citizens of Hebrew race and need that I have any authority to interfere. In all such cases, I need scarcely say, I am always ready to use my good offices to the full extent of my power.

In conclusion, I have only to add that, in the case now under consideration I have given the Rabbi Bar Cohen all the assistance he requested, giving him nine recommendatory certificates, addressed to as many of the congregations, over my signature and the seal of the Consulate, and which he assures me will be productive of the result desired.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Henry Gillman,
Consul.

Note: It would appear that the large amount mentioned as constituting the Hebrew Relief Fund of Jerusalem must be greatly over estimated; but I have given it as stated to me.
(Sgd.) H. G.

Annual Report on the Commerce and Industries of Palestine for year ending September 30. 1889.

The Harvest.

The unusual copiousness of the early rains the past season gave promise of an abundant and goodly harvest in all the crops of both the field and garden. Though this promise was fairly realized as regards a great part of Palestine, for various reasons, the expectation was hardly fulfilled with respect to the crops on the Plains of Sharon and Philistia. In these wide and important tracts the harvest was, in general, below the average, producing the consequent depressing results.

The rainy season.

The average annual rainfall at Jerusalem is about

25 inches; and this is intensified by the fact that the maximum amount of the fall is confined to little more than three months; as between the "former" or "middle" and "latter" rains, there are usually intervals of several weeks' duration in which rarely any rain falls, and during the dry season — from May to October, there is no rain whatsoever. During the height of the rainy season the sudden bursting of the overcharged rain-clouds and consequent down pour — are of a tropical character in force & volume. Torrents like small rivers gather in a few minutes, and rush through the streets, or pour over the hillsides with a violence that is often destructive to property, and sometimes to life. An instance of the latter occurred about two years ago, when during an excessive rain-storm a number of persons, mostly peasants, sought shelter in a cave not far from Jerusalem. The streams, from the sudden rain-burst, swelling to a flood, tore through the neighboring ravines, and filled the cave with such rapidity, that before its inmates could escape, thirty-five of them lost their lives through drowning.

An unprecedented Rainfall.

There is much variation in the character of the rainy season, and in the distribution of the rain-fall. In some years the maximum precipitation occurs in the early part of the season, while in others it is reserved till towards the close. But as a general rule the great volume of the rain-fall takes place at the middle of the season, the "former" and "latter" rains being usually of the character of gentle or moderate showers. In the past year, however, a remarkable phenomenon occurred, all the more remarkable as succeeding a year of drought, nearly the entire of the 25 inches of rain, which constitute the average annual rain-fall, (or exactly 24.710 inches) were precipitated in about two months, or between the end of October and the 31st of December 1889. Before the latter date, the cisterns of Jerusalem were not alone all filled, but were over-flowing, something said to be unknown

pastures, even at the close of the rainy season, and certainly unheard of for at least many years.

The Cereal crops.

As already mentioned, so far as the great plains are concerned the harvest of wheat and barley failed to realize the promise of the early rains, which was not sustained by the rainfall of the remainder of the season, which came irregularly, though it reached the unprecedented amount of 35.620 inches. The deficiency or the unequal distribution of the rainfall is the principal cause of the shock coming of the harvest, so frequently complained of. And this probably can only be remedied by increased cultivation of the soil, and the planting of trees adapted to the climate. The former fertility of the land, of which so much is said in ancient records, in all probability was due to the woods and forest of which it has long ago been denuded. But though wheat & barley on the plains were each but a middling crop, both Doura and sesame have given a handsome yield, and have proved of excellent quality this season. Doura (Sorghum cernuum) is extensively planted all over the Plains of Sharon and Philistia, and more sparingly in the hill country and in the valleys around Jerusalem. On the plains this crop is ripe in September, but in the hill country it is not harvested till much later in the season. It is largely exported to England and Germany, where it is employed for the manufacture of alcohol. Sesame (Sesamum orientalis) is cultivated everywhere in Palestine. The seed being rich in oil, is in great demand, and always finds a ready sale. It is also exported to Europe.

The Orange, Lemon Olive and other Fruits.

The Orange crop of Jaffa and its neighborhood, this fruit being in season from November to May, inclusive, was scarcely reasonably good in quality and quantity. The Lemon crop was hardly of its usual abundance and excellence. Both of these fruits and

others of their tribe, such as the lime & citron, owing to the prevalence of siroccos winds, do not promise even as good a result the coming season. Olives have given an exceptionally fine yield. They do best on the elevated lands and in the mountainous regions. They were always of inferior quality on the plains, and in the vicinity of Jaffa, the culture of the orange is fast being substituted, so that there the olive is rapidly disappearing. In fact, for almost all other kinds of fruits the past season has been an unusually favorable one. Grapes were of fine flavor and size, and yielded an abundant vintage. Apricots, peaches, plums, figs, pomegranates and melons were not only exceptionally good, but were a much longer time in market than usual. A like remark may be made as to all the ordinary garden and field vegetables of the country.

