Smyrna, Turkey. August 26th, 1903.

The Honorable
Assistant Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report further as follows:

Recuf Pacha, the new Governor-General of Smyrna has arrived and assumed the duties of his post. On the 24th inst., he received the consular corps.

Fuad Bey, Director of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs in Smyrna, and who, by the way, is a grand son of Kiamil, the present Grand Vizier, has gone to Constantinople on an indefinite leave of absence. His place is filled by Medjdet bey, who is a young man of great promise. Early this spring he (Medjdet Bey) was arrested and sent to Constantinople to serve a life-long imprisonment. He returned three weeks ago with his hair turned completely grey. I have hopes that the relations between the Consulate-General and the new administration at the Konak will be of the best.

On Thursday the 20th of August, the first consignment of 900 loads of figs arrived from the interior of Asia Minor; chiefly
chiefly from the Aidin district. As usual, their arrival was heralded by popular rejoicings in the fruit market quarter. Generally speaking, about 70% of the total Smyrna fig crop is exported to the United States, and this gives some idea of the importance of this trade with our country. The major portion of the first arrivals was purchased by two American firms, namely Reiss and Brady, and the Smyrna Fruit Company, both of New-York. On Friday morning packing was started in these two establishments, but almost immediately a strike was declared, and the strikers paraded through the fruit market district with drums and banners. They then broke into the American establishments just named, which were the only ones in operation turned out those who had remained at work, and upset all the baskets of figs. Upon being informed of this, I immediately sent Mr Morton, the Interpreter of the Consulate-General to the Konak with the demand that American interests be promptly and properly protected from any possible excesses on the part of the strikers. Thirty soldiers were sent to the premises, and order was soon restored in the streets. The soldiers were divided into two bands to patrol the quarter, while policemen and gendarmes were further supplied to guard each door of the American fig packing houses. The protection thus afforded enabled those workmen, who wished to do so, an opportunity to begin work. There have been no demonstrations since, and work is going on as well as could be expected under the circumstances. Yesterday the 25th inst. I personally inspected the various American fig packing establishments, and found everything quiet. On being questioned as to their demands the strikers merely stated that they wanted more money, but there seemed to be no unanimity as to the price to be paid. I may state here that the fig packers receive about the highest wages paid in Smyrna, although on the other hand, it must be admitted...
admitted that they have only steady employment for about 3-4 months of each year.

The strike of hands at the dyeing and weaving factory of the Oriental Carpet Manufacturing Co., came to an end on the 24th inst. All have resumed work at a very small advance on the previous wage rate. The factory, however, is still guarded by the soldiers. During an attack on the factory last week, one of the soldiers was killed by a woman striker.

The employees of the Smyrna Cassaba Railway Company are now threatening to strike. On Saturday they put in their demands which are, in brief, as follows:

1. Increase of all salaries of over £5.00 (22 shillings) a month, by 20%

2. Salaries of under £5.00 (22 shillings) are to be raised 30%

3. Abolition of the system of fines.

4. Salaries to be paid on the basis of eight hours work a day, all extra time to be paid for pro rata. For night work the pay should be double.

5. The provisions of the pension fund to be extended to all classes of workmen, which at present is confined only to the higher employees.

The railway authorities have requested the men to continue work until the arrival of the Director-General from Constantinople when the causes of their complaints will be examined. The workmen have agreed to thus, but stated, at the same time, that if their claims are not settled by the 27th they will quit work. The railway employees have the sympathy of all, which is extended more especially to the engine drivers and stokers, who in summer, despite the great heat, are generally on active duty for 17 hours a day.

On Friday last 550 prisoners were brought back from the
prisons of Boudroum and set at liberty in Smyrna. I was witness of how 8 poor fellows, who had been in shackles for 20 years, tried to regain the use of their limbs. As an enormous crowd collected on the quay to watch the removal of the irons the prisoners were placed on a barge which was brought alongside and there as soon as their shackles had been removed they exercised in full view of everybody without danger of being disturbed.

Every steamer from Egypt brings many refugees to Smyrna.

At the end of this week 25,000 bales of licorice belonging to the MacAndrews and Forbes Co. will be loaded on a vessel now anchoring at the Aidin railway pier. Trouble is expected.

Referring to affairs on the island of Samos, reported upon in my No 19 of the 5th inst, I have to state that Kopassi Effendi, has been dismissed as Prince. The 17th painting has been added to the Assembly Hall of Samos.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Signature]

Consul-General.