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Jerusalem,
 September 17. 1909

No.

Received by post.

(Subject.)

Consul Blech.
 No 76.

Enlistment of non-Mussulmans for military
 service. Reports on - and remarks
 on the general feeling prevailing

Last Paper.

C

(Print.)

(Minutes.)

(How disposed of.)

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 Colonel Sutees. ✓ to note & deal
 with if necessary

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(Index.)

Next Paper.

N^o 76.

Jerusalem,

September 17. 1909

Sir,

I have the honour to report that for some weeks past the various non-Muslim classes of Ottoman subjects have been much exercised in mind by the prospect of compulsory military service; which has been brought home to them by the fact that the names of all - between the ages of twenty and twenty-six are being enrolled; when the number of those actually liable to service with the colours has been accurately ascertained, the formalities

Excellency

The Right Honourable,

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

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of drawing the lot will be carried out. A marked change is noticeable between the acclamation with which the promulgation of the Constitution was heralded, and the lack of enthusiasm evinced at the prospect of practical effect being given to its provisions for universal military service. I am assured that 250 Jews have already left this district for Europe and America, and the patriotic feeling among the Christians is hardly warmer. Many seem to think that they will experience no difficulty in commuting their military service by the payment of the sum of fifty Turkish lias and the undergoing of three months'

months' drill, and I have no doubt that if resort to this expedient were generally permitted the Ottoman Treasury might raise no inconsiderable sum. But I understand from the Commandant that only wealthy persons will be allowed so to commute their military obligations, and that men who only possess just enough property to pay this substitution-tax will be required to serve with the Colours.

The numbers of the various classes of the population whose names have been enrolled in this district upto the present are:

Greeks 192

Latins

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Latins, 121.
Armenians, 29
Protestants, 80
Jews, 600

The Roman Catholics seem -
especially averse to undergoing military
service, and so far as I can ascertain
are being supported in this attitude by
their ecclesiastical authorities. A
petition has been signed by the Greek
and Latin Patriarchs and is being
circulated among their respective
Communities for signature praying
that the exemption from military service
^{alleged to be}
enjoyed by the inhabitants of Mecca
and

and Medina may be extended also to Jerusalem
on account of the sanctity attaching to that
City.

I have the honour to be,
with the greatest respect,
Sir,
Your Excellency's
most obedient,
humble servant,
E. Delech