Prices of Produce.

The following statement gives the prices current in the Jerusalem market per measure of 48 lbs.; for some of the principal products of the soil:—

Wheat	from	45¢	to 70¢
Barley	"	30	" 40
Doura	"	40	" 50
Peas	"	$1.10	
Beans		$1.50	
Flour	from	12¢	to 16¢ per rotol (6 lbs).
Grapes	"	$3.50	to $7.00 per Kantar (600 lbs).
Olive oil	"	" 2.80	to 3.00 per gal.

Commerce and Business.

The condition of Commerce and business throughout Palestine gives as yet little or no indication of revival. Various causes have operated during the year to depress trade and industry, and among them may be mentioned the unusually severe epidemic of fever, which afflicted the entire country for several months. Added to this, the calling out of the peasants for the Reserves, owing to the insurrection in Crete, had a most injurious influence, as the withdrawal of so many producers from active life must always have. For a time

there was an almost complete stagnation of business, with much distress in many directions. It is hoped that the construction of the railroad from Jaffa to Jerusalem will prove the forerunner of an era of better things, stimulating industry and leading to other improvements. But this will probably be a work of time, and no immediate benefit of magnitude can be expected from it.

The Fever Epidemic.

The wide-spread severity of the fever from which this province suffered through the greater part of the Summer months and into the autumn, seems to demand more than merely a passing notice. Becoming epidemic, there were few families that did not suffer from the scourge; thousands of individuals being prostrated by it at the same time. This fever, of a malarial bilious type, is what is generally known as the dengue. Not only was it prevalent all along the shores of the Mediterranean and on the low-lying plains, but it passed up into the mountains, an unusual feature of the disease, so that the consequent interruption to business was of a most serious character. But it must be admitted that Jerusalem during certain seasons of the year is scarcely ever free from malarial and other fevers of a more or less dangerous form.

The Insurrection in Crete.

In the month of July a large part of the Turkish troops were withdrawn from Palestine and Syria, their destination being the Island of Crete where they were required to preserve order in the revolt which had broken out against the Ottoman Government. Early in August, the Government having already called out the troops constituting the reserve Guard (Ashtat), in connection with this insurrection, made an additional call, ordering out the war Reserves (Redif). As I have already mentioned, the withdrawal

of so large a number of the male population from the active pursuits of life, could not but prove of serious detriment to the material interests of a country already so impoverished.

Improvements in Jerusalem.

About half a mile of carriage road has been made within the walls, leading from the Damascus Gate to the Local Government House; while an equal amount of stone pavement has been made in the streets. A well-paved street has also been opened through the ancient ruins of the Hospice of the order of St. John of Jerusalem. During the year forty new houses have been built, mostly of a substantial character, while repairs and additions have been made to about one-half that number. The Russian Hospice, an imposing building of finely cut stone, and erected especially by the Russian Government for the accomodation of its pilgrims to Palestine, has been very nearly finished. The cost of this extensive structure amounts to about £15,000.

A New Gate opened.

The opening of a new gate through the old wall of the ancient city is an event worthy of being chronicled. For convenience of intercourse, it was considered necessary to open a gate near the north-west corner of the city wall, and close to the so-called Tower of Goliath. And this has been accomplished within the past few months, a street being laid out in connection. The new gateway differs from all the others in the battlemented city walls in the point that it gives direct entrance, all the ancient gateways being L-shaped.

Roads in Palestine.

The road from Jaffa to Jerusalem has, at length, been completed, and, to the great convenience of travellers, presents a fine, macadamized carriage way throughout

About one-third of the road to Jericho has been finished, as has nearly one-half that to Ain Karim, the birth-place of St. John the Baptist; while the road to Beit Jallah has almost entirely been built.

The Jaffa Railroad.

On the 15th of August last the party of French engineers, charged with making the preliminary survey for the railroad between Jerusalem and Jaffa, arrived in this city and entered upon their duties, a firman for the construction of the road, as previously reported, having at last been granted by the Sultan. The present carriage road is about 40 miles long; but it is probable from the final surveys and estimates, that the railroad will be somewhat longer, or about 50 miles in length. As to the route, it is proposed that starting from a point on the coast immediately north of Jaffa, it will pass through the German Colony of Sarona, and, crossing the Plain of Sharon near the towns of Ramleh and Lydda, enter the hill country, passing not far from Colonia, & approaching Jerusalem through the Plain of Rephaim, and close to the German Temple Colony near the Bethlehem road. All the preliminaries have now been completed, and it is expected that the construction of the railroad will be commenced at the close of the winter or early in the spring. After so many years of disappointment, it would now appear that the people of Palestine are, at last, to be gratified in having this railroad. A great part of the route lies through the fertile and comparatively level Plain of Sharon, and even in the hill country of Judaea there are no engineering difficulties of any consequence to be surmounted. Expectation runs high as to the looked-for benefits to be derived through this improvement, including an increase in the number of visitors, and the development of the agricultural

and industrial resources of the country.

