United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, Aug. 28th, 1899.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir

In answer to yours of July 31, 1899. I inclose herewith voucher for fuel for quarter ending June 30, 1899. The triplicate voucher is on file here, properly, so I do not know how the omission occured.

Respectfully Your obedient Servant
(Signed) Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul

Your despatch No 25 August 2 is just at hand relating to above subject, and answered as above.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, Sept. 5, 1899.

To the chief of the Bureau of Foreign Commerce
Washington, D. C.

Sir

In compliance with your request on page 4 Circ. July 10, 1899. "Commerce and Industries" I will send such report as possible for me to send sometime during this month.

During the hot summer commerce, especially in quarantine times which we are now enjoying, is at a stand still, and facts and statistics are hard to obtain in the best of weather, - still I will do what I can. Could I introduce American goods in proportion to the efforts I make towards that end, - this country would be flooded with them.

Yours sincerely
(Signed) Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul

No 17

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria Sep. 6th 1899

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir;

I inclose herewith petition of Shukri Jacob Moussa, Dragoman of the United States Consulate in Jaffa, to the Department of State asking for a small pension for his aged Mother whose husband was for twenty five years Dragoman without pay in the Consulate at Jaffa.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant
(Signed) Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul

No 18

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, September 9th 1899

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir;

The Government of Holland has recently established a Vice Consulate in this City and a German, Mr. C. Schoeman who is engaged in business here, has been appointed to the post and, on the 10th of June, entered upon the duties of the office. Hitherto for many years our own consulate has done for the subjects of Holland any friendly

friendly service that from time to time was required; but that necessity no longer exists. Our services consisted in helping travellers in various ways and in helping Jews out of trouble. Formerly we did the same thing for the Swiss, but for a number of years past they have been assisted by the German Consulate. Friendly offices we still do for the occasional visitors from Mexico and the South American States, as it is most natural for them to look to us, their nearest neighbor, in such matters.

I take this opportunity to present to the Department a conspectus of the different Consulates in Jerusalem and Jaffa, up to the present date, giving the name, rank of the officers, number of employees, honorary employees, salaries, rent, ownership of Consular buildings, and some other facts which may be of interest.

There are ten Consulates in Jerusalem.

Holland. Vice Consul No Salary
" Dragoman Honorary
" Kawass Servant of the Consul paid, clothed, by him.
Office in his place of business. Two thirds of all fees retained by the Consul and one third sent to the Consul in Beyrout.

Russia.	Consul General	Salary	$5,000
"	Chancellor	Salary	" 2,000
"	Dragoman	Salary	" 1,600
"	2nd Dragoman	Salary	" =,744
"	3rd "	Salary	" =,648
"	Jewish Clerk	Salary	" =,624
"	Native Clerk	Salary	" =,336
"	1st Kawass	paid	" =,192
"	2nd Kawass	paid	" =,168
"	3rd Kawass	paid	" =,168
"	4th Kawass	paid	" =,168
"	For incidental expenses of the Consulate the Government allows per annum		" =,400

Kawasses have, extra, one new suit every two years.

Every thing is paid for by the Government, stationery, flags, ceremonies, &c.

The ceremonies obligatory upon the Russian Consulate chiefly ecclesiastical which means political, are very many and very costly.

The 1st Dragoman is a person in the Consular Career.

The 2nd and 3rd dragomans are natives of this country.

The Government owns its consular buildings which are also the private residence of the Consul.

The Government likewise owns a large house where all the employees, except the Kawasses, have rent free. This is in addition to their Salaries.

German	Consul	Salary	$ 3,375
"	Chancellor	Salary	" 1,250
"	Dragoman	Salary	" = ,975
"	Clerk	Salary	" = ,600
"	1st Kawass	Paid	" = ,180
"	2nd Kawass	Paid	" = ,180
"	3rd Kawass	Paid	" = 180
"	4th Kawass	Paid	" = 180

The Kawasses provide their own clothes.

Government pays all miscellaneous expenses, stationery, flags, &c.

Government owns its consular building no office rent, no house rent.

No Vice Consul

No honorary employees

The "Clerk" is a German.

Austria	Consul	Salary	$ 2,500
"	Dragoman	Salary	" = ,600
"	1st Kawass	Paid	" = ,180
"	2 Kawass	Paid	" = ,180

Government pays clothes of Kawasses, each a new suit every two years $50 " = ,100

Consul allowed for all miscellaneous expenses 1,900

From this sum $400 is paid for rent.

