Enclosures:
1. Mr. Gillman to Rechad Pacha Gov.,
December 28. 1889.
2. Rechad Pacha, Gov., to Mr. Gillman,
December 12. 1889. (Translation).
3. Mr. Gillman, to Rechad Pacha Gov.,
December 29. 1889. (Translation).
4. Mr. Gillman to Rechad Pacha Gov.,
December 14. 1889.

No. 148.

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

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

Sir:

I have the Honor to enclose herewith the "Agricultural and Horticultural Report for Palestine for month of January, 1890", being for the use of the Department of Agriculture.

I am, Sir
Your obedient Servant.

Consul.

Enclosures:
1. "Agricultural and Horticultural Report for Palestine for month of January 1890.

Agricultural and Horticultural Report for Palestine for month of January, 1890.

Rain in sufficient quantity to soften the hard soil did not fall over the greater part of Palestine this season until January, — rather late in most districts for ploughing, and the sowing of wheat and barley. From the 12th to near the close of the month, the rain-fall was of almost a tropical abundance. Some late ploughing is still being done around Jerusalem.

In places where the irrigation of fields is possible, an early crop of potatoes may be obtained this month; but, for this, they must have been planted in October. The general time for planting potatoes, however, is the month of February. This useful product of the soil, is with us far inferior to that of other countries.

The sweet potato is cultivated here, but in very limited quantities. I have thought that if more extensively produced, especially along the sea coast, where the soil is better adapted to its habit, this vegetable would prove of much value to the poor fellahin.

During January the vineyards have been digged and ploughed; and young vines have been planted out. Each succeeding year, more and more land is appropriated to the culture of the vine, which here flourishes as in few other lands; and the indications are that, in the near future, this will be a noted wine-producing country. At Eshcol, not far from Jerusalem, the finest grapes are still produced, as in the days of Joshua. Single bunches have been found to measure 2½ feet in length, and single grapes commonly measure in length 1½ inch.—

Oranges were shipped from Jaffa during the month at the rate of 5000 boxes per week. The price has ranged from $9.00 to $10. per thousand. But there is sure to be considerable advance in price, as the fruit has been damaged lately by hail.

(Signed) Azariy Gillman
Consul.

United States Consulate.
Jerusalem, January 31. 1890.