

Again, in the case of "bills" or notes that require to be protested, how can we protest a note that is signed by a Russian subject and an American subject? Or by an American, an English, and an Austrian subject jointly?

All sorts of matters are involved:—The joint use of a drain:—The joint use of a cistern: of a kitchen: of a gate: of a lane: joint use of a door: joint rights in clothing or other personal property that has been pledged and sometimes sub-pledged: rights of the owner of a house and of the man who sublets it and the rights of the tenants when they all conflict,—matters sometimes which no man on earth can fathom: joint ownership of a horse or a donkey: of a wine shop: a lot of chickens: leasing property: ordering goods from Europe: deeding property by one person when three or more persons have equal rights in it:—These are a few samples. I cannot begin to give a complete list of the scores and scores of petty matters about which disputes arise and petty lawsuits ensue and which not only keep this Consulate busily occupied all the time but keep us anxious as well lest we violate the rights of some other nationality.

The Germans have some strict system of recording all matters pertaining to partnership and business, and I think that some of the other Consulates have similar regulations. But it does not signify whether they have or not; what I wish is to introduce business methods into our control of American subjects residing here and engaged in some sort of trade.

I wish to be allowed to propose such questions as the following and perhaps others as may be found necessary to meet emergencies, to all American subjects engaging in business here, and to have their names and business, their contracts, their conditions of partnership, &c., recorded in the Consulate in a special book.

What is your trade or occupation?

Have you a place of business?

Are you alone responsible for the rent?

What is the approximate value of the goods in your shop?

Are the goods entirely your own?

Are any of them pledged to any party or parties?

The names of the parties and the amount pledged and the conditions?

In case you wish to pledge them you must report the same to this Consulate,—the name of the party, the amount, the terms and all the other conditions.

Have you a partner?

For what portion of the rent are you responsible?

What portion of the goods belong to you?

✓ Name of your partner?

He is required to say that your statements are true.

What share of the proceeds of the business is yours?

What has each to share in case of loss?

Are you entitled to make a contract with a third party without the consent of your partner? Can your partner do the same without your consent? And in case of gain or loss how is your partnership (yourself and your original partner) affected?

It is not ordinary business transactions that trouble us; not even disputes between our American subjects which are often very difficult to decide,—certainly we have trouble enough from these cases; but it is the cases of double and triple ownership of some petty business where two or three nationalities are involved, which are most perplexing and which require to be handled with great caution lest we create international complications which would be very annoying to our Government. In America every case I have in mind would be decided by United States law. In Turkey it is not so:—in the one case everything is simple:—in the other case the complications are many, sometimes rendering any just decision absolutely impossible.

I do not hesitate to urge this matter upon the Department in the strongest manner. It is an instance where the Department can render the Consulate essential and important service. Allowing things to go as they are now and have been hitherto, is unbusinesslike not to say slack, and the occasion of great annoyance. The methods or tricks for evading justice are many and by neglecting to prevent them we simply encourage those who are disposed to take advantage of the circumstances I am describing.

The plan I have proposed would not remove all the difficulties we encounter, but it would be a great help to us in our endeavors to administer justice.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
U.S. Consul.

Postscript:—I will add what I have already reported more than once to the Department, namely, that these merchants and tradespeople do not sell American goods, they import no goods from the United States, they pay no taxes not even a poll tax for the support of our Government, in fact for the support of our Government they do nothing whatever.

Assistant Secretary,
APR 22 1902
Department of State.

Dear Mr. Peirce:-

While it would doubtless aid the consulate to have all this information on record there, there is no authority whatever to require the parties to answer the question or furnish the data indicated.

In any individual case, which may arise, calling for action by the consulate, the consul may, of course, as a prerequisite to extending protection or recognizing citizenship, require the party to furnish evidence or data necessary to determine whether he is entitled to such protection or recognition.

The Department cannot authorize the consul to carry out the plan proposed by him.

F.V.

CONSULAR BUREAU.

Instruct Consul Merrill as outlined by Mr. Van Dyke

H. V. D. D.

Consular Bureau,
APR 23 1902

Assistant Secretary
APR 22 1902
Department of State

Dear Mr. Peirce:
While it would doubtless aid the consulate to have all this information on record there, there is no authority whatever to require the parties to answer the question or furnish the data indicated.
In any individual case, which may arise calling for action by the consulate, the consular may, of course, as a prerequisite to extending protection or recognizing citizenship, require the party to furnish evidence or data necessary to determine whether he is entitled to such protection or recognition.
The Department cannot authorize the consular to carry out the plan proposed by him.

CONSULAR BUREAU

*Consular Bureau Jerusalem
outlined by Mr. Peirce
P. Peirce*

Cons. Bureau
APR 22 1902

U.S. ASST. SECRETARY
MAY 7 1902

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,
CONSTANTINOPLE
Rec'd. April 21-1902
Forw. 21 1902

No. 52.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 7, 1902.

CONSULAR BUREAU

*Previous correspondence
wanted -*

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Ans June 12 1902

Subject .

Moses Lilienthal's registration.
Remarks on fraudulent naturalization.
Increase of naturalized Jews in this Consular district.
The Government grants protection without support.
Special rules needed for this District.
Consul should be authorized to execute the laws.
Permanent residence abroad a great abuse:-the law never executed.
Registration should be compulsory.
Becoming naturalized solely to live in Jerusalem and be under American protection.
Consul's efforts to protect the Government from fraud.
Consul urges the Department to give the matters treated in this despatch its most serious attention.

*88
Mar 22
Mar 12/01 from Bureau*

Consular Bureau
MAY 12 1902

No. 52.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 7, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

Your despatch No. 50 dated January 22, 1902 with Consular Registry Certificate of Moses Lillienthal, was duly received. You say, -"I have to ask an explanation of " your conduct in issuing such a document".

My authority was Paragraph 165 of the Consular Regulations.

Benjamin Lillienthal the father of this Moses, held passport No. 1039 from the Department of State, dated May 11, 1846, signed by James Buchanan. By a visa on the same passport this Benjamin was in this country November 2, 1846. There was then no United States Consulate in Jerusalem and this visa was done in Beirut, -"U.S. Consulate for Syria and Palestine". So far as our records show this Benjamin died in 1875-1876, here in Jerusalem. When this Consulate, after it was established, came to have a register this Moses was put down as born in Jerusalem in 1854.

The entry of this Moses in our new register is in the hand writing of my predecessor Mr. Wallace who was careful as I am particularly so, what names he entered in our new book. By the above facts Moses Lillienthal has a perfect right to a certificate of registration in this Consulate. Hence I do not know the occasion of your question as the ground of it was not explained. If it was thought strange that I gave a description of Moses Lillienthal I will say that I did it to protect our Government. Had I not done so the holder of it might have sold the paper to some one who would assume that name.

Moses Lillienthal was charged that this document was not a passport and was not to be used as such. If he used it as

such this Consulate is not responsible.

When I write out a certificate to be used at the custom house or for some other temporary purpose I write on such a document in capital letters, -THIS IS NOT A PASSPORT. With the Form furnished by the Department, No. 179, I do not add this. The Department has not thought fit to add this precaution although I think, judging from my experience, that it should be added in very conspicuous letters. This would not be necessary in England, but here in the East where there is such a mixture of races and nationalities and such a Babel of tongues (upwards of forty being spoken in Jerusalem), it seems a very necessary step towards preventing fraud.

I will add this, although it is hardly ^{necessary} for me to do so namely, that the children of this Moses Lilienthal are not protected by this Consulate.

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

Mr. Hunt.

The Bureau's explanation does not appear to me to offer satisfactory reasons for issuing the certificate.

Should not the Bureau have issued the man a regular passport, or do you consider the apparent lack of intention to return to the United States sufficient ground for declining to do so.

M. L.

Mr. Carr:

Mr. Merrill has not explained at all, and for the very good reason that our instruction left him at sea as to what he was expected to explain. I think another instruction should be sent, explaining wherein the certificate he gave was unwarranted on its face. This is covered by my memorandum of Dec. 3, 1901.

I do not agree with Mr. Van Dyke about ^{not} issuing the passport. I think it is our practice - right or wrong is not the question - to issue passports to American

citizens resident in countries where
we exercise extra territorial jurisdiction
as long as they live. We do it for
them in China, in Morocco, in Turkey,
etc. We do it because if we withdraw
our protection the ruler will be thrown
to the wolves to devour. It would
render the duties of our agents abroad
easy of performance if we did not
do it. Rulers might beat off a
missionary in China, the Sheriff
might plunder all our restless Jews
in Tangier, the Sultan might put Schem-
thal and all his tribe into dungeons
and it would be nice for us to be
able to say, "they have been so
long among the barbarians that

we don't know them." But if we con-
tinue indefinitely to protect the ^{Certain} ~~the~~
missionaries who preach the gospel
we must accord the same privilege
to the Jews who trade. Such is our
practice at any rate, the precedents
for which are innumerable.

At present I must not order
a passport issued. I would await
Mr. Merrill's explanation. But if
Liliental applies for a passport
in Turkey, I do not see how we can
conscientiously refuse it, unless we are
prepared to revolutionize our practice
towards the whole class of which he is
a type.

I would say to the consul

4

also that his views on the subject
of naturalization have been read
with interest and will, perhaps, figure
in some future action by the
Department.

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

*Ans. to Jerusalem
pointing out the objection-
able features of the
altered form in ac-
cordance with Mr.
Hunt's memorandum.*

6

3

In connection with this case of Moses Lillienthal I will take occasion to refer to some general matters pertaining to naturalization, passports, citizen papers, fraudulent registration, and perhaps some other points that have impressed themselves upon me during my occupancy of this Consulate. I will remind the Department that this is not a new subject with me dating with the date of this despatch; on the contrary I have written about it in many despatches. Moreover while at home I have written about it in the public press and spoken about it many times from the public platform, - namely, the reconstruction of our naturalization laws; the elevation of the standard of American citizenship; the reformation of the naturalization and passport shops in our large cities where "raw material" is by a few strokes of the pen manufactured into American citizens, - without any qualifications, guarantees, or conditions of any kind. I should say, - conditions that the manufactured citizen intends to obey, - or that the Government intends to enforce. I have sometimes felt that the President and the Secretary of State did not fully realize, if their attention has been called to what I have written on this subject, the real condition of things here in Jerusalem. It seems to me that the matter is sufficiently grave to demand the serious attention of our Government.

When I was first appointed to this post in 1882 we had somewhat upwards of one hundred of these naturalized Jews; we have now about one thousand, probably more since it is impossible for us to know the exact number. It has required constant vigilance to prevent improper persons from being entered on our books. Had not the Turkish government taken steps some years since to prevent Jewish immigration there would have been here instead of one thousand as now, eight or ten thousand of this class of full fledged American citizens demanding of the Consul help, care, and assistance in a great variety of ways. - Constant watchfulness and being brought face to face during these years with so many attempts at fraud, - some of them marvellous examples of ingenuity, - has made me earnest in this matter, and this must be my excuse for any earnest words I may write.

Last year (1901) a certain congressman was here on a visit and asked me to go over this subject of citizenship with him, which I did pretty thoroughly. He urged me to prepare a paper and forward to him setting forth points that concern especially this Consular district. This I did not do, - and should not do without first submitting the same to the Department of State. It would require no small amount of time to do this well, and I cannot spare the time from my regular consular duties. Still what I have in mind ought to be done.

Much is said now-a-days about 'reform in the consular service'. I talk about it myself when at home. What this consular post needs and greatly needs is, -not a fine house for the Consul's residence, not increase in the Consul's salary, but that the Government should thoroughly understand the peculiar conditions that exist here relative to naturalized citizens: (2) That rules be formulated to meet these peculiar conditions: (3) And that the Government stand by the Consul in the execution of its laws.

A good example is this case of Moses Lilienthal that we have now considered. He ought to be cut off from citizenship at once. The father, Benjamin, should have been cut off from citizenship forty years ago. The ground is that they never intended to return to America. The law was a good one but it was never executed.

Paragraph 169 of the Consular Regulations states what is patent to every one, namely, that protection implies support. -Our Government grants protection generously and lavishly, but it demands no support.

Further in the same Paragraph this language is used: - "resided for a long period abroad under such circumstances as to warrant the inference that they have practically abandoned their country".

The same is repeated in Circular, January 17, 1902, - Passports: Intent to return to the United States, -as follows, "voluntarily and permanently absent from the country".

These two points, -failure to render support, -and (2) permanently absent from the country, apply to a large majority of our citizens residing here.

If the Government would stand by me in the execution of this law I could, after reasonable notice, reduce the number of our subjects by one half or two thirds.

The result would be ^{that} the Department would be flooded with letters, petitions, protests. Congressmen would declaim about, -"loyal American citizens being ruthlessly and arbitrarily robbed of their glorious-&c., &c." The Department would say, -"these persons must be questioned as to their intention to return to America". -The result would be that every one of them, -those who have homes here, the large number that are engaged in trade, those that have bought land in the Colonies where they intend to remain, the aged, the occupants of hospitals and poor houses that are so infirm ~~that~~ they cannot get outside the house, -would say, -

"Oh yes, we intend to return to America".

The law would be nullified. I never knew of this law being carried into execution. In Jerusalem this class is on the increase. The Consul is expected to protect these people and to do everything in his power for them, -as now. But how is the United States Government to be protected?

As I have frequently remarked in former despatches, these people for which our Government does everything and for which they themselves do absolutely nothing, -are liable any day to get us into serious international complications.

Another matter is in connection with Paragraph 139 of the Consular Regulations, and I wish to include passports as well as citizen papers in what I have to say.

During my occupation of this Consulate a good number of citizen papers and passports have been presented to me, the applicants desiring to be registered as American citizens. Had I taken either passport or citizen papers as prima facie evidence of their citizenship, according to instructions and registered these persons we should have had on our books many names that had no right to be there. Consequently I have ignored the regulation (139) and made in every case as thorough an examination as possible. By this means I have several times protected our Government from fraud. Quite recently we have had few cases of this kind; but within a few years past a good many. Persons who desired American protection got hold, somehow, of the fact that a passport or a citizen paper should be accepted by the Consul as prima facie evidence of their citizenship, and they contrived to obtain one or both of these which were duly presented here for recognition.

Another thing ought to be spoken of, namely, that those who are authorized to issue citizen papers are altogether too negligent or too careless. Instead of examining the applicant for one minute a thorough examination should be made, -name, changes in names, antecedents, wife, children, births, ages, residence, and some other matters, and unless satisfactory answers are given in every instance the applicant should be put on probation for six months or a year, or until everything is made clear and all details recorded. If the applicant deserves to become a citizen he can afford to wait. There ought to be a severe penalty of both fine and long imprisonment for any person to "make" a United States citizen without the most ample and convincing proofs. This Consulate has had instances showing the lightning rapidity and the reckless disregard for justice and the honor of our country, with which undeserving foreigners are "made" citizens in some of our large cities.

Another thing is the matter of registration to which the Government ought to give its serious attention.

Other Governments require an annual registration of citizens and protected subjects in their Consulates. Our Government requires a register to be kept, but no one is required to register. Consular Regulations, Par. 172. Some persons do not and will not register. When they get into trouble, or need something, they are sure to appear in the Consulate, --they suddenly become the most loyal and devoted of American citizens.

Our Government ought to require a register to be kept.

Moreover it ought to require citizens and naturalized subjects to register in the Consulate every year. The fee attached, so far as Jerusalem is concerned, should be only nominal since most of our people here are poor. But in this way they might show some slight appreciation of the Government which has clothed them with citizenship, provided them with passports, allows them to reside in Jerusalem, and which delegates to its Consul the difficult and often most delicate task of helping them out of their wilderness of troubles, quarrels, and disputes with each other, and their many complications with subjects of other nationalities than our own.

If citizens were obliged to register it would help us in another way:—Every year we have from other Consulates or from the Turkish authorities, a score or more of letters making claims or complaints against American citizens. In some cases we are sure at once that the persons named are not American citizens and have no claim upon our protection: in others much time and puzzling investigation are required. — Since I began to write this despatch a case of this kind has occurred which cost half a day to settle, — taking the time of three of the Consular staff:—A carpenter had to leave his shop as the Turkish New Year was at hand. He protested that he would not do so without proper notification from the American Consulate;—that he was an American citizen and his shop was American property. We had to investigate the matter, and found his claims to be simply a bluff to gain time or for some other personal advantage. When this did not work he brought forward a naturalized subject of the United States who claimed that his son, — who has not lived in Jerusalem for two or more years past, — had loaned the carpenter a sum of money on interest and that therefore the shop was American property.

This is one case; and if the Department will multiply it twenty five annually it will have a glimpse of one phase of the many things which perplex this Consulate.

Another evil is a growing one and should be remedied:—Persons (in our case chiefly Russian and German Jews) becoming naturalized solely for the purpose of living in this country and enjoying the protection of the United States. We have fifty or sixty cases where the citizen paper is dated one day say in New York or Chicago, and the passport is dated in Washington the day following, and as soon thereafter as possible the parties appear in our office in Jerusalem.

Other matters I will omit for the present.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill

U.S. Consul.