Visitors to the Holy Land.

During the past year the visitors to Palestine were in greater numbers than ever. Each succeeding year brings a larger number of pilgrims than the preceding one. Of the wealthier and more respectable visitors, our own citizens are in excess of any other nationality. This adds largely to the duties of the Consulate, as the various good offices to be performed for these citizens are numerous and onerous, and in case of any of them getting into difficulties with the residents or local authorities the intervention of the Consul is always required. Our resident citizens are a fruitful source of anxiety and care, demanding constant interference and protection in their social and commercial dealings.

Discovery of the Bethesda.

Of the more remarkable discoveries in the ancient city during the year, that of the Bethesda is of paramount interest and importance. As is well known, the Birket Israel has in the past been considered as the site of the Bethesda; but the excavations of the Algerine monks under the ruins in the rear of the Crusader Church of St. Anne have gradually transferred opinion in favor of the latter locality. This was strengthened by the discovery of a rock-hewn pool containing water, beneath three successive structures. Subsequent excavations revealed the remains of two tiers of five arched porches, the lower, for being in the pool. The intelligent labors of the monks, who are in charge of the property, have been further rewarded recently by the recovery of another pool, containing a good supply of water, to the westward of that first discovered, the latter agreeing with the descriptions of the Bethesda as given by the Fathers of the Church and Christian pilgrims and writers as early as the 4th century. The correspondence in number of the five porches to those mentioned in the gospel of St. John (v. 2) will not escape notice. Steps cut in the rock lead down into the water. An ancient Christian church

in ruins, surmounts the entire. The remains of the upper tier of porches extend above the pool at right angles from the north wall of the crypt beneath the church, in which the apse, at the east end, though dilapidated, is still distinctly defined.

On clearing away the debris that choked the fifth porch westward of the apse, all these discoveries culminated in the revealing the remains of a painting or frescos upon the plaster of the wall in the rear. This discovery was made just before Easter, or about April 18th last, the frescos represent an Angel as if descending into and troubling the water, which latter is depicted by conventional zigzags and wavy lines of an olive-green, shaded with black, more suggestive of Egyptian hieroglyphics than of modern art, and surrounding the figure on every side. The right hand of the angel was shown as uplifted; but this has been carefully destroyed, probably by the Moslems, after their sabbath, in the early days of their power. So also the face of the angel which has been battered so as to be completely obliterated. The glory or nimbus above the head, painted an orange-yellow, still remains, however, but little injured. The edge of the pool appears to be indicated by a broad red line inclosing the painting, and having an accessorial rectangular projection into the water, perhaps representing steps, or the piers for the porches. To the east of this fifth barrelled arch (the wall extending at right angles) are the remains of another figure, also in frescos, much defaced, and supposed to represent the Saviour. Above the head, evidently intentionally mutilated, is a portion of the nimbus, and in the lower outer corner of the painting, part of a blue robe. It is to be regretted that these frescos, the colors of which were quite bright when first uncovered, have since greatly faded, so that the blue is now a dull ashy gray. The reds and yellows, however, though lowered in tone, preserve their hues somewhat better.

To summarize, these discoveries are as follows: First comes the rubbish covering the ruins, and built upon by the more or less modern Turkish houses; next beneath is the small church with apse; under this the crypt with five porches, containing the frescos; and, fourth and last, underneath all, is the pool itself, cut in the solid rock, and with five arches of well-preserved masonry. This last, from the historical and other evidence, I have not the slightest doubt is the Piscina Probatica — the veritable Pool of Bethesda.

Imports from the United States.

It would seem that with judicious management and intelligent agencies a larger demand for various goods manufactured in the United States might here be stimulated, while a market for some articles which have not yet been introduced might be created. The superiority of our cotton textiles is unquestionable, and is generally recognized. There is no reason why, with proper representation, they should not secure a good share of the trade. Cotton textiles are imported into this district from England, to the amount of $120,000 per annum. I constantly receive many enquiries on this subject from our American merchants, to which I always give prompt and careful attention, doing what lies in my power to foster the introduction of this class of our goods as well as others into this market. My report upon the Cotton textiles imported into this district, under date of July 18th last, gives full particulars, & renders it unnecessary I should say further upon the subject. Among other of our manufactures which should find a ready market here are, sewing machines, fire-pumps, agricultural implements, carpenters & other tools, stoves & ranges, cooking utensils, cutlery, hardware of various kinds, labor saving machinery, improved lamps, grinding mills, novelty manufactures, engines and boilers.

