No.113. American Consulate
Jerusalem,Syria,November 12,1906.

Subject:-Clifford E.Nadaud and his Jordan Water Scheme.

The Honorable
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington,D.C.

Sir.

The rule of sendin g business reports without accompanying despatches I have felt compelled to depart from in the present instance because it is exceptional. Col.Clifford E.Nadaud came here with such a strong letter fro the Embassy at Constantinople as seemed to make it incumbent on this Consulate to show him special attention. We accordingly made his introduction to the Governor and other prominent officials easy, and we secured favorable letters to the Prefect of the Jericho and Jordan District,also to the head of the religious establishment of that region which was very important as he has great influence in those parts,to the railroad and custom house officials,and to the agents of the steamer company that is to transport his great and numerous barrels to New York.

Because of his unfamiliarity with the country,with "Turkish methods" of procedure,and with the natives and their characteristics,Col.Nadaud would have had no end of trouble,worry,and expense had it not been for the Consulate.We told him plainly that we could not be partisns,much less partners;still, ithout mixing in the matter in any particularly open way we were able to render him most valuable assistance. The importance of our services he fully appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

This novel scheme scarcely heard of in America,has already filled Palestine with talk and wild ru mors and this has made it necessary for us to act with great caution.We thank we have acted so carefully in this case that hereafter no one can refer to it as a precedent;for it is certain that if Col.Nadaud's project myyts with even meagre success imitators will come forward to create rival companies,and a precedent would embarrass us greatly. For this reason among others,we have felt obliged to caution Col.Nadaud in regard to many things,-in any reference he may wish to make to the general assistance rendered by the Consulate,in the use of the Consul's name and the names of the Consular employees,in giving the names of Turkish officials,in describing their activities in his behalf,and in a number of other particulars,and he has promised faithfully to exercise great discretion.

This despatch and my report sent in duplicate,speak for themselves.The only paper that I have given him is a To Whom It May Concern which I have worded so carefully that it cannot possibly be used as a recommendation of his goods. A copy is inclosed which I trust the Department will approve.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

The River Jordan Water Company.

No greater interest is aroused when one is able to report a new industry connected with the Holy Land. Visitors to this country have always carried away impressions mental or spiritual and likewise there has always been a desire to take away tangible objects. Its marble steps and columns have been carried to Italy; tons of ~~its~~ exquisite shells have been taken from its seashore; loads of its sacred earth have been shipped to Europe and elsewhere; millions upon millions of its lovely flowers have been gathered,pressed,and sent to multitudes of homes in every Christian land; countless photographs of its cities,landscapes,temples, and massive ruins have been sent all over the civilized world; and its antiquities enrich the public and private museums of many countries. For a number of years past the business of collecting and exporting bulbs has been carried on with the result that some of Palestine's choicest flowers have been nearly exterminated in certain places. This is to be deplored,but there seems no way to prevent it. This land can poorly afford to part with any of the charms of its springtide dress which have so long delighted and ~~charmed~~ the eye. There are two things however which men can never take away from this ancient land, one because they cannot,and the other because they do not want to. The stones that form its hills and mountains and cover its fields are not wanted; and of its unparalled or rather divine sunlight this country cannot be robbed.

It seems almost a pity to take away water from this country whose people use so little although they need so much. But this is the new industry that has been launched upon the world,- carrying thousands of tons of water from the Jordan, Palestine's sacred river, to distant America. America will receive the benefit of this new industry,although perhaps no new opening will ~~thus~~ thereby be made for American goods.

A company has been formed,incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey with the title The International River Jordan Water Company,of which the Hon. Clifford E.Madand of Covington, Kentucky,Colonel on the staff of the Governor of that State,is the President. This gentleman has visited Constantinople for the purpose of securing permission from the Turkish Government to act and of complying with any other formalities that were found to be necessary. In this he had the cordial co-operation of the American Ambassador the Hon. John G.A.Leishman who rendered him important service. The names of the men comprising this Company are not yet made public,but they have been named to me and I know them to be gentlemen of integrity and means, two or three of them being persons of prominence. Hence as to its reliable character there can be no question.