No. 53



U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,
CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd. April 29, 1902
MAY 17 1902
30

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 17, 1902.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State

*To H. A. McCallum
June 3, 1902*

Subject

Report as to whereabouts of the children of
Mrs Piazza for G.A. McCollum, — Dept. Despatch
No. 51.

G.A. McCollum check!

No. 53

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 17, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

Your despatch No. 51, March 11, 1902, with inclosure from Mr. G. A. McCollum dated March 1, 1902, was duly received. You ask me to "make a full investigation as to the whereabouts of these (Piazza) children".

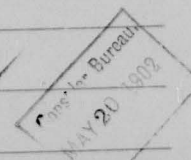
SOME months since the mother, Mrs. Piazza, left the Spafford community, went to the house of an acquaintance in the city, said that she was thoroughly dissatisfied and was determined to leave the Spaffordites altogether. Later she went back to that house, and was persuaded to remain. She and her children are now in that house, - so far as my information goes.

Since this Consulate last reported about this house some things have taken place there, for instance the disgraceful love and shooting affair of last year, persons leaving the house disgusted with their life in it, and others, but I was not asked to supplement previous reports by any new facts. There are plenty of documents on file in Washington regarding this house, - Wallace No. 84, April 19, 1897, and No. 102, Dec. 7, 1897, No. 103, Dec. 31, 1897; - Merrill No. 31, Aug. 13, 1900, No. 32, August, 1900, No. 39, July 8, 1901, No. 40, July 9, 1901.

-Wallace's No. 84 was accompanied by Adamson's statement.
-Merrill's No. 32 accompanied Antoszewsky's statement.
Also the reports of the Consul General's investigation in 1898.

I remain respectfully Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill
U. S. Consul.



Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

Inform Mr. McCollum
in accordance with
Mr Van Dyke
memorandum.

b.

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM. May 22

Mr Vandyne:

Here is the Consul's
report in this matter.
Do you think we had better
write Mr McCollum in the
sense of your memorandum
attached to his letter?

W. J. G.

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

Dear Mr. Van Dyne,

I find that there have been at least two cases in which the Consul at Jerusalem has entertained habeas corpus proceedings.

There seems to be no doubt of the Consul's power to entertain habeas.

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

corpus proceedings
inasmuch as the
Consular Court Reg-
ulations, ^{by Turkey} provide
that

"Upon application
of any person in writing
and under oath, rep-
resenting that he or
any other person is
enslaved, unlawfully

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

imprisoned, or deprived
of his liberty, by any
American citizen
within the jurisdiction
of a Consulate, such
Consul or the Consul
General may issue
his writ of habeas
corpus directing
such citizen to bring

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

said person, if in his custody or under his control, before him, and the question shall be determined summarily, subject to appeal."

M. L.

Assistant Solicitor,
MAY 22 1902
Department of State.

Dear Mr. Carr:

I hoped the
Consul would say
something about
this phase of the case
if the copy of Mc-
Collum's letter were
sent to him. Will
you not kindly have
search made to see
if my statement

J. U.

ASST. SECRETARY
MAY 17 1902

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,
CONSTANTINOPLE
Rec'd. April 29. 1902.
Frost 20

No 54.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 18, 1902.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State.

File

Subject

Information wanted as to Selig S. Rothschild.
Explanation of paragraph in my No. 48.

Consular Bureau
MAY 20 1902

that the Consul at
Jerusalem has en-
tertained Labas cer-
pus proceedings (as
Consular Court) and had
brought before him some
evidence of the Spaf-
ford Communit^{is. correct.}ty
If so, then the Col-
lun may be informed
as I suggested in
my previous memo
F.H.

No. 54.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 18, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

Your despatch No. 52, March 24, 1902, was duly received.

Referring to my No. 48 and comparing it with your No. 52, ^{March 24} I think there must have been some misunderstanding, for Selig S. Rothschild did not ask for a passport nor did I ask for one for him, nor was anything said about an application for a passport. I am sorry if I did not make my meaning clear. What we desired to ascertain was, if this Selig was underage and living in America at the time of his father's naturalization. There was a time, as stated in my No. 48, when this man was residing here and not known as an American citizen. In 1890 Mr. Gillman, for some reason, recorded him. My object in looking into the matter was to protect our Government. My No. 35, March 14, 1900, was very similar to my No. 48. The Department's reply No. 46, contained the information needed. In this case I was able to protect the Government from being imposed upon. The Department expressed its gratification as follows: - "I take pleasure in approving your general treatment of the matter".

I note with sincere regret that the Department is not pleased with my No. 48 although similar in form to my No. 35. I inadvertently wrote "notary" for "clerk" since notary is the word in common use here. But it was a mistake. The paragraph specially objected to I will, as the Department requests, withdraw and hereby do so willingly and cheerfully. My friends everywhere know my intense loyalty to the Government, my profound respect for it, and my almost worshipful devotion to its interests, and they would be shocked if I should by word or deed in any way reflect upon its honor. Nor would I for the world, knowingly do such a thing. During my consular service this is the first time that I have received such a letter. The Consul General knows a good deal of the difficult and perplexing work imposed upon me here in connection with our large number of naturalized Jews. During my consular service I suppose I have had fifty or more cases of passports and citizen papers that had been obtained by fraud. I had in mind when I wrote not the law, but the abuses of it both as to naturalization and passports.

And although Paragraph 139 of the Consular Regulations does not authorize or require it still I examine every suspected case in order to prevent fraud. My recent despatches Nos. 49, 51, and 52, were written solely for protecting our Government, its honor, and its interests, and I trust the suggestion will meet with your approval.

Postscript:—In your despatch you say,—"I send you herewith &c.,—but there was no inclosure.

I remain respectfully Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
U.S. Consul.



Mr. Care:

Mr. Merrill, I suppose, needs no reply, as he says none. The Dept. overruled my suggestions and reprimanded him severely, when I thought he had done no more than his duty, and said nothing that he could not easily support by precedent and proof. To criticize the naturalization laws is not an offense— if it is, nearly all our agents abroad have committed it. To criticize the loose naturalization methods of the courts is an offense equally universal. Mr. Merrill takes his reprimand mildly. An Assistant Secretary signed it, and I have no right suggest anything further in the case. L.H.

No 55



U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,
CONSTANTINOPLE
Rec'd. May 24. 1902 ✓
Forw'd
CONSULAR BUREAU.

United States Consulate ^{to Treasury}
Jerusalem, Syria, May 12, 1902. H.H.D.P.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

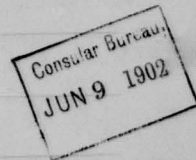
Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

*Ans by form
to Treasury
June 10 1902*

Subject

Reply to Department's questions as to cholera
in Mecca and Jidda.

*copy
544 apno*



No 55

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 12, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

Your despatch No. 54, April 10, 1902 inquiring as to the cholera in Mecca and Jadda is at hand and in reply I would say that we here have very little knowledge of the real condition of things in those parts of Arabia. We know that cholera exists there and that many persons have died from that disease. We do not know that any case of cholera has occurred yet in Egypt. Egypt, under English direction, is taking strict measures against the introduction of the disease into that country.

We have quarantine against Egypt and have had for twelve months past, on account of alleged plague in Egypt.

A few years since I made investigations historically and found that cholera never came to this country from the south, say from Egypt, that is in modern times; it always comes from the east, India, Euphrates, Damascus. The last time that cholera visited Jerusalem was in 1866, and then no Europeans died of it. In 1875 it was in Beirut, and in 1891 it was in Damascus.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Seah Merrill
U.S. Consul.

Free Ports

Department of State Circular, April 19, 1902.

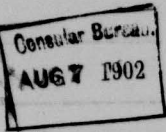
There is in Palestine but one port, namely Jaffa,
and that is not a free port.

Selah Merrill

Jerusalem, May 20, 1902.

Consul

File





U. S. CONSUL GENERAL,
JERUSALEM, SYRIA
June 24 1902
25 ✓

No. 56.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, June 12, 1902.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

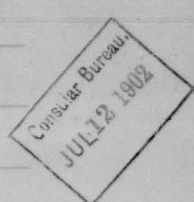
Inform Senator Frye
See by form to
Senator Frye July 15/1902

Subject.

Reply to Dinsmore Letter

57 May 15 to

See Frye Apr 26



No 56.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, June 12, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

Sir.

Your despatch No. 57, May 19, 1902, is at hand with inclosure from Hon. Wm. P. Frye relative to a complaint of J. E. Dinsmore a member of the Spafford community. The Department is familiar with similar complaints from the same source and I presume it does not wish me to repeat what is on file in Washington. I sincerely wish that Mr. Frye could examine some of those documents.

I inclose two documents, (1) Mrs Gilman's letter to me, unsolicited as I had no communication with her, with underscoring by herself. It disposes of a part of Dinsmore's charges; and (2) an account of the incident in my office. This was made immediately, as I am accustomed when anything unpleasant occurs to write it out at once so that I may have a record of what actually took place.

Dinsmore has been a member of this community about five years, and I do not consider him a proper witness of what took place in the colony during the seventeen years previous to his joining it. I do not know him or the man who accompanied him said to be a Mr. Meyers. They are not recorded in the books of our Consulate. They have never been in the office except on that occasion, March 27th, they have concealed their nationality all these years. Furthermore this Consulate has evidence that this community is working against American interests and is trying to prejudice the Turks against the United States government. This community alledged to number about 150 souls of which 10 or 12 per cent only are Americans, I have nothing to do with. In fact I never even mention their name from one year to another unless I am obliged to. When asked about their strange life as I am sometimes by travellers, I refer the parties to documents on file in the State Department. The charge of " fiendish persecution" is absurd.

Two Swede girls tired of their life in that house left it and returned to America. Others, I am told, would gladly leave could they get the money to take them home. These Swede girls left two months since. During the past twenty years over thirty persons have left the house, many of them entire strangers to each other, but they tell the same story as to its character.

Dinsmore, page 2, says, -"our life is one of absolute purity". If he is still in his right mind I do not understand how he dare say that. The love scrape ending in a disgraceful shooting affair of last summer in that household looks like evidence to the contrary. It shows the demoralizing influences at work in that household.

Our Vice Consul Herbert E. Clark, born in New Hampshire, who has lived in this country upwards of thirty years and has had considerable experience with its many cranks, declares himself as follows: - "I do not think there is another man in all my acquaintance who would bear the insults and annoyances from the Spaffordites that Mr. Merrill has borne from them"; and (2) "I regard Spaffordism from top to bottom as moral rot".

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
U.S. Consul

Inclosures:-

1. Letter of Mrs Gilman.
2. Record of Dinsmore incident in this office.

I.

COPY

Mrs Belle W. Gilman
to Selah Merrill, U.S. Consul
Jerusalem, Syria.

Framington, Maine, April 30, 1902.

My Dear Sir.

After your own and Mrs Merrill's courteous treatment of me on the occasion of my short call upon you, you must have thought me a rude if not an untruthful woman when some of the "American Colony" attacked you with the statement that I had said this, that, and the other thing as from Dr. Merrill. This fact I have just learned through my sister, and I at once desire to reply to this matter by saying to you, as I have already done to them, that the subject of the "American Colony" was never once named between you and myself. In meeting Miss Spafford at Jericho I told her I had heard from various sources that they were free lovers, and when she at once replied that "Dr. Merrill had done this" I replied in return that "my informant was not Dr. Merrill". I think it a most unjust thing as well as untrue, to hold me up as a talebearer. I have demanded that they at once do their best to correct their misstatement, but as that may be omitted I hasten to do what is possible myself by addressing you personally. If you have thought hardly of me it would be quite natural, but I beg you to believe that I am quite incapable of doing so undignified a thing as I have ^{been} misrepresented as doing.

Very truly yours

(signed) (Mrs) Belle W. Gilman" .-

-The underscoring is that of Mrs. Gilman.

COPY from my private consular Note Book

Thursday A.M. March 27, 1892.

The following incident has just occurred:--

Two men were announced as wishing to see me. I went to the door and two men, strangers, stood in the vestibule. Without any preliminaries they at once said,--"Mr. Merrill you have been telling Mrs Gilman that our house is a free love house and we just tell you that you are a liar". I said,--"gentlemen, who are you? I do not know you, I never saw or heard of you. Who are you?". They replied,--"we are from the American Colony and you have been lying about our house". I said,--"gentlemen whoever comes to this office must show respect for it. Your words and manner must be proper and orderly. If you wish to threaten or shoot the Consul you must do it on the street but not in the Consulate". They replied,--"anyway you are a liar". I said to the kawass,--"put these men out of the office". When he attempted it they began to fight and declared they would not go because they were "American citizens". I said, "that makes no difference as to offensive conduct; but who are you? What are your names?" Only one responded who said that his name was "Dinsmore". That he had been here "so many years". I replied,--"you are not recorded in our books, you have never been to the office, you have concealed your nationality, I do not know you as an American". I then said,--"come inside the office". They did so and stood in the presence of myself and my interpreter. I did not ask them to sit down. They were violent and repeated what they had said. I replied,--"I made no such statement to Mrs Gilman". They both responded,--"then Mrs Gilman is a liar". I said,--"are you not ashamed to speak in such a way of a woman who is absent and cannot defend herself?". I said,--"gentlemen, I have nothing to do with you and I request you to leave the office".--They accordingly left repeating that "Mrs Gilman was a liar" and muttering threats against me. ---After they had gone my interpreter said he thought the other man was named Meyer.

U. S. CONSULATE GENERAL,
JERUSALEM, SYRIA
Rec'd June 26, 1902
Straw 27



No. 57

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, June 18, 1902.

File
20

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To
Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

Subject

Final report on case Selig S. Rothschild, -not
an American citizen.

52 mch 24 to J

Consular Bureau
JUL 12 1902

No. 57.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, June 18, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

Referring to my despatch No. 48, February 18, 1902, and to the Department's despatch No. 52, March 24, 1902, relative to Selig S. Rothschild and his right to be regarded as an American citizen, I wish to report the result:-

His father Moses Rothschild, born in Russia.. 1824.
Went to the United States... 1867.
Naturalized 1879.
Passport dated 1889.
Was never recorded in Consulate.

Selig S. born in Russia 1859,
8 years before his father went to
the United States.
Did not go to the U.S. but came to, or
was sent to Jerusalem.
Age when his father was naturalized, 1879, 20 years.
Recorded by Mr. Gillman in Consular Books in 1890, one year
after date of his father's passport, and when he was 31 years
of age.

Selig S. was not born in America and was not living in America
at the time of his father's naturalization.
By Par. 142 of Cons. Reg. the case is clear against him and in
our books I have marked his name accordingly.

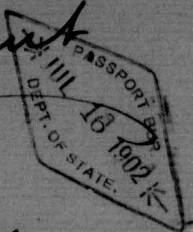
I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
U.S. Consul.

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

Mr. Hunt
Mr. Carr:
Nothing seems
to be required. *gff*



CONSULAR BUREAU.

Consul must conform to regulations. This is not a despatch & not the way to transmit documents to the Dept.
United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, July 7, 1902.

H. H. D.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

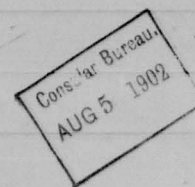
To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

Ans Aug 6-1902

Subject.

Forwarding marriage certificate Form 87, dated May 26, 1902, of Joseph Amzalak, 29, and Esther Avigdor, 23, naturalized American citizens.



CONSULAR BUREAU
NOTED

(FORM No. 87.)

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

CONFIDENTIAL BUREAU.

Consulate of the United States,

Jerusalem May 26, 1902.

I, Selah Merrill, Consul of the United States
 at Jerusalem, do hereby certify that, on this 26th
 day of May, A. D. 18, at _____
 in the city of Jerusalem, Joseph Amzalak
 aged 29 years, born in Marseilles and now
 residing in Jerusalem, and Ester Arigdor
 aged 23 years, born in Constantinople
 and now residing in Jerusalem, were united in marriage before me,
 and in my presence, by Rabbi Moses Perez, who is authorized
 by the laws of Turkey to perform such a ceremony.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the
 Consulate at Jerusalem, this 26th
 day of May, A. D. 18, and of the Independence of the United States
 the One hundred and twenty-sixth

Selah Merrill
 Consul.



100

No 58



File

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,
CONSTANTINOPLE
Rec'd. 31st July 1902.
Forward 1 August.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, July 15, 1902.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

Subject

Moses Lilienthal, -reply to Despatch No. 59,
June 12, 1902.

Consular Bureau
AUG 19 1902

Consular Bureau
AUG 19 1902

No 58

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, July 15, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

Referring to your No. 59, June 12, 1902 relative to a document given to Moses Lilienthal and your request that "a further report" from me is desired, I would say that the facts are all in the Department's hands.

The right of a Consul to certify to the identity of an American citizen no one denies. This is all that was done in the case of Lilienthal. We are obliged to do this scores of times every year. As stated in my despatch No. 51, March 24, 1902, a very large number of our people are engaged in business and it requires constant watchfulness to keep them out of trouble and to keep matters straight. We greatly need the relief asked for in my No. 51, but it seems the Department was not willing to grant such relief.

