there is little or no cultivation connected with the production of the cane, and as labor is cheap, the wages of the fellah (peasant or common laborer) being about twenty four cents per diem, finding himself, sugar could be produced here at reasonable prices.

Market prices.

As to prices ^of rice and sugar, there is no change at different seasons, unless when the market is overstocked, when the prices decline; or when, through quarantine regulations, or other causes, the market is short, when prices advance, in the case of sugar sometimes reaching eight cents per lb., or more.

At the present time, Rice retails at the following prices.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| From England ..... | 3½ | cents per lb. |
| " Izmir | 4 to 4½ | " " " |
| Egyptian (red) | 3 to 4 | " " " |

The present retail prices of Sugar are as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| White sugar, granulated or crushed (from Trieste) | 5½ | per lb. |
| " " " " (" Marseilles) | 6 | " " |
| Brown sugar (Egyptian) | 5 | " " |

The Duty.

The import duty on both rice and sugar is 8 per cent., ad valorem. The export duty, were any rice or sugar exported, would be about one per cent, ad valorem.

As rice is not grown, and sugar is not made here, as already stated, I have considered it unnecessary to enter into

further details on the subject.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Consul

* It may be of interest to state, in this connection, that at Jericho, in the Jordan Valley, are still seen the ruined remains of ancient sugar mills; but, from time immemorial, no sugar has been made there.

Twenty years ago, in Palestine, sugar was used by the natives as a medicine only; and even now, its employment by the peasant and poorer classes is strictly medicinal.

No. 49.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, April 29, 1888.

Honorable George L. Rives,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington D. C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of circulars dated the 23d and 26th ultimo.

Referring to the former I beg to state that the revised Consular regulations of 1888, and the extra copy of the same for Consular Agency have not been, as yet, received at this office.

I have also to report that no copy of Commercial Relations has been received since that for the years 1884 and 1885.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant

Consul



No. 50.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, April 30, 1888.

Honorable George L. Rives,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to request that there may be sent this office a full supply of all the blank forms used in the service, say fifty of each, with the exception of the Invoice blanks, of which 100 of each should be sent.

It is also requested that the following supplies may be forwarded to me, with the foregoing, at your earliest convenience:-

1 Ream Letter paper, ruled; 10⅛ × 8⅛ in.
50 Envelopes 10 × 7½ inches.
1 Box Easter Brooks's senate pen, No 77.
1 " Oreka Engrossing pen, No. 3.
1 Gum bottle and brush.
2 4 Flags, 2 of 12 feet, and 2 of 6 feet long.

The last similar request made for this Consulate was under date of January 28, 1887, despatch No 13; but a number of the articles then requested were not supplied.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant

Consul