French

French	Consul General	Salary	$ 4,400
"	Chancellor	Salary	" 1,400
"	1st Dragoman	Salary	" = 700
"	2nd Dragoman	Salary	" = ,480
"	3rd Dragoman	Salary	" = ,240
"	1st Kawass	Paid	" = ,145
"	2nd Kawass	Paid	" = ,145
"	3rd Kawass	Paid	" = ,145
"	4th Kawass	Paid	" = ,145

Each Kawass receives extra, annually, for new clothes 60 dollars, total " = ,240

The 1st Dragoman is a person in the Consular Career.

The Consul pays from his salary his own house rent.

No Vice Consul

No honorary dragoman or Kawass.

Government pays all other expenses, stationery, flags, &c. Official fees are reported to the Government.

Greek	Consul	Salary	$ 1,600
"	Dragoman	Honorary	"
"	One Kawass	Paid	" = ,150
"	Consul allowed for rent		" = ,400
"	" for ceremonies		" = ,200
"	" for stationery &c.		" = ,100

The Kawass finds his own clothes.

Official fees are reported to the Government.

The Consul has almost no office work, duties chiefly ceremonial (ecclesiastical)

Have almost no Jews, were got rid of at time of war between Greece and Turkey in 1897.

Spanish

Spanish Consul Salary $2,000
" Dragoman Honorary
" One Kawass Paid " = .144
" Kawass has extra every two years for clothes " = .040
One Kawass, old, who draws a pension per month " = . 4
Consulate is the property of the Government.

There are very few Spanish people, or subjects here, and the Consul has practically no business, and no fees.

The large number of "Spanish Jews" in Jerusalem are all Turkish subjects, their ancestors having settled here centuries ago.

Italian Consul Salary $3,900
" Chancellor Interpreter Salary " = .720
" Dragoman Honorary.
" 1st Kawass Paid " = .212
" 2nd Kawass Paid " = .212
" Kawasses pay for their own clothes.

Consul pays rent of office from his salary.

Government pays other miscellaneous expenses, flags, stationery &c.

Consul retains fifteen per cent of all fees, the balance goes to the Government.

The Consul has very little business. All ecclesiastics of whom there are many, the Latin Patriarch himself, is an Italian, come under French protection.

English

English Consul Salary $4,000
" Chancellor Salary " = .750
" 1st Dragoman Salary " = 500
" 2nd Dragoman Honorary
" 1st Kawass Paid " = 132
" 2nd Kawass Paid " = 132
" 3 Kawass Paid " = 66

Each Kawass has, extra every year a new white skirt or native dress.

Each Kawass, has, extra, every two years, for a new uniform " = .45

The Salary of the Consul nominally $3,500 but for the supervision of the Jaffa Agency, for the good conduct of which he is responsible, he receives $500, making the amount $4,000 as above stated.

The Chancellor has the official title of Pro. Consul. He is never called Dragoman.

The English system is wholly unlike our own:— The Government knows about what the annual expenses are and makes an allowance, a lump sum, for the purpose of Consular expenses. The Consul pays all bills, rent of Office, Pro Consul, Dragoman, Kawasses, and all incidental expenses from this lump sum. The only exceptions are flags, postage, and telegrams. The English Consulate does a greatdeal of telegraphing. These exceptions are accounted for by vouchers, for other expenses no accounts are rendered and no vouchers given.

The annual sum allowed for such expenses is $1,750

In case of extraordinary expenses on

on some unusual occasion, the Consul can send in the bill to the Government for payment.

Consul pays from his salary his own house rent.

Consul supervises the Jaffa Agency for a certain sum as above stated, but he pays his own travelling expenses.

Rent for Consular office is paid from lump sum above mentioned.

United States Consul Salary $ 2,500
" " Vice Consul Not paid
" " Interpreter Salary " =,600
" " Dragoman Salary " =,100
" " 1st Kawass Paid " =,200
" " 2nd Kawass Paid " =,200

Kawasses provide their own clothes.

Government pays rent of office, telegrams, postage, stationery, flags, &c.

Government requires vouchers for every item expended.

Official fees reported to the Government.

Notarial fees retained by the Consul.

The "Interpreter" of the Consulate is always spoken of as Dragoman.

Note:— Whenever "clothes" are mentioned in this report the official suit or dress is meant.

The amount paid for office rent by each consulate cannot be accurately determined since three Consulates are owned by their respective governments, and all except the United States have consular

consular office and residence combined.

The total cost, annually, for each consulate cannot be definitely ascertained; but approximately it is as follows:—

Russia $ 12,048
France " 8,040
Germany " 6,920
England " 5,848
Italy " 5,044
Austria " 4,450
America " 3,600
Greece " 2,450
Spain " 2,212
Holland " =,000

Note. Governments owning consulates in Jerusalem pay no taxes to the Turkish Government.

Governments owning consulates,— German, Russian, and Spanish.

Consulates in consular residence, all except the American.

The Vice Consul of Holland has his office in his place of business.

Kawasses in all the Consulates, are chiefly Mohammedans; a few are Christians.