We have five post offices here, several banks, Custom House and Consular Agency at Jaffa, the same at Haifa and Beirut, commissioners of many sorts in different ports or towns, - with which our people have some business connection and they must be identified as American citizens. Unless they are properly recorded in our books we give no certificates. We are very careful about this matter.

I always head the certificate thus, -

THIS IS NOT A PASSPORT

underscored by two heavy lines. My object is to prevent the document from being sold. Lilienthal's document did not have this declaration written upon it. This I regret. A description was given that he might not sell it.

If Lilienthal tried to use this paper as a passport when he was told that it was not a passport, the Consulate is not to blame. We know these people well. Every possible subterfuge has been resorted to to obtain protection by fraud.

I could fill a volume with instances. In addition to the above we give certificates to those going to the United States, ages, if married, children and ages, occupation, if they have money, the residence of their relatives in America, - all certificates headed and underscored as described.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

Delaherill
U. S. Consul

Handwritten: No. 59.

CONSULAR BUREAU

RECD.
SEP 18 1902
DEPT. OF STATE

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY
SEP 22 1902

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,
CONSTANTINOPLE
Exp'd. Sept. 2. 1902
Post 3

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, August 15, 1902.

*Act by / mm
Sept 26/02*

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject

Disturbance in the Holy Sepulchre in November
1901 and its political significance.

RECEIVED
SEP 25 1902
CONSUL GENERAL
CONSTANTINOPLE

RECEIVED
SEP 25 1902
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

N^o 59



CONSULAR BUREAU.
ACKNOWLEDGE.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, August 15, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

As a rule I do not report disturbances which occur in this district or those between the rival sects in the Holy Sepulchre, but the last serious affair of the kind developed political phases which are of special and to a certain degree of international importance.

This fight between Greek and Latin monks in the Holy Sepulchre took place in November last. The question was about the sweeping of a certain pair of stairs situated on the exterior wall of the church near the entrance to it. The stairs belong to the Latins and their right to the care of the same has been considered as theirs for many years. The stone pavement at the foot of the stairs, however, they were not allowed to sweep. The Latins while about their ordinary work were attacked and driven away by Greek monks. Soldiers were called and a strong guard put on duty. Two days later the Latins by order of the Governor of Jerusalem and under the protection of Turkish soldiers began their work again when they were attacked by the Greeks a second time. It was on the stairs and on the pavement about them that the fight took place. Some of the Greek monks had prepared themselves with stones, gone upon the flat roof which was over the stairs, and from this position of advantage threw their missiles down upon the Latin monks below. One Turkish officer had an eye knocked out, and fifteen Latin monks were wounded, some seriously, but no lives were lost. An American monk who himself was slightly wounded asked me to go and see the wounded after their wounds were dressed. Nearly all were wounded about the head, face, and shoulders, some of the wounds being very ugly, and it is a wonder that half of them were not killed outright.

Members of the Latin religious orders of whatever nationality have for generations been under the protection of France. This position as Protector of Latin Christians in this part of the East was long ago assumed by France and has been persistently maintained for a long period of years. It is alleged to date from the time of King Francis I. in the xvi th century and to be based upon the fact that he was the first European sovereign to make a treaty with the Turks.

To accompany despatch No. 39 Aug. 15, 1902.

Bell Tower, -high building on left.

Front of Church with doors closed

Stairs leading to Chapel of Franciscans
at letter "Bonf".

Stairs could sweep stairs but not
pavement where boy stands

These stairs and pavement near the foot
scene of the great battle !!!

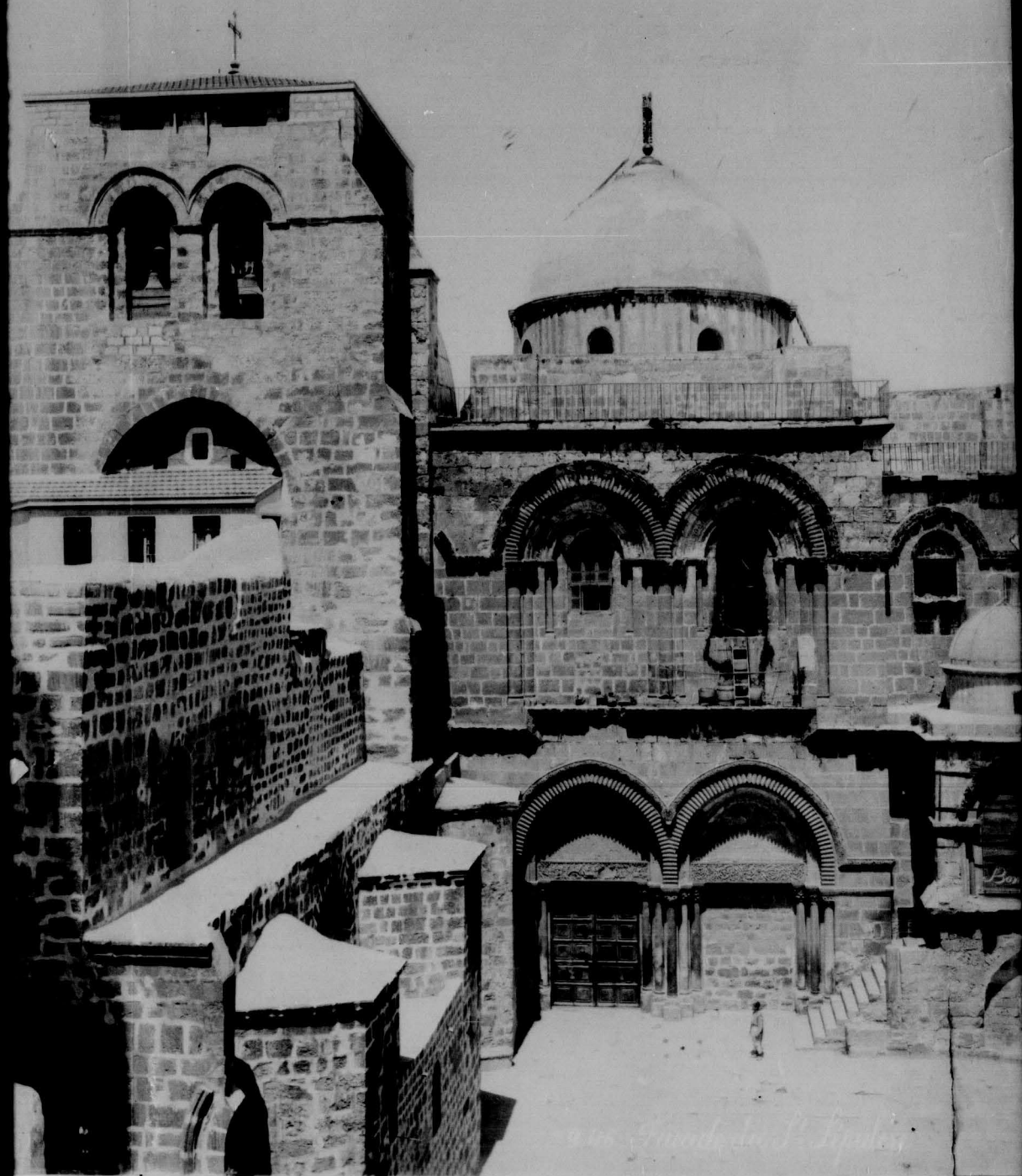
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San Giovanni in Fonte, Spoleto

This protectorate of France has not been continuous owing to political troubles from time to time, nor does the reason alleged seem to justify the position assumed. But it is no doubt true that the Latin churches and religious establishments in this country owe a great deal of their present strength to the influence and power of France exerted in their behalf for so many years. Since 1845 when the French Consulate was established in this city this claim of France has generally been acquiesced in.

This state of things was annoying to other Catholic Powers, Spain, Italy, Austria, and to Protestant Germany so far as German Catholics residing here were concerned. Local irritation between the representative of France and the representatives of the other Powers could not fail to exist. At times this feeling has been intense; the French Consul demanding the first position, the chief honors, and a special escort of Turkish soldiers; the other Consuls taking the second place and sometimes ignored altogether.

This fight afforded Germany a good opportunity to bring the question of protection, or of exclusive protection by France, to a legal test, since German subjects were among the wounded; and besides Germans there were Italians, Austrians, and Spaniards. Germany demanded of the Sultan the right to protect and defend her own subjects and an Irade granting this request was accordingly issued. Italy made a similar demand and obtained a similar Irade from the Sultan. Spain has made the same demand but at this moment I am told that the Irade has not been issued, although it is thought there can be no permanent delay.

This is nothing less than a serious blow to France, which, politically, must be keenly felt.

On the 9th of July the monks charged with offenses in this fight were put on trial and, after a long session last till 10 o'clock at night, a thing which occasioned universal surprise, the German and Italian Consuls being present, and were found guilty and 34 offenders including 12 priests were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment ranging from one week to nine months.

Thus the matter stands at present; what developments the future will bring forth no one can tell.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill
U.S. Consul.

To accompany despatch No. 59 Aug. 15, 1902.

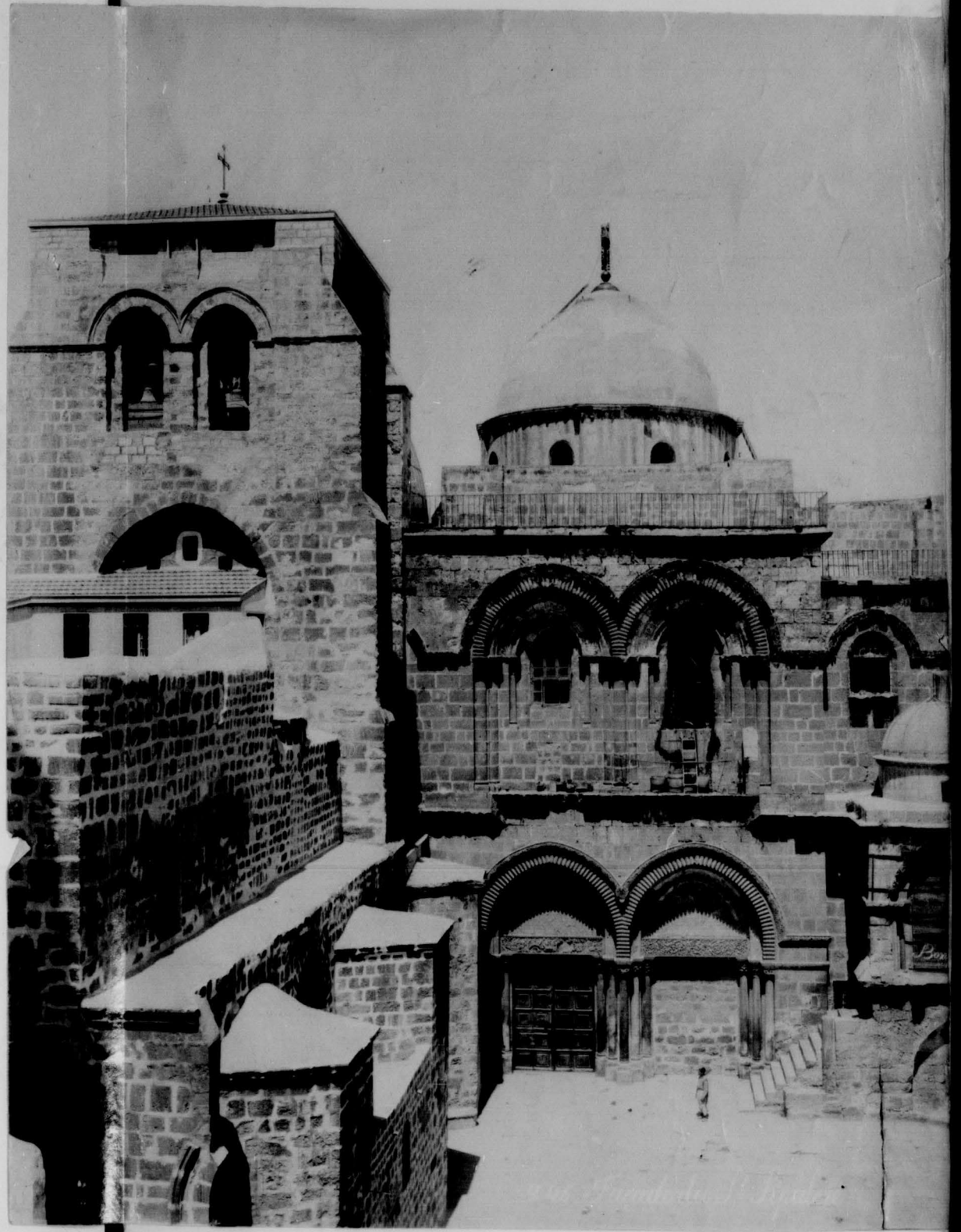
Bell Tower, -high building on left.

Front of Church with doors closed

Stairs leading to Chapel of Franciscans
at letter "Bonf".

Stairs could sweep stairs but not
pavement where boy stands

These stairs and pavement near the foot
scene of the great battle !!!



San Spirito, Roma

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

Sept. 24/02

Mr. Adee

You may care to
see the marked paragraph
on the second page of this
despatch.

W.P.B.

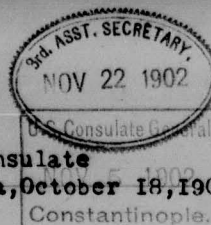
Mr. Carr:

O.K. Ack and file.

Sept 25.

oak

CONSULAR BUREAU.



No.60.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, October 18, 1902.
Constantinople.

How

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State.

*run by forward
to Jones Nov 24/02.*

ready

Subject:-

Appearance of Asiatic cholera at Gaza and other
places in this Consular District.



No. 60

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, October 18, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

I regret to inform you that what is official-ly declared to be Asiatic cholera has reached Gaza and some of the neighboring villages and has gone as far north as Lydda about twelve miles inland from Jaffa. The number of cases at Gaza and vicinity are upwards of twenty a day and at Lydda five or six a day. For ten days past there have been rumors of what was said to be "pernicious fever" at Gaza, and five days since a commission of three physicians was sent to Gaza by the Governor of Jerusalem and Palestine and yesterday this commission returned and reported as above. The Jerusalem district is not yet infected. Jaffa likewise is not infected, still all the coast from Gaza north to Beirut, excluding Beirut, has been declared infected and quarantine of ten days declared against it. Jerusalem has quarantined against Jaffa and all the plain country to the west and south. It is so late in the season we hope that the epidemic will not come to the mountain towns. The last time that Jerusalem was visited by cholera was in 1865 in September, and it is now after the middle of October. It is unprecedented so far as I can trace the history of cholera in this country, that this disease should reach Palestine from the south. El-Arish the border town between Palestine and Egypt on the coast south of Gaza has suffered with the rest of Egypt, and it is not strange that it should make its way thence to Gaza. Again, it is very natural that it should appear at Lydda for it is one of the largest market centers in Palestine, people coming in great numbers from all parts of the country to attend the weekly cattle fair held at that place. The prospect for business and travel the coming season is far from bright. -The number of cases reported ^{above} means the number of deaths.

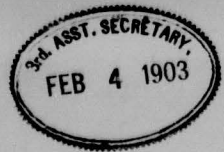
I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill
U.S. Consul.

-I will add that the health of Jerusalem during the summer and autumn thus far has been remarkably good.

*See
M.C.*

CONSULAR BUREAU.



CONSULAR BUREAU
NOTED

0

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 6, 1903.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary
Washington .

*Checked by form
Mar. 12. 1903.*

Subject,-

Forwarding 4 marriage certificates,-

- ✓ Helponbein--Goldberg
- ✓ Lapiner-----Ollender
- ✓ Silverstone---Koffmann
- ✓ Feinberg-----Salant



United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 6, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

Enclosed please find four marriage certificates as follows:-

A.-George Helponbein, 17, and Rachel Goldberg 18.
Date:-August 29, 1902.

B. Jacob Aaron Lapiner, 62, and Hene Rebecca Ollender, 22.
Date:-September 10, 1902.

C. Max Silverstone, 18, and Bryna Koffmann, 18.
Date:-September 19, 1902.

D. Mordecai Feinberg, 20, and Fradel Salant, 23.
Date:-September 19, 1902.
-Certificate dated November 14, 1902.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill

U.S. Consul.

CONSULAR BUREAU.
NOTED.
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CONSULAR BUREAU.
NOTED.

(FORM No. 87.)

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

CONSULAR ATTENDANT
NOTED

Consulate of the United States,

Jerusalem August 29, 1902.

I, Selah Merrill, Consul of the United States

at Jerusalem, do hereby certify that, on this 29th

day of August, A. D. 1902,

in the city of Jerusalem, George Helponbein

aged 17 years, born in St. Paul, U. S. A. and now

residing in Jerusalem, and Rachel Goldberg

aged 18 years, born in Jerusalem

and now residing in Jerusalem, were united in marriage before me,

and in my presence, by Rabbi B. Shapiro, who is authorized

by the laws of Turkey to perform such a ceremony.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the

Consulate at Jerusalem, this 29th

day of August, A. D. 1902 and of the Independence of the United States

the One hundred and twenty-seventh

Selah Merrill
Consul.



(FORM No. 87.)

