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1909.

TURKEY

Jerusalem,  
April 29 1909

No.

Received by *post*

(Subject.)

Consul Blech  
No. 35

Accession of Sultan Mohammed V  
Reports on - and on the state of  
affairs at Jaffa and province generally.

Last Paper.

(Print.)

(Minutes.)

C.  
CMM ✓  
*History* pd

(How disposed of.)

Action  
Completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

Jerusalem.

April 29. 1909.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that, although Mr. Falanga telegraphed to me on the evening of the 27<sup>th</sup> instant that Sultan Mohammed V had been proclaimed at Jaffa amid great popular rejoicing, it was not until nearly noon of the following day that I received from the Mutessarif an official intimation of the accession of the new Sultan. Some attempt at a popular demonstration was made, the Mutessarif held an official

Your Excellency

The Right Honourable

Sir Gerard Lowther, K.C.M.G., C.B.,

reception

reception in uniform, the military band was kept playing until a late hour, and a good deal of firing took place besides the regulation salute of one hundred and one guns from the fort. From Gaza I learn that the news of the late Sultan's deposition was received without enthusiasm by the general public.

Here, as I had the honour to report in my despatch n<sup>o</sup> 31 of the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, public opinion has been throughout ostensibly in favour of the Committee of Union and Progress, and it had even been decided that no funds should be sent to Constantinople as long as the reactionary party were in power.

How

How long these sentiments might have prevailed if the reaction had not been suppressed it is impossible to say. Public order was at no time disturbed at Jerusalem, but at Jaffa some alarm was aroused by the action of a band of blackmailers who have been extorting money from wealthy residents (mostly Ottoman subjects), and I was asked by the British community if there was any hope of a warship being sent to Jaffa.

Had not the situation improved through the late Sultan's deposition, I might have been induced to submit the matter to Your Excellency's consideration. As it is, though I have made strong representations to the Authorities, the blackmailers have not been arrested yet; and from every part

part of the country our medical missionaries report to me the extraordinary number of gunshot wounds which they are called upon to treat, owing to the great prevalence of fighting among the natives, caused by the general relaxation of the force of the law and the weakness of the local Authorities.

I have the honour to be,  
with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's  
most obedient,  
humble servant,

E. C. Blech.