Petroleum.

The Petroleum imported from the United States, which in 1888 amounted to 10,000 cases has, I regret to report, fallen in the present year, to 1,700 cases; while the import of the Russian oil has reached

reached the surprising figure of 52,000 cases. Notwithstanding, the superiority of the American article is indisputable; and the nearness of the Russian market and the slightly cheaper price of the Russian oil seem the only reasons why the latter should take the lead. An ordinary case of American petroleum costs $1.25, while an equal amount of the Russian oil can be had for from $1.05 to $1.10. It also takes at least one month more to get an American cargo of oil than to procure a corresponding one from Russia. Besides, smaller quantities may more easily be ordered from the neighboring country. Consequently the dealer in Russian oil may, with smaller investments and less risk, follow the vicissitudes of the Eastern market, and meet the demands of our more or less impecunious population.

Tariff reform.

It may be regarded as the precursor of an impending reform or change in the entire schedule of duties, and a distinct progress in political economy, that, by a recent order of the Sublime Porte, all the products of the weaving manufacture in Turkey, whether of silk, wool, or cotton, have been declared free of all export duty. Other similar reforms are now under discussion.

Declared Exports.

During the year ending September 30. 1889, the value of the declared exports from this Consular district, consisting chiefly of Olive wood work, mother-of-pearl work, Wine and Brandy, is as follows: Quarter ending December 31. 1888, $558.28½; March 31. 89, $1308.59; June 30. 1889, $1747.00; and September 30. 1889 $5779.27; making a total of $4,193.14, being about twice the amount of that of last year.

I have also forward statement of declared value of Exports to the United States from this Consular district for the four quarters ending June 30. 1889, together with list of Productions other than shown by declared Export Table.

Jaffa.

In connection with the expected construction of the Railroad from Jaffa to Jerusalem, great hopes are entertained as to the future of the town of Jaffa and its immediate environs and orange groves. The much-to-be-desired improvement of the harbor is once more revived, and, at this time, apparently with better prospects of its realization, as the new railway company will probably consider it essential to the completion of their plans. As in stress of weather vessels and steamers have frequently to run by for want of shelter, it is unnecessary to dwell on the need of such an improvement.

I herewith transmit the annual returns of exports, imports, and navigation, prepared by Consular Agent E. Hardegg, and which sufficiently explain themselves.

(Signed) Burr Gillman
Consul.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, December 17. 1889

No. 137.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, December 17. 1889

Honorable William F. Wharton
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit herewith my annual report of the Commerce and Industries of Palestine for the year ending September 30. 89. I also transmit Return of the Declared Exports from this Consular district for the year ending June 30. 1889, together with list of Productions other than shown by Export Table.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant

Consul.

Enclosures:
1. Annual Report of the Commerce and Industries of Palestine for year ending Sept. 30. 1889.

2. Return of Declared Exports for year ending June 30. 1889.
3. Productions other than shown by Export Table.

No. 138.

Consulate of the United States
Jerusalem, December 20. 1889

Honorable William F. Wharton
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your respected No. 63 of the 15th ult., also Circular dated 19th ultimo.

I am, Sir
Your Obedt Servt

Consul

No. 139

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, January 1. 1890.

Honorable William F. Wharton,
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I send you enclosed the accounts & returns of this office for the quarter ended December 31. 1889, as per ~~[illegible]~~ joined list of Inclosures.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant

Consul.

List of Inclosures:
1. Digest of Invoice book.

2. Record notarial services.
3. Rent & miscellaneous Expense account.
4. Account Interpreter & guards.
5. List of U. S. Citizens. Jerusalem.
6. " " " Jaffa.
7. Names of Employes U. S. Consulate Jerusalem.
8. Register Official letters sent.
9. " " received
10. Account bonses by Exchange
11. List of letters sent Department.

Names of persons employed at the United States Consulate, Jerusalem, December 31. 1889.

Name	Place	Rank	of what Country citizen or subject	Date of Commission	Date of Expiration
Peter & S. Clark	Jerusalem	Vice-Consul	American	June 25. 1889	Feb. 27. 1889
Habib A. Faraggi	"	Interpreter	Turkish	July 11. 1889	October 12. 1889
Nasr & Hadad	"	Guard	"	April 1. 1876	April 3. 1879
Mohammed & Hassan	"	"	"	July 1. 1889	August 25. 1889
		Jaffa Agency			
Ismail & Hassan	Jaffa	Consular Guard	Germany	October 27. 1871	October 15. 1872
Taub El-Jamma	"	Interpreter	Turkish	Dec. 15. 1871	June 18. 1872
Sh. Ruel Ghoneib	"	"	"	Oct. 19. 1882	January. 1883
Ali Ibrahim El-Zaid	"	"	"	January 1886	January. 1887.