No. 179.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, July 14. 1890

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

Sir:

I have the honor to request a leave of absence of sixty days, with permission to visit Europe and England, the leave to commence as early in the month of October next as may be possible. My reason for applying is to obtain change of air and climate to counteract the effects of the fevers of this country from which no resident is exempt, and to which foreigners are especially exposed, and for which change of climate is considered the most effectual corrective and preventive.

I have had no leave of absence since entering on my duties here, with the exception of 27 days in February and March, 1889. See my despatch No. 90, of March 6. 1889.

Our Vice Consul, Herbert E. Clark Esq:, will take charge of the office during my absence.

I am, Sir,
Your obt. Servant,

Consul

No. 180.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, July 30th 1890.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that Herbert E. Clark Esquire, United States Vice Consul at Jerusalem, having suddenly been called to England, by telegram, on important business, I have granted him, subject to the approval of the Department, leave of absence for two months, to commence from the 30th instant.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Consul

No. 181.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, August 1st 1890.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the use of the Agricultural Department, my "Report of the Agriculture and Horticulture of Palestine for the month of July, 1890."

I am Sir,
Your obedient Servant

Consul

Enclosure:
1. "Report of the Agriculture and Horticulture of Palestine for the month of July, 1890."

Report of the Agriculture and Horticulture of Palestine for the month of July, 1890.

The principal work done this month has been the reaping of American Corn. Year after year, this crop is successfully planted in the German and Jewish settlements around Jaffa. The yield this year was sixty fold (one hundred fold being a perfect crop); and the price varies from $1. to $1.25 per bushel. The cultivation of corn may be expected to spread more and more over Palestine & Syria.

The average yield of grapes is good; and as reported last month, the prospects of an excellent vintage still continue, the clusters being finely developed, and of remarkable size. Some of the early sorts, such as Muscat, Lorenzo, Tokay, &c., begin to be ripe, and, though not yet in full perfection, have been gathered in small amounts and brought into the Jerusalem market since the middle of the month. The vineyards in the vicinity of Hebron still retain their high reputation for the superiority of the fruit. Near there is ancient Eshcol, where the clusters of grapes still attain an unusually large size. I have measured a branch eighteen inches in length; and Sir Moses Montefiore had one brought to him of the extraordinary length of thirty inches. So that the story of Joshua's spies, who at the brook of Eshcol cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes which they had to bare between the two, upon a staff, is fully sustained. It must be said, in explanation, that bunches of this sort of grape taper out to a thin straggling point.

Peaches of fine quality have been ripe since the middle of the month, the fruit of the prickly pear being also brought in in great abundance, together with various kinds of melons. The ordinary garden vegetables stock the markets.

United States Consulate,
Jerusalem, July 31. 1890.

(Signed) Henry Gillman
Consul

No. 182.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, August 2. 1890.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to request that a copy of the last issue of the "Register of the Department of State" may be sent to me for the use of this office.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Gillman,

No. 183.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, August 14. 1890.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to present the following report of the work accomplished up to the present date on the Jerusalem and Jaffa Railway:—

The work is still prosecuting under the original French company that inaugurated it; but, as yet, has scarcely little exceeded the preparatory condition.

The company, which is known as "Société des travaux publics et Constructions à Paris", employs but a small number of workmen; and, to an American eye, the work seems to progress at an exceedingly slow rate. A few workshops have been erected at Jaffa; where also a special pier for the landing of the locomotives,