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

CONSULAR BUREAU
NEW YORK

Am et

Consulate of the United States,

Jerusalem Sep. 10, 1902

I, *Selah Merrill*, Consul of the United States
 at *Jerusalem*, do hereby certify that, on this *10th*
 day of *September*, A. D. *1902*
 in the city of *Jerusalem*, *Jacob Aaron Lapiner*
 aged *62* years, born in *Russia* and now
 residing in *Jerusalem*, and *Hene Rebecca Ollender*
 aged *22* years, born in *Russia*
 and now residing in *Jerusalem*, were united in marriage before me,
 and in my presence, by *Rabbi Paul Haim Hurwitz*, who is authorized
 by the laws of *Turkey* to perform such a ceremony.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the
 Consulate at *Jerusalem*, this *10th*
 day of *September*, A. D. *1902* and of the Independence of the United States
 the *One hundred and twenty-seventh*

Selah Merrill
Consul.



(FORM No. 87.)

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

CONSULAR BUREAU
NOTED

Consulate of the United States,

Jerusalem Sep. 19, 1902

I, Selah Merrill, Consul of the United States
at Jerusalem, do hereby certify that, on this 19th
day of September, A. D. 1902,
in the city of Jerusalem, Max Silverstone
aged 18 years, born in Cleveland, Ohio and now
residing in Jerusalem, and Bryna Hoffmann
aged 18 years, born in Jerusalem
and now residing in Jerusalem, were united in marriage before me,
and in my presence, by Rabbi Saul Haim Hurwitz, who is authorized
by the laws of Turkey to perform such a ceremony.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the
Consulate at Jerusalem, this 19th
day of September, A. D. 1902, and of the Independence of the United States
the One hundred and twenty-seventh

Selah Merrill
Consul.



(FORM No. 87.)

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

CONSULAR BUREAU NOTED

Consulate of the United States,

Jerusalem November 14, 1902.

I, Selah Merrill, Consul of the United States at Jerusalem, do hereby certify that, on the 19th day of September, A. D. 1902, at Jerusalem, Mordecai Feinberg aged 20 years, born in New York and now residing in Jerusalem, and Fradel Salant aged 23 years, born in Jerusalem and now residing in Jerusalem, were united in marriage before me, and in my presence, by Rabbi S. Hirsch, who is authorized by the laws of Turkey to perform such a ceremony.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the Consulate at Jerusalem, Palestine, this 14th day of November, A. D. 1902, and of the Independence of the United States the One hundred and twenty-seventh

Selah Merrill Consul.



W.D.

No 61.

Consular Bureau
FEB 26 1903

CONSULAR BUREAU.

ASST. SECRETARY OF STATE
FEB 25 1903

Recd
Droit

U.S. Consulate Gen.
FFB 5
Constantinople

No form 192

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 9, 1903.

Checked for form 192
Mar. 14, 1903.

CONSULAR BUREAU
NOTED AND PUBLISHED

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject:-

Death of Mrs Mary E. REA, December 9, 1902.

U.S. CONSUL GENERAL
CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 61.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 9, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

I have to inform you that Mrs Mary E. Rea, residing here, died on the 9th of December and was buried on the 10th. Disease, heart failure. American residence, South Bend, Indiana. Mrs Rea had with her no friend or relative. Her friends in South Bend were at once notified.

The room was immediately sealed by the Consulate and the formalities required by Article XXIII of Consular Regulations have been and are being complied with.

Mrs Rea left no will.

Her watch and a few small articles are looked up awaiting instructions from her family.

Her clothing, possibly will fill a trunk, will be sent as directed by her friends.

She had a little money at interest which she had placed with the Greek Convent here. This will be paid over to the Consulate when due, - sometime this spring.

The bedding was burned, but the bedstead and a few very plain articles of furniture will be sold. The weather has been bad for three weeks and nothing has been ^{done} about the disposal of her furniture. It was not necessary as the rent is paid up to the Mohammedan New Year, near the end of March.

Later a proper inventory as required will be forwarded to the Department.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
U.S. Consl.

Consular Bureau
FEB 25 1903

ASST. SECRETARY
FEB 25 1903

CONSULAR BUREAU

U.S. Consulate General
FEB 5, '03
Constantinople.

✓
Received
from H.S.

No.62

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 10, 1903.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

2 January
July 26 / 03
was in from July 27

Subject:-

reporting the Apparent cessation of the epidemic of Asiatic cholera in this Consular District.

to Jerusalem

INDEX BUREAU
FEB 24 1903
FILED

No.62.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 10, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

In my No. 60 October 18, 1902, I referred to the appearance in this Consular District of Asiatic cholera. Gaza, Lydda, and Jaffa suffered most from this disease, but it appeared also in many other towns with a few, sometimes a considerable number, of fatal cases in each.

I am glad to report that there has been no case in Jerusalem or in this immediate vicinity.

The epidemic seems now to have died out. We had quarantine on four sides of us, and I am happy to state that on the 9th of this month the last was removed. Prices had become exorbitant and there was a great scarcity of provisions, affecting all classes but especially the poorer ~~classes~~ people.

The administration of the quarantine service has been reprehensible. Negligence at the border station between Egypt and Palestine was the occasion of its coming to this country. During the prevalence of this epidemic it has been possible for peasants to go from an infected district or town to a place that was free, - at any time. Foreigners and others who were able to pay were fleeced. Great carelessness, great severity, great hardships, - and apparently all to no purpose. Quarantine is too profitable for officials to be lightly removed. Only one European died during the past three months of this disease, - and that one did not belong in this district.

I speak in this report of this district only; but I hear that in Damascus there are still cases. With cholera in Egypt and cholera in Syria and plague in Egypt and quarantine everywhere the outlook for travellers is not good. Commerce certainly has suffered, - but in my residence in this country we have had quarantine about three years out of four, so commerce is almost always suffering.

I remain respectfully Your obedient servant

Deah Merrill
U. S. Consul

Consular Bureau
MAR 5 1903

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
MAR 5 '903

U.S. Consulate General
FEB 12 1903
Constantinople.

No 63
CONSULAR BUREAU,
to Postmaster General

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 28, 1903.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

*To Postmaster
General
March 9/03*

Subject.-

Sending American mail to Jerusalem by Austrian rather than by Turkish Post office. Unanimous request of resident American citizens.

720 for post

*See 198 May 7/03 from Beirut
See letters July 28 & May 27/03 from
Postmaster Genl.*

INDEX BUREAU
MAR 4 1903
FILED

No 63

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 28, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

I wish to call attention to the American mail and the channel by which it reaches Jerusalem.

The mail from the United States now comes through the local Turkish Post and there has always been dissatisfaction with its management because of delays, annoyances of various kinds, and many actual losses of valuable letters. In the 8ties and again in the 9ties complaints were made resulting in temporary improvements. Mr. E. S. Wallace under date of Jan. 3, 1898 wrote to the Department of improvement in the management of the Turkish Post. Whatever improvement he may have observed was of very brief duration. Many times since returning to this Consular Post in 1898 American citizens residing here have urged me to ask the Department for a change in the channel by which the American mail comes. My reason for not doing so was, not that annoyances and losses had ceased, but that between the United States and Turkey there were several unsettled matters and I did not wish to add to these another irritating question.

Besides the Turkish there are four post offices in Jerusalem, - Austrian, German, French, and Russian. No foreign consul, - there are eleven here, - ever sends a despatch through the Turkish Post, - nor a private letter unless he is obliged to do so. These two facts are stronger evidence of the incompetency of the Turkish Post than a petition signed by one thousand American citizens could possibly be. During the three months of cholera just past the mail was sent by train from Jaffa. It arrived in Jerusalem at 11 o'clock A.M. but it was never ready for delivery before 3 or 3.30 o'clock in the afternoon. Those who receive their mail through the French, German, or Austrian post offices receive their mail promptly and safely. There are very few annoyances of any kind and almost no losses. These are managed with efficiency and honesty.

All English mail comes through the Austrian ^{Post}. This is for Americans likewise the most convenient and the one I would recommend. - As regards bulk of mail from foreign countries that from America is third in order, - hence its importance. I trust the Department will consider this matter and if possible grant the request of the large number of American citizens residing here that the mail from America be sent to Jerusalem through the Austrian Post Office.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

Deliah Merrill
U. S. Consul

MEMORANDUM

of the Consul General accompanying Consul Merrill's N° 63 of the
28th. January 1903.

In regard to Consul Merrill's complaints against the Turkish Postal Service, I beg to say that we have to use this service for letters to the interior such as Erzerum, Harput, Sivas, and I have for several years now made use of the same for mails to sea-port towns and in justice to the Turkish service I must say that our letters have always reached their destination without any complaint whatever.

In any event I do not see how the Department can take any action in the matter, which would appear to be dependent entirely upon the particular route or post office specified by the writers themselves.

Constantinople, February 13th. 1903.

Charm. Dickins
Consul General.

CONSULAR BUREAU

RECEIVED
MAR 17 1903
DEPT. OF STATE

ASST. SECRETARY
MAR 18 1903

U.S. Consulate General
MAR 2 1903
Constantinople.

CONSULAR BUREAU
MAR 3 1903
DEPT. OF STATE

No. 64.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, February 16, 1903.

Consular Bureau
MAR 18 1903

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

*To Rev. C.H. Patton
March 21/1903*

Consular Bureau
MAR 31 1903

Subject:-

Reply to despatch No. 63, January 2, 1903, relative to
Madame Mountford.

to es Patton Dec 17/03

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA.

Consular Bureau.
MAR 16 1903

CORRECTION

See Despatch No. 64, February 16, 1903.

Near top: "records cover a period of fourteen years, from 1853 to 1877".-

For fourteen years please read twenty four years.

Respectfully Yours

Selah Merrill
U.S. Consul

No. 64.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, February 16, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

Your despatch No. 63, January 2, 1903, with inclosures from C. H. Patton and Sm. I. Lindsay is at hand.

I inclose extracts from the Baptismal Register, Burial Register, and the Minutes of the Local Committee in Jerusalem of the London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews. These records cover a period of ^{fourteen} ~~fourteen~~ years or from 1853 to 1877.

These records show when this woman, Madame Mountford, was born, baptized, and emigrated to America. She was the daughter of Samuel Finkelstein, ^{a tailor} who died in 1865. She was born and baptized as Lydia Finkelstein: - later she became Lydia von Finkelstein: later Lydia Mamreoff von Finkelstein: then Lydia Mamreoff von Finkelstein Mountford: and now Madame Mountford.

The Finkelstein family were always known as Russian Jews who became converts or proselytes in 1853, - that is the year of their baptism. From that date till 1877 when the family disappeared from Jerusalem, they were constantly helped by the Missionaries the repeated grants of money recorded in the Society's Minutes sufficiently show.

It was not till some years after this Lydia went to America that the "von" and the "Mamreoff" appeared in connection with her name. The people of Jerusalem thought it strange that they had never known of these names or titles in connection with the Finkelstein family and they do not know why they were adopted.

Lindsay's letter: - "She is a lineal descendant of the dukes of Mamre the original inhabitants of Northern Palestine". - Mamre was in Southern Palestine. - The name passed out of history in the time of Abraham, 2,000 years before Christ.

ibid: - "went to Russia and bought the von Finkelstein estate". - Compare the minutes of the London Jews Society as inclosed.

As you have asked the question I will say that I think it very unwise if this person is allowed to have any prominent part in connection with the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

I remain respectfully Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
U.S. Consul
(over)

In 1877 this Lydia went to America. Between 1882 and 1886 she returned to Jerusalem and claimed to be an American citizen. I was here at the time but do not remember about her papers, - if she had any or not. About 1890 she claims to have been married in Delhi to an English subject who was said to be postmaster in that city. In 1898 she came to Jerusalem again without Mr Mountford, and nothing was said about him. No one here knows anything about Mr Mountford. - I mention these dates as they may have a bearing on her re-naturalization, - provided she claims to be an American citizen which I know nothing about.

Sell
U.S. Consul.

Inclosure.

*Extract from Minutes of London
Jews Society . . .*

U.S. Consulate General

*Red
Bow* MAR 2 1903

Constantinople.

The inclosed extracts extend over a period of ²⁴ ~~fourteen~~ years and the name Finkelstein is sometimes spelled Finkelstein and sometimes Fingelstein, - The explanation is that different clerks served the society at different times who spelled the same word in different ways. - The same is true now of the name Singer, - sometimes it is spelled Singer and sometimes Sinker.

Extracts from the Archives of the London Jews Society's Jerusalem Mission

I From Christ Church Baptismal Register

When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parents Name		Abode	Quality Trade or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
		Christian	Surname			
May 15, 1853 No 112	Samuel Finkelstein an adult			Jerusalem	Tailor	John Nicolson Minister
May 15, 1853 No 113	Maria Finkelstein an adult			Jerusalem		John Nicolson Minister
May 15, 1853 No 114	Benjamin	Samuel and Maria	Finkelstein	Jerusalem	Tailor	John Nicolson Minister
May 15, 1853 No 115	Peter	Samuel and Maria	Finkelstein	Jerusalem	Tailor	John Nicolson Minister
May 27, 1855 No 144	Lydia	Samuel and Maria	Finkelstein	Jerusalem	Tailor	John Nicolson Minister
Jan'y 21, 1858 No 184	Esther an adult Israelite	Samuel and Maria	Finkelstein	Jerusalem	Assistant in Decorum School	The Lord Bishop Gobat. Sponsors.
Jan'y 21, 1858 No 186	Hannah an adult Israelite	Samuel and Maria	Finkelstein	Jerusalem	Warrant maker	The Lord Bishop Gobat
May 17, 1858 No 199	John baptized at home in illness	Samuel and Maria	Finkelstein	Jerusalem	Tailor	Henry Crawford
March 18, 1860 No 222	Paulina	Samuel and Maria	Finkelstein	Jerusalem	Tailor	Henry Crawford Minister

II From Christ Church Burial Register

Name	Abode	When Buried	Age	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
John Finkelstein No 62	Jerusalem	May 19, 1858	1 month	Henry Crawford
Paulina Finkelstein No 80	Jerusalem	September 18, 1860	nearly 8 months	F. G. Fleischacker off. m.
Samuel Finkelstein No 96	Jerusalem	November 5, 1865	53	E. B. Frankel off. m.

From Minutes of the London Jews Society Local Committee

1853. May 17. Min: 54. -The Secretary reported that, on Sunday last, he baptized Sam Finkelstein, his wife, and two children.

1854. Feb. 28. Min: 38. -Dr. Macgowan proposed that on the termination of the lease of Finkelstein's present house the Com'tee should take from him, at 500 piasters per ann., a small house he took for the Hospital on account of its well. The Com'tee acceded to DrM's proposition.

1854. Jan. 27. Min: 80. -Dr Macgowan reported that during the execution of the repairs on the house taken from him for Finkelstein (see Min. 38), the arch in the cellar upon wh the superstructure rested had been found to be unsound and that this together with other items not in the original estimate had caused the expenditure of 2,000 piast. instead of 1,000, of wh. 400 had been paid by the Bishop, and he asked that the balance of 1,600 piast. might be paid him, 1,270 thereof to be a burden on the house as a pre-payment on acct of rent as agreed in Min: 38.

Resolved that the Sec'y be instructed to DrMacg 1,600 piast. 1855. Jan. 16. Min: 7. -The Sec'y was authorized to pay DrMacgowan 600 piast. per ann. for Finkelstein's ^{house} instead of 500 instructed by Min: 38 of last year, on acct of increased rent now charged on the house.

1855. Dec. 11. Min: 65. -Resolved to allow shutters to be put on the Finkelstein's windows the same to be charged to the Temp. Rel. Fund.

1856. April 29. Min: 23. -An application from Finkelstein ~~to~~ for assistance to enable him to revisit his relations in Russian Persia was considered. -Resolved that 1,000 piast. be allowed him for this purpose.

1856. Aug. 12. Dr Macgowan presented the lease for another year of the premises occupied in part by Mr Finkelstein, and the Sec'y was authorized to pay him (from Temp. Rel. Fund) 600 piast. being half the same.

1857. Apr. 21. Min: 30. -The Sec'y further pointed out the item of 500 piast. in the acct paid by Mr. Nicolayson to Mrs Finkelstein in the absence of the Bishop, as an advance from the sum belonging to her in his lordship's hands. His Lordship stated that the whole amount of funds due to Mrs Finkelstein had been made over to her and that the said advance of 500 piast., -as it could not be recovered from her-, must be paid from the Temp. Rel. Fund. -Resolved that the said sum of 500 piast. be charged to the Temp. Rel. Fund.

1857. Aug. 6. Min: 72. -The Sec'y brings forward the subject of allowances granted from the Temp. Rel. Fund, which in some instances are too much considered in the light of fixed salaries. He proposes that an examination be made of those cases with the view of making if possible some other arrangement respecting them.

2

Resolved that the Sec'y make inquiry into the circumstances of those proselytes who are receiving allowances from the Temp. Rel. Fund, and that he report on the same at the next meeting.