Col. Wadaud has been in Jerusalem and has had made to his order fiftythree strong casks which have been most carefully disinfected and cleaned so that the water put into them can have no possible contamination from the casks themselves. These were taken to the Jordan to the traditional place where Christ was baptised, large cauldrons were provided for boiling the water which was first allowed to settle as the river carries a good deal of earthy matter, the water was thoroughly boiled and again purified, and when cool was filtered into the casks.

Each cask contains 600 kilos (a kilo is two and one fifth pounds) making a total of upwards of thirtyfour tons of water from the sacred River of the Holy Land. All the casks bear the seal of the American Consulate in Jerusalem, of the Superior of the Convent of St.John near the Jordan who acts by the direction of Damianos the Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem, and of the Turkish governor of the Jericho and Jordan district. (Yaverdovo)

Every precaution has been taken to insure the genuineness of the water now shipped. To the seals mentioned will be added the receipts of the Railroad Company, the Bills of Lading of the steamers, and also official papers of the Custom House in New York.

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho has a number of very steep gradients and falls 3800 feet in a distance of twentytwo miles. From Jericho to the Jordan the distance is six miles and the difference in level is about one hundred feet. Between these two points there is no made road, wagons go where they can pick their way Thus the labor of getting the casks to Jerusalem was somewhat formidable. Special carts had to be made and three horses (Palestine horses are not like the great dray horses of America) had all they could do to haul one cask at a time from the river to the railway station in Jerusalem. All these difficulties and many more incident to the country and the people, were overcome and the water is on its way to New York, where it will be stored in the Bonded Warehouse of Baker and Williams of that city, and there bottled by a special commission.

Photographs which are inclosed illustrate the work of preparing the water at the Jordan, of hauling it to Jerusalem, and, at the railway station, of some of the casks just before they were loaded on the cars for the seaport at Jaffa.

All this work has required much careful planning, the outlay of much money, and the expenditure of a great amount of perseverance and energy which the gentleman in charge seems to possess in abundance.

Persons who are strangers to this country may not know the character of the Jordan whether its water is filthy or clean. Hence it may be said briefly that few streams of water in the world are freer from contamination than the Jordan. Between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee the distance is 60 miles, but the river by its windings makes a distance of 120 miles. During its entire course there is not a town or village on or near its banks. Jericho is six miles from the river, and besides this place there is no settlement of any kind in the Jordan valley. It is a muddy stream because it flows through alluvial soil, but it is simply

impossible that the river should contain any sewage or any impurities of that kind. When allowed to settle it is perfectly sweet, pure and wholesome.

The Company has been well launched by men of character, and capital and energy, its purpose is unique, novel, and well becoming American enterprise, and it deserves success. It is not for me to say what degrees of prosperity will attend it or the exact amount of returns there will be per dollar of the capital invested.

Nov. 12/1906

To Whom It May Concern

I take pleasure in certifying that Col. Nadaud of Covington,Ky., President of the International River Jordan Water Company of New York City,U.S.A.,has been in Palestine for two months past engaged in a work which illustrates a new phase of American enterprise. He proposed to convey to America in order to supply a want which he and his associates felt existed,many tons of water from the sacred River of Judea.

In carrying out his project he has labored with very great patience and energy and has shipped a great quantity of this water to New York. The Turkish and American authorities whom he consulted in Constantinople gave him encouragement and assistance. The obstacles to be overcome were not a few. For example, the Jordan is about seventy miles distant from the seacoast at Jaffa, and to reach it the mountains of Judea must be crossed which rise 2600 feet above the level of the Mediterranean and 3800 feet above the Jordan itself. From Jericho to the Jordan there is no made road. Casks do not exist and these had to be made of wood brought from Asia Minor. There were no wagons suitable to transport the casks and special trucks had to be made on which to haul the casks from the Jordan to the railway station in Jerusalem. The natives are not accustomed to handle such casks,and there was the constant liability of their being broken in loading and unloading,as sometimes happened.

Col. Nadaud took the utmost pains to insure the absolute purity of the water that was put into the casks. The casks were thoroughly washed and disinfected,and the water was boiled and filtered. The water of the Jordan is as free from contamination as any stream can be for in its entire course between the Dead Se and the Sea of Galilee (sixty miles in a stright line and one hundred and twenty as the river flows) there is not a town,village,or settlement of any description.

One can only hope that the labor and capital invested in this novel scheme wil meet its due reward.

Jerusalem
November 10,1906.

American Consul