Dragomans in all the Consulates are natives or Ottoman subjects. This is the law.

This does not include the Dragomans who are in the Consular career.

Four Governments have men in the Consular Career, French, German, Italian, and Russian.

Employees in the different consulates including the Consuls:—

Holland 3
Russian 11 3 Russians, Consul, Chancellor and

		and Career
German	8	3 Germans, - Consul, Chancellor and Clerk.
Austrian	4	1 Austrian, - Consul
French	9	3 French, Consul Chancellor and Career
Greek	3	1 Greek, - Consul
Spanish	3	1 Spanish, - Consul
Italian	5	2 Italians, Consul, Chancellor
English	7	1 English, Consul
American	6	2 Americans Consul, Vice Consul

The Chancellor or "Pro Consul" in the English consulate is a native with a United States naturalization and passport and registered in our books as an American subject.

Employees in the Jaffa Consulates:-

Holland	3
Russian	5
German	5
Austrian	3
French	5
Greek	4
Spanish	5
Italian	5
English	5
American	5

Jaffa

The same governments are represented and there are the same number of Consulates as at Jerusalem.

Austria. Consul Salary $ 800
" Dragoman Honorary
" Kawass Paid " 120
The Consul's title of "Consul" is honorary

Consul

Consul receives as Post Master of Austrian Post Office, from the Austrian Lloyd Company $ 400
Consul does not trade

France. Vice Consul Salary $ 1,600
" two Dragomans Honorary
" 1st Kawass Paid " -,95
" 2nd Kawass Paid " -,95
Consul allowed for incidentals " =,400
Consul does not trade.

Germany. Vice Consul Salary $ 2,500
" Secretary Salary " -,600
" Dragoman Salary " =,350
" 1st Kawass Paid " -,110
" 2nd Kawass Paid " =,110
" Consul does not trade.

Greece. Vice Consul Salary $ 980
" Dragoman Honorary
" Two Kawasses Unpaid
" Consul does not trade.

Spain Vice Consul. Salary $ 400
" Two Dragomans Honorary
" Two Kawasses Unpaid
Consul is allowed to trade.

Russia Vice Consul Salary $ 2,400
" 1st Dragoman Salary " -,500
" 2nd Dragoman Honorary
" 1st Kawass Paid " =,145
" 2nd Kawass Paid " -,145
" Consul allowed for incidentals " =,400
Consul does not trade.

Italy

Italy. Consular Agent Not paid.
" Two Dragomans Honorary.
" Two Kawasses Not paid.
Consul acts as Vice Consul for Portugal and Roumania.
Consul allowed to trade.
Consul receives 70 per cent of the fees.

Holland. Vice Consul. Not paid.
" Dragoman Honorary.
" Kawass Not paid.
This Vice Consulate established recently.

England. Consular Agent Not paid.
" Two Dragomans Honorary.
" Two Kawasses Not paid
Consul receives one half the fee.
Consul does not trade.
Consulate under direct supervision of the Consul at Jerusalem.

United States. Consular Agent Not paid.
" " Two Dragomans Honorary.
Two Kawasses Not paid.
Consul has one half the official fees.
Consul allowed to trade
Consul has flags, stationery, etc. gratis, &c. from the Government

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Registration

Registration and Number of Subjects

England. British born 120
Jews 250
Registration is annually, five shillings. Omission to register involves a fine of forty shillings. Where not due to culpable negligence the party is obliged to pay only for the back years during which he has omitted to register.
Included in their "subjects" is a class of "protected Jews," Jews who have gone to some British Colony where they could become naturalized after a residence of three years. They become naturalized, take their oath that they will always reside in the Colony, and the next day or week with their naturalization papers in their pockets they start for Jerusalem. This practice became so common that the Government had to interfere to control it. This class are registered, receive certificates of "protection", and as soon as they misbehave their protection is withdrawn.

France. French born 250
Jews 200
Registration for native born is annually $ 1,00
Registration for protected subject is " 2,00
The class called "protected subjects" are chiefly Jews from the French Colonies, to whom the same rules apply as in England and for the same reason. The native born French are mostly priests, monks, Nuns.

Italy

Italy. Native born 300
Jews 10

Registration is annually $2.00. For poor people it is forty cents.

Outside of priests, monks, nuns, they have only twenty five or thirty people.

Greece. Greek born 150
No Jews

Registration varies from 40 cents to $8.00 A "Council" decides as to the means of the party and the amount to be charged. This money goes to the support of the consulate.

Greek subjects belong chiefly to the religious orders.

There is a curious law that if a man, Greek born, becomes a priest he at once and thereby becomes a Turkish subject.

Births are registered without charge, but if there is a delay in registration of more than six months the parents are subject to a fine of dollars.