1857. Aug. 13. Min: 73. -The Sec'y reports that in pursuance of instructions from the Committee in Resolution No. 72, he had intimated to Mr & Mrs Finkelstein the wish of the Com'tee that they should seek for some employment by which they might provide for their own maintenance, as the assistance wh. they had hitherto received from the Temp. Rel. Fund was not to be considered as a fixed pension for life. He further told them that if they did not succeed in finding employment in Jerusalem, & wished to try some other place, the Committee would be willing to aid them in removing.

1857. Sept. 25. Min: 89. -Mr Hefter proposed that a grant of 440 piast. be made to the Finkelstein family to purchase wheat for the consumption of the family. --Resolved accordingly that the grant be made.

1858. Oct. 19. Min: -196. -An application was received ^{from} the Finkelsteins complaining of difficulties and distress, and ~~requ~~ requesting assistance against the approaching winter.

Resolved, -That Mr Crawford and Mr Hefter inquire into the nature of their difficulties and be authorized to assist the Finkelsteins to the extent of 600 piasters.

1859. Feb. 8. Min: 216. -The Sec'y reported that the sum of 500 piast. had been given as a grant to the Finkelsteins for the purchase of wheat according to Resolution Min: 214. -

1859. June 7. Min: 259. Sect. 2. -...With regard to the Dar Anaboose, and the Resolution of the Com'tee relating thereto, it was, -Resolved; -That the Sec'y do write to Capt. Layard that less than half the rent (1,400 piast.) is paid for the part of the premises actually occupied by the Finkelsteins and that it is impossible to provide for that family elsewhere. . . . It was further

Resolved, -that whatever may be deficient according to above arrangements of the whole amounts of rents paid for houses occupied by proselytes be carried to the credit of the general fund from the Temp. Rel. Fund, from the date of January 1st 1859.

1860. Jan. 16. Min: 30. -A petition was received from Samuel Finkelstein complaining of distress and praying for assistance for his numerous family.

Resolved, -That a grant of 500 piasters be made to this family, -warning them that frequent repetitions of this nature cannot in future be attended to.

1861.Feb.9. Min:-95.-Read letters from Sam Finkelstein, stating that he was confined to his bed by an accident wh. resulted in a fracture of his arm, and earnestly soliciting the pecuniary aid of the Committee.

Resolved,-That a grant of 500 piast.be made to Sam Finkelstein out of the Temp.Rel.Fund.

1861.April 30. Conversation.....with regard to the claim made by Mr & Mrs Finkelstein for the re-payment of a sum of money (10,000 piast.)alleged to have been paid to Bishop Gobat by the late Mr.Nicolayson. But as no demand had been made for its re-payment by the Local Com'tee,it was considered undesirable to take any notice of the matter.

1861.June 11.Min:12.-A letter from Mr Finkelstein was next read,praying that the Com'ttee would grant him the use of the house at present occupied by him,and stating also that he was prepared to pay its full rent.-This however appeared to the Committee not a subject wh.came within their province.

1862.Mch 4.Min:45.-Resolved to grant Finkelstein a sum of 300 piast.from Temp.Rel.Fund.

1862.Aug.12. Grant from Temp.Rel.Fund to Finkelstein 400 ~~pi~~ piasters.

1862.Sept 2.Petitions from Finkelstein & Rosenzweig negatived.

1862.Nov.11.Grant from Temp.R.F.to Finkelstein 400 piast.

1862.Dec.2.A letter from E.Finkelstein who had ceased to be connected with the Bishop's Girls School,was read praying for employment.

1863.Jan.27. Min:27.-A letter ~~was read~~ from Mrs Finkelstein was read in wh.she asked for justice in the case of a debt of 10,000 piasters wh.she alleged was still due here by the Lord Bishop who,she said,had received it from the late Austrian Consul,Count Petzzemanni.

1863.Feb.3.-The Secretary stated that Mrs Finglestein had given back to the Austrian Consul her receipt for the 10,000 piasters and had renounced all claim to the money.

1863.April 14.-A petition from the Finkelsteins was read, as it contained a request for Temp.Rel.its consideration was deferred until Captain Layard shall be present.

1863.May 5.-Grant from the Temp.R.Fund,-Fingelsteins 400 Pl.

1863.May 12.-Min:82.-Petition from Fingelstein for house rent negatived.

1863.May 19.-A letter was read from the Rev.Mr.Miles, Principal of Malta College, in wh he stated his intention of sending back the boys Hilpern and Fingelstein to Jerusalem. He also recommended that boys of this class be put to business instead of being sent to college.

1863.Sept.1.-Min:89.-A petition from Mrs Fingelstein was next read asking for the position of Superintendent of the Workroom of the Jew.Inst.

1863.Sept 8.-A petition for Temp.Rel.from Fingelsteins deferred till next month.

1863.Oct.6.-From Temp.Rel.was allowed...and to the Fingelsteins 200 Piast.

1864.Jan.5.-From Temp.Rel.Fund grants made..to Finkelsteins 400 Piastres.

1864.Mch 29.-As Benj.Fingelstein had been employed to teach in the House of Industry during the absence of Mr.Fleischhacker on a missionary journey and as he has gained the attention and good will of the inmates, it was (Min:92) Resolved to continue him as Evening Teacher in the House of Indust. at a monthly salary of 150 Piastres.

1864.May 3.-The petition of the Finglesteins was deferred.

1864.June 7.-From Temp.Rel.400 Piast.were allowed to the Fingelsteins.

1864.Oct.4.-From Temp.Rel.400 Piast.were voted to the Fingelsteins.

1865.Jan.4.-A petition from Benj.Fingelstein, the teacher in the House of Indust.was next read, asking for an increase of salary, wh.was negatived.

1865.Feb.7.-From Temp.R.Fund 300 Piast.were voted to the Fingelsteins.

1865.June 6.-Min:34.-Petition for assistance received from Mrs Finkelstein.-Granted to Mrs Finkelstein 500 Piastres.

1865.Nov.7.-A grant of 200 piast.was made to Mrs Finkelstein to assist in paying her husband's funeral expenses.Temp. Rel.Fund.-Min.45.-

1866.Feb.6.-Min.2:-Granted 200 Piast.to Mrs Finkelstein from Temp.Rel.Fund.

1866.Mar.6.-A petition for Temp.Relief and also for gratuitous instruction of her son in Arabic in the Boys' School was read from Mrs Finkelstein and then deferred.

1866.May 1.-A petition from Mrs Fingelstein was negatived.

1866.July 24.-The selection of a teacher to supply the place of Benj.Fingelstein was deferred.

1868.Nov.24.-A peition was read from Benj.Fingelstein asking to be allowed to resume his post as evening teacher in the House of Industry.After considering the subject the Committee resolved to re-appoint him on probation for one month to give instruction in the House of Industry for two hours on the evenings of Monday,Tuesday,Thursday and Friday.And that his salary be as heretofore,150 piast.per ~~month~~ month.

1869.June 15.-Min.24:-A letter was read from Miss Dickson in which application was made for admission into the Jewesses Institution of Lydia Fingelstein(the daughter of a proselyte) aged 14 years. As she had already been in the Institution,and had been withdrawn by her mother,the Local Committee preferred referring the case to the Parent Committee.

1869.Aug.3.-The letter of Captain Layard,No.46 bearing date July 17,1869,was next read.....The case of Lydia Fingelstein seeking admission into the Jewesses Institution as a boarder was left with the local Committee. On re-considering the matter it ~~was~~ seemed better to let her continue a day scholar as heretofore.

1869.Sept.14.-A petition was read from Mrs Fingelstein in which she asked for aid towards sending her son & daughter to America,but the Committee had no funds at its disposal.

1874.Feb.3.Min:313,314:- A grave complaint having been against Mr.Finkelstein the teacher in the House of Industry it was resolved that Mr.Schick be directed to suspend Mr. Finkelstein until such time as a full investigation could be made into the charges made against him.

1874.Feb.17.Min:315:-A letter from Miss E.Finkelstein complaining of her dismissal by Miss Dickson from the situation as Scripture reader to the Jewesses having been read, the Secretary was requested to inform Miss Finkelstein that the Committee had no power to entertain the complaint as Miss Dickson in this matter acts independently of the Committee.

1874.Feb.17.Min:316.-A letter from Mr P. Finkelstein referring to the accusations which had been brought against him and wh. had resulted in his being suspended from his situation as Teacher in the H. of Industry, having been read, it was resolved that the matter be referred to the Secretary for investigation and report.

1874.Feb.24.Min:327.-A letter from Miss Finkelstein asking for employment in the work of the Mission having been read, It was resolved that Miss Finkelstein be informed that the Committee had no employment to offer her.

1874.Mch.3.Min:-334.-The Sec'y reported that he had investigated the charges against Mr Finkelstein and that as they did not appear to be proved Mr Finkelstein was re-instated in his duties.

1874.Mch.17. Having read letter from Miss Finkelstein again asking for employment, on the grounds that the Sec'y in London did not seem to imply in his letter to her a refusal of employment, -Min: -Resolved, -That the application be declined.

1874.Dec.22.-Dr. Chaplin reported that he had been summoned to attend at the German Consulate and give evidence touching a charge brought by Mrs Weintraub against her sister Mrs Finkelstein of attempting to poison her husband Mr Paul Weintraub.

1874.Dec.29.-A letter from Mr Paul Weintraub was read stating that his wife had forsaken him and asking that his daughter may be received as a boarder in the Society's Girls School as he is not able to attend to her. It was resolved that the subject be postponed for future consideration.

1875.June 8.Min:-46.-Benj. Finkelstein on leaving Jerusalem for America desired a certificate with regard to the character and duration of his services in the House of Industry. It was resolved that it should be granted him.

1877.May 1.-A petition was read from Mrs Finkelstein for assisting her two daughters (Esther and Lydia) with traveling expenses to America, stating that she had already Thirty Pounds, but the expenses amount to 60 pounds:-

Resolved, -that as it was desirable to promote their ~~emigration~~ emigration 15 pounds should be granted in a Letter of Credit to be obtained from Mr Bergheim on London or Liverpool.

I hereby declare that the foregoing statements are a true & correct transcript from the Minutes & Archives of the Local Committee of the London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews.

13 Feb. 1905.

J. Carnegie Brown
Head of the Mission

The foregoing

Signature of J. Carnegie Brown, was
signed in my presence and is hereby
authenticated and legalized.

Sela Merrill
U. S. Consul



Jerusalem, February 13, 1903.

CONSULAR BUREAU.

No. 65



U.S. Consulate General

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, February 13, 1903

Consular Bureau
MAR 27 1903

MAR 6 1903

Sela Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject

Shipping supplies from State Department to this
Consulate:-unreasonable delays of the Steamer
Company

To Room
March 30 '03

From Room
April 2 '03



No. 65

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, February 16, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

Allow me to call attention to the shipping of supplies from the State Department to this Consulate.

A box sent from Washington ought to be in this Consulate in the course of five weeks. In quarantine times a reasonable additional number of days must be allowed. We do not send in an order until within two months or say ten weeks of the time when we judge the supplies will be needed.

Our last order was sent August 7, 1902. Shipper's Invoice from New York dated Sept. 22. Invoice from State Department dated Sept. 23. The goods arrived as per State Department Invoice returned, February 16, - this date. Six months and 10 days from date of our order. - ~~five~~ months lacking 6 days from date of shipper's Invoice.

This delay has put us to great inconvenience. Shippers from here need Invoice blanks but we had to put them off day after day for two months. Other examples of inconvenience I need not mention.

As the goods were sent by the Levant Line I wrote to the agent of the company in Alexandria in December and he replied that the goods would be sent on the 10th of January. They arrived, as I have said, on the 16th of February, 36 days after his date.

The cholera and quarantine are urged as excuses. But while these goods have been lying in Alexandria or traveling up and down the coast no one knows where or how, scores of steamers from Alexandria have landed their goods at Jaffa.

The freight, it seems, was prepaid in New York. In that case the company would not turn them over to another line which would have brought them to Jaffa three months sooner.

I have sent hundreds of cases back and forth between Jerusalem and Boston or New York and two months has been the average time. I never send by "express" for there is none here. I never prepay the freight and shippers are anxious to hurry the goods through and get their money.

I have not written to the shipper in New York, and do not think I ought to do so without directions from the Department to that effect.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

Seah Merrill
U. S. Consul.

MEMORANDUM

of the Consul General accompanying Consul Merrill's No 65
of the 16th. February 1903.

In the annexed dispatch Consul Merrill states among other things "Shippers from here need Invoice blanks, but we had to put them off day after day for two months."

Under Circular instruction of August 1st. 1897 Consuls General are instructed to supply all invoice forms to the Consuls subordinate to them and the Consuls are directed to make requisition upon the Consuls General therefor.

The practice in this office is to keep a full supply of invoice forms and to mail them to the consuls whenever notified that they are required. Such a requisition from Consul Merrill would have been promptly honored. It is probable that the Circular of August 1897 is not on file in his office and I am sending him by this mail a copy of this memorandum for his information and guidance.

Constantinople, March 7th. 1903.

Chas. Dickinson
Consul General.

*sent
M.C.*

CONSULAR BUREAU.

CHIEF CLERK,

MAY 16 1903

Department of State.



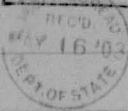
U.S. Consulate General

APR 20 1903

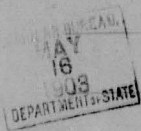
Constantinople.

*Recd
Howe*

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 20, 1903.



CONSULAR BUREAU
NOTED
*cc'd
Hisco June 10 1903*



Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce

Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject

Marriage of Daniel Hall a naturalized American
citizen with Natalie Klimscha, born Mihalsky an
Austrian subject, on the 24 th of February 1903.



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United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 20, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

Inclosed please find Certificate of Marriage
of Daniel Hall a naturalized American citizen with an
Austrian Natalie Klimscha, born Mihalsky, on the 24 th of
February 1903.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
U.S. Consul.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

CONSULAR RECORDS
NOTED

Consulate of the United States,

Jaffa February 24, 1903

I, *C. Hardegg, C. Agent* of the United States

at *Jaffa*, do hereby certify that, on this *twenty fourth*
day of *February*, A. D. *1903*, at *the English Chapel, German Colony*

in the city of *Jaffa, Palestine*, *Mr. Daniel Hall*

aged *thirty one* years, born in *Palestine* and now

residing in *Jaffa*, and *Miss Natalie Klimscha, born*

halfly aged *twenty five* years, born in *Ederberg Austria*

and now residing in *Jaffa* were united in marriage before me,

and in my presence, by *Pastor Albert Schlaich*, who is authorized

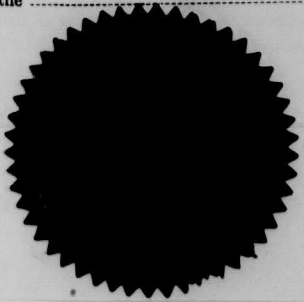
by the laws of *the German Evangelical Church* to perform such a ceremony.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the

Consulate at *Jaffa*, this *twenty fourth*

day of *February*, A. D. *1903* and of the Independence of the United States

the _____



C. Hardegg
Consul.
H. C. Agent



CONSULAR BUREAU.

9th. ASST. SECRETARY.
JUN 13 1903

CONSULAR BUREAU
JUN 13 1903
DEPT. OF STATE

CONSULAR BUREAU
MAY 15 1903
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

U.S. Consulate General
MAY 23 1903
Constantinople.

*Recd
from*

No.66.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 20, 1903.

C
CLERK.
JUN 13 1903
Department of State.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

*Forwarded to Auditor
June 16 03.*

Subject:-

Application for leave of absence for 60 days to
visit Europe.

INDEX BUREAU
JUN 26 1903
FILED

ct^o 66
Approved
W. Smith-Lyle

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 20, 1903.

Vice & Deputy Consul General
In charge

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

I hereby ask for sixty days' leave of absence to visit Europe. I should wish to leave my post soon after the first of July. Twice before leaves of absence have been granted but it was never convenient for me to leave my post and I have done so, in 1901, only on one instance, and that for twenty seven days. It is not certain that I go away and if I do I may not go to Europe; circumstances at the time will decide.

If I go the usual formalities regarding the office will be complied with.

Respectfully

Your obedient servant

Seah Merrill

U. S. Consul.

Cons. S.

CONSULAR BUREAU
REC'D.
JUN 18 1903
DEPT. OF STATE

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY.
JUN 20 1903

*Recd
Strut*

U.S. Consulate General
JUN 4 1903
Constantinople.

No. 67.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 22, 1903.

CONSULAR BUREAU.
PLEASE REPORT.

CONSUL. BUREAU.
JUN 3 1903
DEPT. OF STATE

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

*Copy to Mrs
Mountford
July 7
1907*

Subject

Acknowledging Despatch No. 65 with Mountford's
inclosure.

INDEX BUREAU
JUL 5 1907
FILED

No. 67.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 22, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. G. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

Your No. 65, April 22, 1903, with inclosure from Madame Mountford, is at hand.

I have not spoken to this woman for fifteen or twenty years. In 1876 I applied to the London Jews Society here as I was a stranger, for flower cards. They replied, - "there is a family of proselyte Jews belonging to the mission, named Finkelstein, who make flower cards and you will be doing a favor if you patronize them as they are very poor." I went to the house and purchased what I wish. I do not know who I saw at the house. This is the first time I heard of the Finkelsteins. This is all the "favors" I received.

