American Consulate,
Jerusalem,Syria,November 8,1906.

Subject:-Qualifications of Consular Officers and Subordinates.Answer to Circular dated June 22,1906.

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

Sir:-

The questions proposed in Circular dated June 22 1906,"Qualifications of Consular Officers and Subordinates" in this district,I would answer as follows:-

,Merrill,Selah,Consul. Read Electione and some other works. In Yale College and elsewhere attended some lectures. Considerable experience in civil,ecclesiastical,and probate matters. Had a severe drill in Turkish law as applicable to the rights of American citizens under the Treaty.
Age 69.--------Married,no children.
Languages:-English,German,Arabic (to speak only),Hebrew,and French (to read). Greek (to read).

Gelat,Antoine Thomas. Interpreter. Remarkably well versed in Turkish law.
Age 50.-------Married with several children.
Languages:-Arabic, English, French,Italian,-all well to speak, read,and write.Turkish to speak and read. A little Greek.

Belnstein,David,Interpreter. Knows perfectly the laws pertaining to Jewish courts of justice,-the Beth ed Din or House of Judgment. A very great help this knowledge is in our dealing with our many Jews.
Age 37.------Married,no children.
Languages:Hebrew,German,English,Jewish Jargon better known in America as Yiddish,all to read,speak,and write. Arabic to speak only.

Assad Kasas,Kawass or Guard.
Age 59.------Married with children.
Languages:-Arabic to read,write,and speak.-Is his native tongue.

Francis Tarsha,Kawass or Guard.
Age 66.------Married with children.
Languages:-Arabic only,

Clark,Herbert F. Vice Consul. Educated in this country.
Age 50 .------Married with children.
Languages:-English,Arabic to speak only.

Agency at Jaffa.

Hardegg,Ernest,Consular Agent. No special law studies,- was trained as a merchant. For many years has had constant practise in Turkish and American law in connection with the work of his office and is quite proficient.
Age 67.- -Married and has several children.
Languages: German,English, French to read and write. Arabic, Italian, and Russian to speak only.

Moussa,Shukri,Interpreter and Dragoman.
Age 36.- -Married with one child.
Languages: Arabic,English,French.

Ghoreiyb,Kaiser,Interpreter and Dragoman. Is a prominent phisician. Graduated at the American Protestant College in Beirut,and also at the American Medical College in Beirut.
Age 46.- -Married and has children.
Languages: Arabic,English,French,a little Turkish.

Notwithstanding the fact that in Jerusalem a city of 58,000 inhabitants, over forty languages are spoken,we manage in doing our ordinary work to pinch along with a knowledge of ten languages only,-English,French,German,Italian,Arabic,Turkish,Hebrew, Russian,Greek, and Yiddish or Jewish Jargon,-enough to drive away both cholera and the plague.If at any time a barbarous language comes to the front which we cannot master we can always call in neighbors who can assist us.

In the report made August 5,1896,Mr Gelat's age was given as 42,-it should have been 40.
Mr Gelat has also a good working knowledge of American law having studied it faithfully for the past six or seven years.

I may be pardoned for saying that I suppose the word "qualifications" in the Circular is used in a relative sense. For example:-a consul in Central or South America is able to conduct his consulate properly and to the satisfaction of the Department; but that man in the Jerusalem consulate with its twelve hundred naturalized ignorant Jews would need to control and to extricate from their many troubles and he would very soon get himself into difficulty and the Government into serious international complications.Our citizens living where they "touch elbows" with the citizens of almost every other nationality in the world,and having constant intercourse and dealings with them,and having such charasteristics that quarrels are inevitable,are a source of danger. We try to settle,to arrange,to pacify,to arbitrate,and have thus far succeded in avoiding serious trouble with other governments. I have called attention to this matter before but I sometimes wonder if the Department fully realizes the gravity of the situation existing in Jerusalem.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Consul.

Postscript.-

I have omitted to mention that at the Jaffa Agency there are two Kawasses or Guards,-

Ali es Sant,Age 58.

Ibrahim Umbergi,44.

Arabic is their native language but their are boatmen and they use swear language mostly,-from which all the other employees are free. I hope this language will not be added to the list of ten already given.