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,

which are due at the end of this month, has just been completed. Several cargoes of sleepers, rails, timber, coal, and other materials have lately been received.

Extensive gradings have been commenced at certain points along the projected line, such as at Ramleh, Jesur, Artuf, and other places; and it is expected the work will be more energetically pushed over the entire route on the arrival of the locomotives.

It is calculated that regular trains will be running from Jaffa to Ramleh before the close of this year. Connection between Ramleh and Jerusalem can be made, over the present excellent macadamized road, by carriage and wagon.

The large number of Americans visiting this country, renders the foregoing information of importance to our citizens.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Consul.

No. 184.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, August 18. 1890

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

Sir:

I have the honor to report that, not having received acknowledgment of the receipt of my despatch No. 141, dated the 14th ultimo, to the Consulate

General, Constantinople, transmitting my despatch No. 178 and 179, dated respectively the 12th & 14th ultimo, to the Department of State, relating accidents, I herewith transmit duplicate of the latter despatch (No. 179), hoping that, if promptly dealt with, the permission for the leave of absence of sixty days, to commence as early in the month of October next as may be possible, which I have therein requested, may yet reach me in sufficient time to be available.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant

Consul.

Enclosure:
1. Mr. Gillman to the Department of State. Duplicate despatch No. 179, of July 14. 1890.

No. 185

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, August 25. 1890.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 76, of the 21st ultimo, expressing the satisfaction of the Department in relation to the apology of the Governor of Jerusalem in the case of the arrest of Moses Angel.

I have also received copies of Acts of Congress No. 159 & 167, No. 145 & 212, and package of blank forms

I am, Sir,
Your obt. Servant

Consul.