I have never had any controversy with this woman and do not propose to have. Her controversy with the British Weekly, I had nothing to do with. The charge that I "incited persons to write letters about her" to the British Weekly or to any other paper is absolutely false.

The statement about my wishing to become a partner with her and exhibit brids, is pure fiction and extremely ridiculous.

"My eldest brother was Deputy U.S. Consul". Her brother Benjamin was "dishonorably discharged from the service of this Consulate". *Bas. No. 69. May 28. 1869.*

She says she "has taken no notice of Mr Merrill's asperations". Aspirations? What aspirations? *) omit*

Her charge that I have "sent clippings to the Jerusalem exhibit company" is absolutely false. I have no clippings, and I have sent none to anybody. ago

"Special firman" &c. Fifty and sixty years, any trader from a merchant to a pedlar, could obtain a "special firman" to enter and trade in the Ottoman dominions. Now-a-days ~~tesperehs~~ are given. Sam Finkelstein the father of this woman came to Jerusalem a Russian Jew tailor and did very common work.

My opinion was asked and I expressed it in respectful language. This Russian Jewess now an English subject as she says that her "husband is and Englishman", is not pleased with my opinion. The case is this: - Many thousands of Americans will visit the Jerusalem exhibit at St Louis and they have a right to have the best instruction that can be obtained (is this foreign woman the only person to be considered? Have the probable tens of thousands of American visitors to the Fair no rights that should be regarded?) *) omit*

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

S. L. Merrill
U. S. Consul

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

Mr Peirce

I suggest that copies
of the dispatch he
sent to Mrs Moulford
who made the Com-
plaint,

APPROVED
H.N.D.G.

M.P.B.
→

No. 68.



CONSULAR BUREAU
AUG 23
1903
DEPT. OF STATE

U. S. Consulate General
AUG 5 1903
Constantinople.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, July 27, 1903.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

Subject.-

Reply to Mathews and Spafford letters relative to the
death of one of members of the Spaffordite community.

File
Info Mathews
info. Aug. 31/03.



no. 68

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, July 27, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 66, dated June 25, 1903, with inclosures from Anna M. Mathews, and Anna Spafford dated May 25, 1903.

My reply to these letters is inclosed on sheets separate from this despatch.

The Department is familiar with the methods of the Spaffordites in their attempts to injure the U. S. Government and American interests in this city. These efforts have been carried on for many years. The matter is not personal with the Consuls who occupy this office; still the Consul whoever he may be, has to bear the brunt of these malicious and unjust attacks.

The duties of this office are arduous; it requires all my time and strength to keep things in order and to attend to the regular duties. I can very poorly spare several weeks every year to reply to the falsehoods of the Spaffordites. Take the present instance: - to hunt up papers and prepare a suitable reply has cost me three days' work, besides the worry and annoyance of it. Sometime last year after I had cleared off a number of Spaffordite documents the Consul General wrote me, - "it is a pity that your time and strength which should be devoted to public business are so much taken up with these matters. It is an injustice to you and to the Government".

I have been hoping that some definite steps would be taken to correct this evil. Doubtless the Department feels that petitions must receive attention. But a single petition is one thing; - an annual stream of baseless charges and vituperation poured into the Department for many years ought at last to be recognized at its proper value. Mr. Cridler asked to make suggestions how this abuse of a privilege could be stopped. If something clear and emphatic could be printed and circulated especially among travellers who come here, it might serve as a check. Unless something is done this nuisance will continue; for every year they induce some people to believe them from whom they extort a promise that they will write to the President, - and the Department and this Consulate suffer further annoyance.

I remain respectfully Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul

With regard to Miss Anna M. Mathews' letter with its inclosure from Mrs Anna Spafford the head of the Spaffordite Colony in Jerusalem, dated May 25, 1903, I make the following Report:-

Miss Mathews says that she "does not understand the matter," which is very certain. If Mrs Spafford really believes her own statements it is certain that she does not understand it either. But Mrs Spafford knows perfectly well that she is mixing truth and falsehood for a certain purpose, according to a well known practise of the Spaffordites. Why did not Mrs Spafford refer to the man's name? Probably she refers to Mr Erick Peterson a Swede who with his family joined the Spafford Colony and came with Mrs Spafford to Jerusalem in March 1896.

American citizen.-This man was not recorded in the Consulate, he had never been to the Consulate, and this Consulate had no knowledge that he claimed to be an American citizen. He concealed his nationality as others in that household have done. Mrs Spafford says "his papers were in his box". That ~~fact~~, if true, does not affect this Consulate, nor does his being an American citizen or not affect the matter in question.

Relations to his family.-These were pleasant until Mrs Spafford interfered as she claims the right of doing, although they "are all equal", separated Peterson from his family and forbid them having anything to do with him. Peterson had offended Mrs Spafford in some way. This is alleged by his son and others. Peterson went to Jericho and if "took to drink" it was largely due to the cruel treatment he had received in the Spafford community.

Cholera in Jericho.-Mrs Spafford gives the reader to understand that there was cholera in Jerusalem for she and her "prosperous household were mercifully delivered from the pestilence". But as the Department is aware there was no case of cholera in Jerusalem nor in the vicinity within the distance, to be exact, of 22, 23, 40, and 25 miles on the east, south, north, and west respectively. There was no cholera in Jericho when Peterson left that place. As soon as cholera appeared in Jericho a strict cordon was established so that no one could get through. The driver stated that a few miles before reaching Jerusalem Peterson was taken sick and asked to be "taken at once to his wife and family". Soon after he died.

According to Peterson's dying request the driver went as quickly as possible to the Spafford house, but was refused admittance and roughly ordered to go away at once. He was not allowed to deliver to the wife her dead husband's message. He went to a neighbor whom he knew and together they decided to go to the Consul. They came between 5 and 6 o'clock in the morning of December 1, 1902, and asked what was

2

to be done. I said that as the man was a member of the Spaffordite community, the body must be taken at once to his home where his wife and children were. They returned to that house but were driven away by force. They came a second time to my hotel, this time accompanied by one or more of the community. I did not see them for I was not dressed; but their demand was that I "must take the body and bury it". I sent out a note as follows:—"The Spaffordites have their own places of burial and the wife, family, and friends of Mr Peterson, reported dead, are the proper persons to look after his burial". (They have seven different places of burial about Jerusalem). Baldwin one of the community, then wrote me a very impudent letter, making impossible demands and stating among other things that "Peterson was not a member of their colony". I replied in a second note as follows:—"I have nothing to add to my first note". Both these notes were signed and dated, December 1, 1902.

In all this affair the wife and adult children did not appear, nor were their names mentioned nor their wishes indicated to me in any way. What they wanted, as the son told me later, was to receive the body of their husband and father and to see that it was buried in a proper manner.

Mrs Spafford's "tussle with our consul" ended here.

She had learned that law and custom could not be violated, and must have realized, if she did not the people of Jerusalem did, that she was treating the family of the deceased in a cruel manner.

The Spaffordites asked the authorities for a medical officer who reported that Peterson's death had nothing to do with cholera, thus disproving Mrs Spafford's assertion on page 2 of her letter. The medical paper was taken to the Spafford house about 9 or 10 o'clock; the Interpreter of the Consulate saw the messenger on his way to deliver the report and read the same.

On page 2 Mrs Spafford makes a statement which is a confession of the shameful character of their entire conduct in the matter:—"The Lord delivered us, and at 5 P.M. we buried the poor man having been in the carriage all these hours in the hot sun".

After the man died the driver did not come first to the consul as Mrs Spafford asserts, page 2, but according to the dead man's last request he drove as fast as possible to the Spafford house. The Spafford house is outside the walls a little off the road as one comes from Jericho, and the natural thing to do was to stop at the man's own house first which was done. The driver did not come to my hotel till after 5 o'clock, but Mrs Spafford says that he was at her house at 3 o'clock that morning. The medical examination was about 9 o'clock. It is the custom here to bury soon after death takes place and a coffin can be made ready in one hour. Mrs Spafford says they buried the body at 5 o'clock P.M. Why did they wait till 5 o'clock in the afternoon? The body lay in a wagon, in the street, from early morning till afternoon "in the hot sun", -till 5 o'clock Mrs Spafford declares. The comments of the people of Jerusalem were many

and severe upon this treatment by the Spaffordites by one of their members,-these "holy people,so happy and so loving".

In that community there have been 35 or more deaths and the percentage of mortality is exceptionally large;but in these cases why have they not asked the Consul to interfere? Why should the Consul be asked to interfere in the case of Peterson alone?Had I interfered without any request from the family, the Spaffordites would have been ready to denounce me and even to threaten me with vengeance for my action.

Ignoring the dying request of Peterson; declaring in writing that he was not a member of their community;ignoring his perfectly legal right to his home where his wife, children and property were;trying to keep the body from the wife and children and to force the Consul to take it and bury it,-contrary to their universal custom;declaring falsely, in writing, that he died of cholera;keeping the body lying in a wagon in the street in the hot sun from early morning till sometime in the afternoon;these facts need explanation.The reason is disclosed in the tone and character of Mrs Spafford's letter;-it was a malicious plot on the part of the Spaffordites to involve the consul in difficulty if possible.Two years ago when the love scrape and shooting affair occurred in that house on a certain Sunday,they tried the same plan of making the consul responsible for the whole business,whereas the consul had no more to do with,than Emperor William had.

I have referred to a statement made to me by Mr Peterson's son a young man then 21 years old.This person,Arthur E.Peterson,is now in America residing at Stamford,Conn.He has a good place and is trying to make a man of himself,-"thankful that he is free from the slavery of the Spafford community in Jerusalem".After his father died his uncle in California sent him money to go to America.After his father died he made this written statement before witnesses;- "The Spafford people have driven me out of the house for which they assign no reason".Signed Arthur E.Peterson.

I wonder that Mrs Spafford allows herself to speak so strongly as she does of the neglect and indifference of the Turkish officials and the Mo&lims here who, the Spaffordites claim,are their "best friends"; even declaring that " a Turkish official took a bribe",-one of her "dear friend".See page 2 near the bottom.

Twice in her letter Mrs Spafford speaks of "brother Jacob". "Brother Jacob,a Turkish subject,is a Jew as bankrupt in honor and conscience as he always has been in money. His "business" in America is trying to overcome the law and secure certain money that belongs to two Whiting children for the Spafford community.The money and property of every mem-

ber must be put into the common fund and the owners of it never see it again. This Whiting money will go into the funds of the community and soon disappear and the Whiting children will be left penniless. The friends of the children hope that such a calamity may be prevented. To defraud these children in the service of the Community is the "business" of "brother Jacob" now in America.

Jerusalem,
July 27. 1903.

Selah Merrill
M. S. Bonsal

Case No. 69

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
SEP 5 '03
DEPT. OF STATE

U.S. Consulate General
AUG 20 1903
Constantinople.

File

CONSULAR BUREAU
SEP 8 1903
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, August 5, 1903.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject

Information respecting Ephraim Cohen who for many years has sought to be recognized as an American citizen

*ack F
2 CFP
Sept 12, 1903*

No 69

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, August 5, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

Ephraim Cohen resident of this city was this day given the usual certificate of identification for the Custom House, N. Y., as he is starting for America expecting to obtain from the Government citizen papers and passport. The attention of the Department is called to Despatch No. 35, November 14, 1900, and to the Department's reply No. 46, June 17, 1901. Said Ephraim has never been able to prove his right to American citizenship and has never been recognized by this Consulate as such.

This man has never lived in America and has, so far as known, no intention of living in America.

The plan will be this: - to withhold the facts recorded in the despatches referred to, get Jews in New York to testify to this that and the other, and thus by false statements or by withholding the truth, obtain the papers which for many years he has been anxious to secure.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul.

Mr. Whitehouse



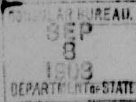
A copy of this
despatch with a statement
of Cohen's status as an
alien should be sent to
the Dept. of Commerce &
Labor.

#46 June 17/07

H. G.

Law
M. G.

No. 70



See no. 61 Jan'y. 9, 03

CONSULAR BUREAU.
NOTED AND FILED.

SEP 5 1903

United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, August 6, 1903.

U.S. Consulate General

AUG 20 1903
Constantinople.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject

Documents, papers, accounts, and vouchers in final
settlement of Estate of Mary E. Rea, deceased Dec.
9, 1902, as asked for by S. A. Murdock the legal
representative of the same.

Auto file
auth by
Sept 12, 1903.

No. 70

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, August 6, 1903

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

In despatch No. 61, January 9th 1903, I reported the death of Mrs Mary E. Rea. Herewith are inclosed detailed reports, accounts, and papers of final settlement of her estate. This settlement was acted for by Mr. S. A. Murdock of Havana, Illinois, Attorney, the legal representative of the heirs, - in a letter dated June 27, 1903.

Charles E. Smith and Jennie C. Smith, America's residing here and neighbors of Mrs Rea, were appointed to make an inventory of her goods and property and assist in the settlement of the estate.

1. Goods sold, Inclosure No. 1.
2. Good sent to heirs before final settlement, Inclosure No. 2.
3. Money found and loans, Inclosure No. 3.
4. Funeral and other expenses and Government tax, Inclosure No. 4.
5. Copy Death Certificate, Inclosure No. 5.
6. Copy Doctor's Bill, Inclosure No. 6.
7. Summary of account, Selah Merrill, Consul, with estate of Mary E. Rea, Inclosure No. 7.
8. Summary of account, Selah Merrill, Consul, with U. S. Government in estate Mary E. Rea, Inclosure No. 8.

Copies of the above except the last have been forwarded to S. A. Murdock Esquire, legal representative of the heirs of Mrs Rea, at Havana, Illinois; *And copies also in our Record Books.*

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul.

Form 192 inclosed

CONSULAR BUREAU
NOTED AND FILED

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN

Consular Service, U. S. A.,

August 6, 1903.

Name: Mary E. Rea

Native or naturalized: 5

Date of death: December 9, 1902

Place of death: Jerusalem

Cause of death: Heart failure

Disposition of remains: Buried in Jerusalem

Local law as to disinterring remains in case it is desired to bring them home:

Disposition of effects:

Full report in Despatch No. 70, August 6, 1903.

Address of family: Address given in Des. 61, Jan. 9, 1903. Ed. correct address of legal representatives, S.A. Murbokk, Havana, Cuba.

Family notified: a friend was notified in So Bend, Ind.

Accompanied by relatives: No.

This information, inventory, accounts, etc., recorded in Miscellaneous Record

Book, pages Consular Record Book

Remarks: The Regulations require the Consulate to keep a Register of citizens, but no one is obliged to register. Consequently, a good many live here for years and we know nothing about them. Mrs. Rea had no papers, was not registered, and we had great difficulty in finding out anything about her. We found some reference to a Methodist Church in So. Bend, Ind., and wrote to the Pastor making inquiries. We also wrote to a friend as stated above, whose address we supposed we had found. If we could require registration of American citizens residing here it would save a great deal of extra labor.



Deeah Merrill
Consul of the United States.

(Form No. 192.)

CONSULAR SERVICE, U. S. A.,

AT

Jerusalem

Report of the Death of an American Citizen.

Enclosure No. *9* in despatch

No. *70*

August 6 190*3*

Goods belonging to Mrs Mary E. Rea who died December 9, 1902. These objects were found in her room after her death and disposed of as follows:-

The bedding and all that pertained to the same were burned by order of the physician. Mrs Rea did not die of any infectious disease, but as it was during the cholera scare this was done as a precaution.-

Bedstead and wire mattress	\$ 7.00
Small Mirror	2.00
Curtains	2.00
Small Lamp and Petroleum	1.00
Small Gas Steve	2.00
Slop Pail	60
Flat Iron and Tin Tub	80
Rocking Chair and Ironing Board	2.40
Wash Board and Clothes Pins	40
Charcoal, Foot Rug, Small Basket, Old Broom, Straw Mat, Wash Pan, Little Sugar, Little Flour, Old Bucket, A Few Bowls, Four Tumblers, A Little Wood, Tin Boxes, Stew Pans, Strainer, Tin Dishes, -the lot	6.20
Old Bottles, Rubbish, Truck, -the lot	2.00
Table with Two Drawers	2.00
Plain Table	1.00
Worn Table Spread	60
Hand Sewing Machine, badly broken	4.00
	\$ 34.00

Charles E. Smith
Jennie C. Smith



Delah Merrill
U. S. Consul

5
2

CONTENTS of a trunk marked S.A.Murdock, Havana, Illinois, on top and Mrs M.E.Rea on end. Sent March 17 per Steamer Maria Theresa to New York.

