Department's circular dated April 17. 1893 relative to the same, and a copy of the United States Quarantine Laws & Regulations of February 24. 1893.

Existing conditions in this Consular district are such as to render it simply impossible for the Consul to make the weekly or even a monthly sanitary report as requested & I take occasion hereby to state this fact lest the failure to receive such report from this district be regarded as neglect of duty on my part.

There is no sanitary board in Jerusalem, no organization or society of medical men who might report on such matters, and no register of deaths; nothing which, in a civilized country, would be expected to exist as a matter of course. Mohammedans, Jews, Greeks, Latins, Armenians, Copts, Abyssinians, Syrians, & Protestants, each busy after their own fashion & no public record is kept.

Should the Cholera or any other fatal epidemic appear I shall not fail to notify the Department at once, by telegraph even should the circumstances seem to require that course.

We learn that Cholera has already appeared in Mecca & for the next four or six weeks the pilgrims who are still there, will be returning & we cannot predict the result. Cholera I believe has never come to Palestine from the south but generally from the north, & the last time it visited Jerusalem was in 1865.

I remain respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant

U. S. Consul.

Cotton Industry

Consular district of Palestine.

Reply to a circular from the Department of State dated Washington, D.C. April 4, 1893.

In this consular district no cotton is raised with the single exception of the region about Gaza where the peasants raise a small quantity the exact amount of which it is impossible to ascertain.

The region about Nablous, north of this Consular district however, is quite a cotton growing country although the amount produced varies considerably from year to year; the annual product may be put there at something like 100 to 125 camel loads or say 50,000 lbs. This is all consumed in the country. The kind and quality are poor and no pains are taken to improve them, the methods of cultivation are also rude and the yield per acre is much less than it might be with proper care. The number of acres under cultivation from year to year it is impossible to ascertain.

Asia Minor is the main source for the supply of all imported raw cotton & about 60,000 pounds are brought into this country, or district, annually.

Dealers pay what represents about nine cents a pound and sell for eleven cents per lb.

As to the manufactured cotton goods it is impossible to tell the amount and value imported since at the custom House they are mixed up with silk and woolen imported goods in such a way that the officials will not separate them for us without special compensation.