Austria Subjects about 3,000
Have less than ten Austrians in distinction from Jews
Have no naturalized subjects.
Most of their subjects are Jews born in Austria.
Registration annual, fee $1.00

Holland

Holland. Native born 10
Jews 25
Registration annual fee $2.00

Spain. Subjects native born 1
Jews 120
Registration annual and certificate given $6.00
One certificate serves for a single family.

Russia. Subjects native born 200, - estimated.
Jewish Officials, - 4,000 to 5,000 estimated by the consulate.
No register of any kind is kept
There is no fee, - and no penalty.
Passports are good for 5 years, and after that time the holder must renew it at or through his own home that is his place of residence in Russia. If a person comes to the consulate with his passport in proper order he is recognized.

There are thousands of Russian Jews in Jerusalem that have never reported themselves to the Consulate and whom the Consulate does not recognize in any way and does not wish to have anything to do with. The Consulate simply ignores them.

From 3,000 to 4,000 Russian Pilgrims visit Jerusalem every year. The last season the pilgrims numbered 6,000. This was an exceptional year. The

The magnitude of the Russian Establishment in Jerusalem is simply surprising. They have a compound surrounding by a massive wall twelve feet high, comprising twelve or fifteen acres where are grouped the Consulate, Church, Hospital, Hospital for Contagious Diseases, Pilgrim House for Men, Pilgrim House for Women, the Archimandrite's Establishment, the Administration Buildings for the Palestine Society, and the Employees' Building outside, which together with the land must easily be worth one Million or one Million and a half dollars. They have vast property besides, but I mention only the group of buildings connected with what are called The Russian Consulate grounds.

America. Subjects American born 50
Jews 800

A register is kept in the Consulate, this the Government requires, but it does not require any of our citizens to register. Some citizens register willingly, others do so with reluctance, and others decline to be registered at all. For the lack of a regulation of this kind it is very difficult for the Consul to keep a list of American citizens. This matter ought to be corrected by our Government.

There is no fee for registration, another thing that ought to be corrected

America continued.

corrected.

There have been thirty or fifty arrivals of Jews this summer who are not yet counted, and there are many others whom we cannot get to register. The number 800 is approximate (see next page).

In regard to the Jews, subjects of the different consulates, I have given definite numbers. But for well known reasons Jews do not like to report themselves to the Consulates and it is difficult to obtain exact figures. Still the numbers stated must approximate nearly to the actual numbers.

Since the time of the Crusades France has considered herself the natural guardian of the Holy Places of Jerusalem and Palestine, and hence it comes that whoever is connected in any way with these places, to whatever Catholic country they may belong, is under the protection of France. Hence it follows that a very large proportion of all the ecclesiastics of this country receive French protection. This has always been acquiesced in by the ecclesiastics themselves, but in recent years the Italian, Austrian and German governments have protested against their people being treated politically as French subjects. The matter is at the present time being seriously agitated.

The Russian and French Governments do not allow their official consular

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correspondence to pass through the Turkish mail, but each Consulate has a special postal messenger who goes back and forth between Jerusalem and Jaffa with all official letters.

The Spanish custom of allowing a small pension to a person who has all his life been a faithful servant of that government in its consulate, seems very reasonable and one to be highly commended.

The attention of the Department should be called to the very efficient service rendered by our two dragomans, or our Interpreter and Dragoman. More competent men could not be found. For precisely similar service Russia pays $3,952 France pays $2,820, Germany pays $1,575 and England pays $1,250; while the United States is willing to pay only $700. The Dragoman and Clerk service in our Consulate should be raised, in compensation, to $900 or $1,000 at once. Considering the competency of the men and the amount of work done by them as compared with other consulates, work which is constantly increasing because of the influx of Jews, - the increase in salary would be only a matter of simple justice.

Regretting the length of my Report, I remain

Respectfully your Obedient Servant

(Signed) Selah Merrill

U. S. Consul

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, September 15th 1899

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir,

Your despatch No. 26 August 24th 1899, leaves the matter of loss by exchange still open and as there will not be time to receive your "Further instructions" as promised before the papers for the present quarter must be made out, I shall act upon the proposition which I made in my letter of July 17th 1899, a proposition which I consider in every way fair, namely, five per cent, accounted for as follows:—

A dollar is worth 5 francs only.

I am entitled for every dollar, - see Treasury Value of Foreign Coins, to 5 francs and 18 centimes.

That is 3 and 3 fifths per cent

Add one and two fifths per cent (which is not enough) for banker and money changer, will make 5 per cent.

Gold piasters we do not hear of or know about any more than we do of Russian money.

My accounts for the present quarter, September 30th will be based upon the above proposition the justice of which I feel that the Department will perceive at once

I remain Respectfully Your Obedient Servant

(Signed) Selah Merrill

U. S. Consul