Contents of said trunk belonged to Mrs M.E.Rea, deceased in Jerusalem Dec.9,1902, and are sent to her friends. They consist of worn articles of clothing and a few personal souvenirs or keepsakes. These articles, notions, handkerchiefs, 2 gold chains, gold watch, silver watch, pins, a few small objects of jewelry, &c., were not appraised:—The articles of worn clothing are enumerated as follows:—

2 Pillow Shams - - - - -	\$ 2.00
9 Chemises - - - - -	3.00
6 Aprons - - - - -	1.25
8 Pillow Cases - - - - -	80
6 Under Shirts - - - - -	2.00
9 Skirts - - - - -	9.00
3 Night Gowns - - - - -	2.00
1 Muslin Curtain - - - - -	50
9 Drawers - - - - -	3.00
1 Bed Quilt - - - - -	2.00
1 Maltese Shawl - - - - -	4.00
1 Cashmere Shawl - - - - -	3.00
1 Sheet - - - - -	30
6 Towels - - - - -	50
1 Table Cloth - - - - -	1.00
2 Under Drawers - - - - -	50
2 Under Vests - - - - -	25
1 Curtain - - - - -	2.00
1 Pair Gloves - - - - -	25
3 Dress Shirts - - - - -	1.00
5 Blouses - - - - -	1.00
2 Cotton Dresses - - - - -	1.50
1 Dress Waist - - - - -	15
1 Bed Curtain - - - - -	10
1 Black Dress - - - - -	1.50
1 Grey Dress - - - - -	1.50
1 Blue Skirt - - - - -	1.50
1 Grey Dress - - - - -	2.50
1 Skirt & Waist silk - - - - -	1.00
1 Grey Cape with fur - - - - -	2.00
1 Curtain - - - - -	50
1 Hand Bag - - - - -	50.
	-\$-52.10- Totl \$ 52.10

The AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY, New York, was asked by letter to meet the Maria Theresa on her landing in New York, claim this Trunk from the Purser or Baggage Master, and forward the same to S.A.Murdock, Havana, Illinois. The charges to go forward to be paid by Mr Murdock on arrival, -he being the Attorney and legal representative of Mrs Rea's heirs.

+ Charles E. Smith.
 < Jennie C. Smith



Selah Merrill
 U. S. Consul

Estate of Mrs M.E.Rea.

Money loaned at interest to the Greek Convent:-

One note falling due April 25, and the other falling due May 25, 1903, for 2650, and 4240 respectively, in francs, amounting to	frances	6890.-
--	---------	--------

Cash found in Turkish, American, French and Canadian money making in dollars	\$ 90.00
---	----------

Charles E. Smith.
Jennie E. Smith.



Isabel Krill
U. S. Consul

D
LE

Expenses Mrs M.E.Rea's Estate:-

Kreiter services last day and night	2.50	
Carriage and assitants night decease	2.00	
Grave dug at night, Coffin made by night, Porters, Carriages	24.00	
Doctor, materials, fumigation and assistants two days and burning goods	6.00	
Repairing room for landlord	3.00	
Man to pack, rope, and ship trunk	1.50	
Doctor's bill	5.00	
Cutting and placing stone at grave, feet by feet, laid in cement	8.00	
Polishing and cutting letters on same	10.00	
Carriages several times, Men employed selling goods, Porters delivering goods	4.00	\$ 66.00

Govt tax on goods sent before settlement amt'g to \$52.10 at 2 & one half percent	1.30	
Govt tax on balance, namely, goods sold and cash found \$34 and \$ 90 respectively at 5 per cent	6.20	
Govt tax on money loaned, namely, 6890 francs at 2 and one half per cent	33.25	\$ 40.75

Total 106.75 dollars.



Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul

Mary E.Rea.

Death certiciate. COPY.

English Mission Hospital,Jerusalem.10 December 1902. No.26.

This is to certify that I was called in to see Mrs M.E.Rea. She was dead an hour before I saw her. I believe the immediate cause of death was from syncope. Mrs Rea, I am told, has been suffering for some time from Chronic Dyspepsia and Dysentery. She had an acute attack of gastritis on Monday morning, and died at 3 P.M. Tuesday afternoon. She had no medical attanedant.

((signed) Percy D'Erf Wheeler
M.D.,F.R.C.S.



Scelah Merrill
U. S. Consul

2/6

Mary E.Rea.

Copy of Dr.'s Bill.

Jerusalem, January 15, 1903.

To U.S.Consulate.

For two inspections medically of the remains of
Mrs Mary E.Rea, and death certificate for the same
one pound.

(signed) Percy D'Erf Wheeler, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Received the above,
P.W.15.I.1903.



Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul

7
3

Selah Merrill, Consul, in account with estate of Mary E.
Rea, deceased, in Jerusalem.

Debtor	
Goods forwarded to S.A. Murdock	52.10
Goods sold	34.00
Cash	90.00
Loans	6890 francs.
Total	6890 francs 176.10 \$

Credit	
Goods forwarded	52.10
Funeral expenses	66.00
Govt tax	7.50
Draft on N.Y. in dollars	50.50
Draft, Paris, in francs	6717.75
Govt tax	172.25
francs 6890.00	\$ 176.10

Balanced



Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul

2
8

Selah Merrill, Consul, in account with the U.S. Government
in settlement of estate of Mary E. Rea deceased in Jerusalem.

Debtor

To amt taxes on sundry properties of said Mary E. Rea
as per accounts rendered August 6, 1903. \$ 40.75

Credit

To be deducted from quarterly salary
third quarter Sept. 30, 1903 \$ 40.75

Items:-

52.10 goods sent before settlement at 2 and one half p.c.	\$ 1.30
34 Goods sold at 5 p.c.	1.70
Cash at 5 p.c.	4.50
6890 francs loaned at 2 and one hlf p.c.	
172.25 francs at 5.18 ...	33.25

	\$ 40.75



Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul

*Case
No. 71*



CONSULAR BUREAU
SEP 8
1903
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

U.S. Consulate General
AUG 20 1903
Constantinople.

Dear Sir

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, August 7, 1903.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

Subject

Turkish post office in Jerusalem. Petition of chief
of Turkish post. Conversation with English Consul.

*In. Postmaster General with
Sept 9/03
File*



No 71

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, August 7, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Referring to my despatch No. 63 January 28, 1903 relative to the American mail and the Turkish post office, the American citizens here wish me to express their gratitude to the Department that said despatch has received favorable attention and that the American mail now comes through the Austrian post office.

Since the change began to operate the chief of the post office here accompanied by the secretary of the Governor has called upon me twice urging me to ask the U.S. Government to have the mail sent by Turkish post. I replied: "Have you made similar requests of the Russian, German, French, or Austrian Consuls, for each of those countries has an office here; or have you done so to the English Consul since the English mail always comes through the Austrian office?" "If you have done so, I shall have some ground for a strong letter in your favor to my Government". The chief of the post office did not know what to say.

This week my English colleague asked me about the Turkish post office, saying, "The Governor called upon me and urged me to ask my Government to empty the Turkish post office!" I immediately opened my desk and took from an official envelope which had come from Constantinople by the Turkish post and showed it to the Governor. The envelope had been opened, the stamps were gone, the envelope was crushed and soiled, and the despatch had been twenty days or more on its way from Constantinople. This came by your post office. The Governor blushed, and the conversation ended."

I inclose a petition which was put into my hands by the chief of the post office with the request that I send it to Washington.

I make no comment upon it except the conversation as reported above of my English colleague.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Delia W. Merrill
U. S. Consul

Encl. Petition

No 72

Case
M.D.

CONSULAR BUREAU
SEP 8
- 1903
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
SEP 5 '03
DEPT OF STATE

U.S. Consulate General
AUG 20 1903
Constantinople.

Recd
For

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, August 8, 1903.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

To Mr. H. Peirce
Case Sept 10/03

Subject.

Forwarding Notice from Registry of Deeds through
the Governor to Mirima Rachel of expiration of
mortgage.

INDEX BUREAU
AUG 20 1903
FILED

No 72

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, August 8, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

We have been asked officially by the Governor of Jerusalem to act in the following matter. Certain property in this city owned by an American citizen residing in New York, N. Y., is mortgaged to a Turkish subject residing in Jerusalem. The mortgage expired two years since. The party in New York has been communicated with twice through this Consulate, but without result. The person holding the mortgage demands that the property be sold.

Herewith is forwarded a Notice from the Registry of Deeds in Jerusalem, received through the Governor, translated into English by Mr Gelat the Interpreter of this Consulate, and properly certified, - this document the American citizen is to retain. Inclosed also is the same document in Arabic and the American citizen named is to sign the same at the place marked with the date below the name. This is to be returned to this office for proper action.

The name of the person holding the mortgage is Basha, daughter of Samuel Ashtrom.

The name of the American citizen is Miriam Rachel daughter of Wolf. She is the wife of M. Grossman whose address is care of Mr. Benjamin, 394-396 Grand Street, New York, N. Y.

The person in question must sign herself, - Miriam Rachel, daughter of Wolf.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Seah Merrill
U. S. Consul

Inclosure: - Dec. in Arabic as described

No. 73

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, September 24, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

In reply to Despatch No. 67, August 28, 1903, relative to Post Office facilities in Jerusalem, I would say that we have here an Austrian, Russian, French, and German post office. The Austrian has been established many years. For some years we have been greatly annoyed because the American mail was sent through the Turkish post office. The losses were many to say nothing of other matters. Strong representations have been made several times to Washington, and it is only during the present summer that the American mail has been sent by the Austrian post office, greatly to the satisfaction of the American residents here and of the many others who receive letters from America.

The Austrian post master informs me that packages are made up in New York marked Jaffa or Jerusalem, sent to London, and sent thence direct to Jerusalem. The English mail is sent direct to Jerusalem, likewise by the Austrian post. Of the smaller countries Spain sends via Marseilles, Brindisi, Jerusalem. Switzerland, Brindisi, Jerusalem. Italy, Brindisi, Jerusalem. All by the Austrian post office.

The second question as to what post offices foreign residents here use:—No foreign resident sends his letters through the Turkish post office unless he is obliged to do so. Americans and Europeans in general naturally do not employ the Russian for out going letters. The Austrian carries the bulk of the out going mail sent by foreigners, the German the next, and then comes the French.—The Turkish post office is not employed because ^{it is not} considered safe. It does not command respect. It deserves no respect. Example:—When the German ^{Emperor} was here in 1898, nearly one hundred Turkish officers were quartered at the Grand New Hotel where I live, and they always charged the hotel messengers to put their letters into the Austrian post office, and under no condition to put them into the Turkish office. This went on daily under my own sight and within my own hearing.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

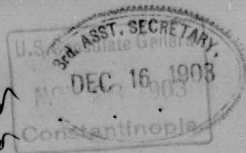
Seahill

U. S. Consul.

No. 74

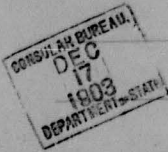
File

CONSULAR BUREAU.
PLEASE REPORT.



*Recd
Hous*

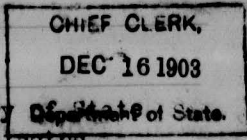
United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, November 16, 1903.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington



Subject

Acknowledging despatch No. 68 and Lydia Finkelstein Mountford's proposed visit to Jerusalem in connection with the St Louis World's Fair.



Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

December 18, 1903.

Mr. Peirce:

The Department's instruction of October 16th was sent to the Consul, merely to close this matter, at the direction of Mr. Loomis after a conference with Madam Mountford, and I suggest that nothing be done with this for the present but that it be simply filed.

DEC 18 1903

M. Peirce approves.
File

M. G. b.

10.74

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, November 16, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

In acknowledging your despatch No. 68, October 16, 1903, containing copy of Department's letter to Mrs Mountford, I wish to say that she or anyone making proper requests of this Consulate will be received and treated with courtesy. No one can say that the contrary was ever true.

In this connection my despatch No. 64, February 16, 1903, with its inclosure, ought to be read, also my despatch No. 67, May 22, 1903, which was in reply to Department's despatch No. 65, April 22, 1903, which contained copy of Mrs Mountford's complaints against me. In the face of her letter to the Department of April 9, 1903, her request as stated in your despatch No. 68, is very strange. The Department may rest assured that her letter was prompted by some ulterior motive which she did not disclose.

If Mrs Lydia Finkelstein Mountford appears in this Consulate as "the representative of the St Louis World's Fair", she will be asked for her authority. If she makes extravagant demands upon us and becomes boisterous, rude, and threatening if her demands are complied with, - as she did with the English Consul the last time she was in Jerusalem, which led that mild mannered gentleman to remark when she had left town, - "Thank God she is out of this country, I hope never to return", - then our course will be plain.

During the past eighteen months as many as a dozen persons have appeared here claiming to "represent the World's Fair", - as "special commissioners", "commissioners", "representatives", &c., and I have been led to wonder why the Managers should delegate authority to so many different people. Some claimed to represent the World's Fair, and others "The Jerusalem Exhibit" which I have been informed is a private matter and which, unless managed properly, will prove a farce.

Mrs Lydia Finkelstein Mountford was a Russian Jewess and ~~she~~ is now, by her letter of April 9 above referred to, an English subject. Should she appear here with an American passport, I should see that it was taken and returned to Washington.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul.

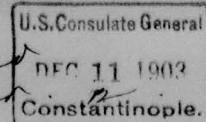
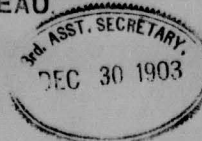
(over)

I will modify the last paragraph as the emergency supposed may not arise. This woman had, early in the 8ies, an American passport. This I should have no right to take. But if she comes here and demands favors "as an American citizen" I should have a right to show her that she is an English subject. With her letter in the Department's hands stating that she is an English subject there is no danger that she will appear here with a new American passport. On several occasions I have taken passports from those holding ^{them} when I knew that these had been obtained by fraud.

Selah Merrill.

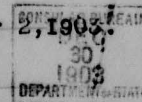
S.M.

CONSULAR BUREAU



No. 75.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, December 2, 1903.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

CHIEF CLERK,

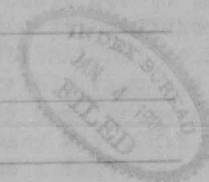
DEC 30 1903

Department of State

Subject

Acknowledging Department's Despatch No. 69, Oct. 30, 1903
relative to Mrs Mountford.

File



No.75.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, December 2, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

Your Despatch No. 69, Oct. 30, 1903, is at hand with additional notes respecting Mrs Finkelstein Mountford, and your instructions will be complied with. As this woman has declared herself to be an English subject the proper course for her, in case she needs protection or assistance, is to address herself to her own Consul.

Since sending my No. 74, Nov. 16, a shipping Commissioner here has shown me a letter just received from Alex. Konta who signs himself "President" (I suppose of the Jerusalem Exhibit Company which it is understood here is a private affair), stating that he was to be here with Mrs Mountford. As Mrs Mountford is in his employ there need be no occasion for her having any business connection with this Consulate, much less personal relations since she is a British subject.

I wish to repeat what I have said in substance previously, that my acquaintance with this woman was of the slightest kind and occurred twenty or more years ago. As a Russian Jewess she went to America, became naturalized, and returned to Jerusalem. She sent in advance a letter to this Consulate demanding that we send the Consular kawasess to meet her some miles out and escort her to the city. This is an honor sometimes paid to very distinguished people who arrive here; - the cases are really exceptional. Her demand was not complied with. She was in a terrible rage and from that moment she became my bitter enemy and for twenty years has shown her vindictiveness in many ways. This is the real secret of her enmity towards me, a fact too foolish to be called up but one of which, under the circumstances, I wish the Department to take note, for I was acting in the line of my Consular duty.

While I have been in charge of this Office nothing inconsistent with the rules of courtesy to all parties, or with the duties of this Consulate, has ever been allowed to occur, and the Department may rest assured that nothing of the kind will ever be allowed to occur.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Seah Merrill
U. S. Consul.

Handwritten: 16-76.

CONSULAR BUREAU.

RECEIVED
JAN 25 1904
DEPT OF STATE

3rd ASST. SECRETARY.
JAN 28 1904

U.S. Consulate General
DEC 28 1903
Constantinople.

CONSULAR BUREAU
FEB 11 1904
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, December 9, 1903

Handwritten: Permanent residence
since that time in Wis.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

CHIEF CLERK,
JAN 28 1904
Department of State

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirec
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject

Death of a Jew supposed to be a naturalized American
citizen named Schafel Jacob. Instructions asked for.

Handwritten: Accepted 2/10/04
File No 9/04
To New Jersey
encl. 2/10/04

CONSULAR BUREAU
NOTED AND PUBLISHED

INDEXED
FEB 18 1904
FILED

No. 76

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, December 9, 1903.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

A Jew named Schaf^tel Jacob died recently in this city under, as nearly as I can learn, the following circumstances:-He was sick, went to a hospital, was delirious and after some days died and was buried. His death was mentioned to us some five or six weeks latter. It was thought that he was an American citizen. How his name was learned I do not know. We learned that the passport of this Schaf^tel Jacob was retained at the custom house in Jaffa. This we recovered after considerable delay. The Burial Committee of a certain Jewish society had buried the body. The physician of the hospital where he died reports, according to our request, that Schaf^tel Jacob died on the 25 th of September, 1903. His disease, the doctor reports, was "pernicious fever", -a bad form of malarial fever is thus termed here in Jerusalem. It was on a feast when this Jacob died when the Jews do not carry money. He had no money on his person. Likewise no purse. His clothing was poor and dirty. Nothing has come into the possession of the Consulate except ~~was~~ a broken trunk containing some dirty clothing and a few clean shirts. On his arrival here he had deposited a sum of money in a certain Jewish bank.

His passport is No. 69204. April 20, 1903. Signed John Hay. Age of Schaf^tel Jacob 65 years. The passport was visaed by the Turkish Consul in Chicago, July 2, 1903.

There was ^{no} relative, friend, or acquaintance with him. No one knows anything about him. One of our American rabbis advises that application be made to The President of the Synagogue called Beth Ha-Medras Ha-Gadol, No. 47, Norfolk Street, New York, to see if they can give any information concerning this man. I should like to be instructed as to my duty either by his friends if any can be found, or by the Department. Form No. 192 cannot be sent with this despatch for the reason that so little is known of the person.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant.

Delah Merrill
U. S. Consul

CONSULAR BUREAU.

U.S. Consulate General

RECEIVED
FEB 27 1904
DEPT. OF STATE

Recd FEB 11 1904
Stow Constantinople.

No. 77.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, February 1, 1904.

CHIEF CLERK,

MAR 2 1904

MAR 2 1904

Department of State.
Seah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

*Approved
March 11 1904
File*

Subject:-

Leave of absence granted Vice Consul Herbert E. Clarke.

INDEX BUREAU
FEB 11 1904

*Mr. Hunt,
Feb 1 1904
No your records
give any information
concerning Peob?
M.H.
Mr. Peirce: here is his ap-
plication. Please attend
such information as you
may obtain. J. G. H.*

No.77

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, February 1, 1904.

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

I hereby inform the Department that Vice Consul Herbert E. Clarke has asked for leave of absence for two months in order to attend to some necessary business in Europe and America. This leave has accordingly been granted. Mr Clarke left on Saturday January 30 th and expects to be again in Jerusalem on the 5 th of April next.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
U.S. Consul.

Consul

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAY 23 '04
DEPT. OF STATE

CONSULAR BUREAU
MAY 25 1904
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*R
F*

U.S. Consulate General
MAY 6 1904
Constantinople.

No 78

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 21, 1904.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

*Call attention to Peirce.
re addressing dispatches
Auth May 26 '04
Zille*

Subject.

Vice Consul's leave extended April 20 to May 20, 1904.

INDEX BUREAU
MAY 27 1904
FILED

No.78.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 21, 1904.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

Referring to my despatch No. 77, Feb. 1, 1904, and to your reply No. 71 March 4, 1904, I would add that Mr Clark returned on April ^{3rd} and went away again on April 20 th to accompany the Clark Tourist Steamer back to Europe. He expects to return again to Jerusalem on or about May 20. His leave was extended accordingly.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill

U.S. Consul.

Consul

CONSUL GENERAL
JUN 3 1904
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAY 23 '04
DEPT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

JUN 3 1904

U.S. Consulate General

MAY 6 1904

Constantinople

No 79.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 22, 1904.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis,
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

✓

Ans Mrs Ryerson June 8/04
Copy of Mrs. R. July 30/04
Ans. made 15/05
Section to Mrs. Ryerson.

Subject

Reply to despatch NO 72, March 28, 1904, containing complaint of Mrs M. Ryerson against Consul H.E. Clark re Custom House in Jaffa.

at 22 fr Mrs. R.

INDEX BUREAU
JUN 4 1904
FILED

No 79.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 22, 1904.

Hon Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

In reply to the Department's No. 72, March 15, 1904,
I would say:-

I knew there was some trouble between Mrs M. Ryerson and
Vc Consul Clark, which, from the beginning till now, has seemed to
me only a misunderstanding. Mrs Ryerson advised privately with me
about the matter but she was firm in refusing to follow my ad-
vice. At last she presented her case officially and paid the fee.
Mr Clark could not attend to the matter at once and after a
while Mrs Ryerson called at the office and asked for her papers,
and her money (fee) was also returned to her. The next step was
your letter of March 15. The above sufficiently explains our re-
sponsibility and our jurisdiction.

Mr Clark being allowed to do business, is like any other
citizen, and this Consulate does not interfere in his affairs.

Mrs Ryerson's goods were brought from America free of charge
as a favor to herself and her friends in America. Carrier respon-
sibility does not exist and I believe Mrs Ryerson does not claim.

Mrs Ryerson claims that injustice was done her at the Custom
House in Jaffa. She strongly blames Mr Clark for not attending
to her boxes in person. He had 400 passengers and all their per-
sonal luggage to look after and it was not in the limits of ^{even}
humanly possibility for him to look after boxes of freight. - Could
he have done so the result would have been the same. -

The steamer was chartered NOT to bring freight. The Custom
House officers finding anything like freight considered it
"smuggling". - The freight has to suffer the consequences, in the
persons of its owners.

Mr Clark says in letter to this office of Apr. 18, - "the ship
was chartered in ballast and was to carry no cargo, to save port
duties" ... "The Custom authorities claimed that as the ship had
no manifest and the goods no bill of lading, double duty must be
paid". "This was accordingly done". "On all this class of goods
I paid 430 francs. Mrs Ryerson should have paid 180 francs. " I
accepted, however, 120 francs" ... Mrs Ryerson is really still in
debt to Mr Clark.

Mrs Ryerson is a good woman, ^{omit} at heart but very obstinate.
The way her friends get ^{her} to do anything is to urge her not to do
it. She is respected here by those who know her. Her hasty remarks
about Mr Gelat and myself I am sure she is sorry for. Certainly
she has no ground for making them for we have helped her in many
ways and shall continue to do so.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Seahill
U.S. Consul

Consul

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
MAY 23 '04
DEPT. OF STATE

CONSULAR BUREAU
MAY 28
1904
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

U.S. Consulate General
MAY 6 1904
Constantinople.

No 80

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 27, 1904.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject

Inquiry if it is proper for Vice Consul Clark's name
to be used as Vice Consul in his business.

*Also May 26/04
Clark's official title
shd. not be used
in private business
Zelwaters*

INDEX BUREAU
MAY 23 1904
RECEIVED

No.80

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 27, 1904.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Allow me to ask the opinion and, if thought best, the instructions of the Department in the following matter:-

Mr Herbert E. Clark our Vice Consul works in connection with his brother Frank C. Clark, Tourist agent at 111 Broadway, New York. In all advertisements connected with their business in this part of the world Mr Herbert Clark's name is extensively used. It is a drawing card in their business. Occasionally this matter has been noticed and complaint made. We have no serious written complaint which can be forwarded and I trust we shall not have. If the Department is indifferent to this matter I should like to be assured of the fact. If it is not a proper thing to do and the Department will instruct me definitely how to act, I will communicate the instructions to Mr Clark. If the ground of complaint is to be removed entirely Mr Clark's name ^{as the complaint} must not be mentioned in any way in connection with his business.

In the printed list of passengers by the Grosz Kurfuerst which has just left for Egypt, the notice in large letters on the first page is as follows: - "Manager in the Orient, Mr Herbert E. Clark, United States Consul for Palestine, who accompanies the Cruise from New York". - This or practically this, occurs three times on three different pages.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Delaherill
U.S. Consul.

Loomis

RECD.
MAY 26 1904
DEPT. OF STATE

CONSULAR BUREAU
MAY 31 1904
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

U.S. Consulate General

MAY 14 1904
Constantinople.

No 81

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 2, 1904.

CONSULAR BUREAU
JUN 10 1904
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Paragraph 174
ACKNOWLEDGED

Selah Merrill, Consul,

JUN 8 1904

Bureau of Trade Relations.

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

BUREAU OF APPOINTMENTS
MAY 31 1904
Department of State

Ans June 4/04
File

Subject

- Four matters for the good of the Consular Service:-
1. Discontinue Monthly Cons. Reports to H.G. Mitchell.
 2. Alleged "incomplete returns" from Jaffa.
 3. Jaffa and not Yaffa.
 4. Packages to be sent direct from Washington.

INDEX BUREAU
JUN 15 1904
FILED

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Allow me to lay before the Department four matters for the good of the Consular Service, as follows:-

The Monthly Consular Reports sent to H.G. Mitchell in this city should be discontinued as Mr Mitchell is not to return and the Monthly Report is no longer needed.

(2). In the Diplomatic and Consular Lists published at intervals, the fees at the different U.S. Consulates are given. Jaffa in this district is always accompanied by a mark and the foot note always says "incomplete returns". This has been the case for many years. We take the utmost pains to have the returns from the Jaffa agency correct, and if they are not correct the Consul at Jerusalem is to blame. But in our accounts the Department has never complained of the returns from Jaffa as being incorrect or incomplete. Still the Department continues to print them as "incomplete".

(3). - The name Jaffa is Hebrew, the same as Jerusalem. Both names begin with the same initial letter. But in the Department records Jerusalem is always spelled with a J and Jaffa with a Y. - Ticket agents, steamer companies, merchants for all merchandise, travellers, &c., always use the name Jaffa, - beginning with a J.

(4). - The Monthly Consular Reports we have not received since last August and we supposed they had been discontinued. Recently a lot were received from Beirut. Jerusalem is just as accessible from Washington as Beirut is. It costs us much inconvenience to have goods for this office sent via Beirut. It also makes additional expense. I am sure that no one in Washington would send a package to Philadelphia in order to have it reach Baltimore, - in the quickest manner.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Sealah Merrill
U.S. Consul.

Hand to Com. & Jaffa

notes on sept. of State.

to Jaffa

Bureau of Trade Relations

Returned to Mr. Carr.

2 items one & four
have been copied
to Dept. of Com,
& Labor, and the
Consul so informed.

nts.

Bureau of Trade Relations

Bureau of Appointments.

MEMORANDUM.

Mr. Carr:

(2.) In the current list and the 1904 Register, there is no "incomplete" symbol attached to the Yafa fee.

In 1903 the symbol was attached to the notarial fees only, in accordance with the returns.

(3.) The Board of Geographic Names decided that Yafa is correct. They will look further into it at their autumn meeting.

R. B. Mosher

June 4, 1904.

Cord

CONSULAR BUREAU
MAY 31 1904
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
MAY 28 1904

U.S. Consulate General

MAY 14 1904
Constantinople

No 82

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 3, 1904.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

W. J. Jones
June 1, 1904
File

Subject

in re to the Visit of the Grosser Kurfuerst, ^{with} 800 Americans, for the
Sunday School Convention *there.*

INDEX BUREAU
JUN 7 1904
FILED

CHIEF CLERK,
MAY 31 1904
Department of State.

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

For Mr. Foster
Items 2 + 3

Mr. Emory
Items 1 + 4

Hon. Francis B. Loomis

Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I have to report that the Grosser Kurfuerst bringing the members of the Sunday School Convention arrived on Tuesday the 5th of April and left again for Egypt on Wednesday the 20th. The party came in sections so that not all the 800 were here at any one time. The English contingent numbering 470 members, brought by the Augusta Victoria, was here also. Some two hundred or three hundred of the American party did not belong to the Convention. The greatest number present in the city on any one occasion or at any meeting was ten hundred or eleven hundred. The Convention proper began on Sunday night the 17th by addresses of welcome from the English Bishop, the English Consul, and the America Consul. The meetings lasted for two days.

The coming of a great crowd of Americans to this city is always a matter of anxiety to the Consul. The conditions of weather, the precarious landing at Jaffa, the conditions of the country, the limited and meagre accommodations for so many people, these and many other things bring obligations and responsibilities to Consul which very few of the visitors realize.

The intentions of the visitors we communicated to the Governor officially by letter and found him ready to co-operate with the Consulate in any efforts for their comfort. Indeed both his Excellency Kiazim Bey and the able officials under his orders, did all they could to facilitate the wishes of the Consul. In my address of welcome on Sunday night the 17th, I took occasion to express my gratitude to the Governor for his assistance, and I asked the audience to express their thanks by a rising vote and at least 1,000 people rose to their feet and responded with a hearty "Yes".

After the Convention was over I called upon the Governor officially, told him of the events of Sunday night, and of the special thanks accorded to him so enthusiastically by the great audience and reaffirmed, on behalf of the American visitors, my gratitude for his Excellency's services.

Diarrhoea and dysentery were quite prevalent among the visitors, but while in Jerusalem there were no deaths. There were some serious accidents, but the wonder that there were not very

many when one considers the conditions of living and travelling here and the inexperience of most of the party. The coming of visitors to Jerusalem in crowds is to be deprecated. Reckless drivers, incompetent guides, poor and insufficient hotel accommodation, climate, food, and other things combine to interfere with their comfort and happiness. Thinking it would be pleasant for the visitors to meet the official representatives of their country in Jerusalem, Mrs Merrill invited as many as could do so to call on Friday afternoon the 15 th, and no less than 500 Americans came to pay their respects to the Consul and his wife.

Considering all the circumstances it is a matter for thankfulness that the visit of so many people to this city turned out so successfully, under the efficient management of Messrs Frank and Herbert Clark.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill

U.S. Consul.

*Cond
M*

CONSUL BUREAU
JUN
7
1904
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

No 83

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
JUN 6 1904
DEPT OF STATE

NO ASST. SECRETARY
JUN 6 1904

U.S. Consulate General

MAY 14 1904

Constantinople.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 3, 1904.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject

Consul asks for leave of absence for 60 days

*Grant, but be cleared
not leave before August
Grant & Loomis
June 5. 04
File*

CHIEF CLERK,
JUN 6 1904
Department of State.

INDEX BUREAU
JUN 9 1904
FILED

No 83

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 3, 1904.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

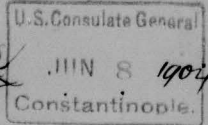
I would respectfully ask for leave of absence for sixty days. I cannot tell when I shall be able to go away but not until after the first of July. Two or three times leave has been granted me but I have not been able to take advantage of it owing to pressure of office work, and two brief visits to Mount Lebanon both covering together not over twenty days, has been the only vacation I have had since taking over this office in 1898. If I get away this summer I do not intend to visit the United States but possibly may get to Europe. If I go the required formalities will be complied with.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
U.S. Consul.

Application approved
Chas. M. Dickinson
Consul General.

Consul



No.84.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 26, 1904.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

*Answered to
Mrs. Crossman.
June 25. 1904
Please look up
file*

Subject

If American citizen residing in New York and owing property in Jerusalem under mortgage, has been duly notified according to Despatch No.72, August 8, 1903.



No.84.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 26, 1904.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Referring to my despatch No.72, August 8, 1903, relative to property owned by an American citizen in New York and mortgaged to a Turkish subject in Jerusalem; -I would say that we have had no reply. The holder of the mortgage needs the money loaned. The mortgage expired nearly three years ago. It is possible to sell the property, but this cannot be done legally until the Court here is satisfied that the owner of the property has been notified duly. Papers were sent in despatch as above that this might be done.

I will repeat that the name of the American citizen is Miriam Rachel daughter of Wolf. She is the wife of Mr Grossman whose address is, -care of Mr Benjamin, 394-396 Grand Street, New York, N.Y.

Allow me to ask what has been done in this case.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Seash Merrill
United States Consul.

Consul

RECEIVED
JUN 23 '04
DEPT. OF STATE

CONSUL GENERAL BUREAU
JUN 24
1904
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

U.S. Consulate General
JUN 8 1904
Constantinople.

No. 85.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 27, 1904.

CHIEF CLERK,
JUN 24 1904
re.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

*Reviewed
June 25, 1904
File*

Subject.
If estate of Schafel Jacob can be settled at once.

Domestic money

INDEX BUREAU
JUN 24 1904
FILED

No.85.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 27, 1904.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Referring to my despatch No.76, December 9, 1903, relative to the estate of one Schaftel Jacob, allow me to ask as follows: As reported in said despatch said Jacob had no representative here. Since his death no friend and no representative has appeared and no letter has been received from any source respecting him. Par. 401, Consular Regulations requires me to wait one year before closing this account. I can close the account in one day provided I had permission from the Department to do so, and forward to the Treasury Department as required. I see no reason why the settlement should be delayed, and moreover, as we have no safe in the Consulate, I feel that the responsibility for his money is a burden of which I might properly be relieved. Awaiting instructions I remain

respectfully

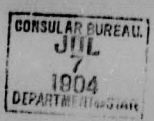
Your Obedient servant

De Cahill

United States Consul.

7/0

Consul

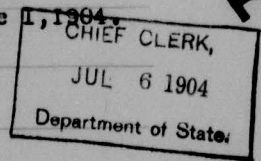


U.S. Consulate General
JUN 15
16 1904

File.

No 86

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, June 1, 1904



Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject

Vc Consul returns from leave of absence



No.86

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, June 1, 1904.

Hon Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Referring to my despatch No 78, April 21, 1904,
granting Mr Herbert E. Clark our Vice Consul extension of leave
of absence, I have to report that he was delayed by business and
quarantine and did not return on May 20 as he proposed, but on
the 31st, Tuesday. He is now at his post.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant


U.S. Consul.

Case file

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
NOV 8 1904

No 87

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, October 17, 1904.

NOV 7 1904
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State

*To Auditor
with orig^s was
nov 9/04*

Gallegos

*file
H. H. H. H.
July 9/04*

CHIEF CLERK,
NOV 7 1904
Department of State.

Subject

Final report estate Schafter Jacob deceased Sept. 25, 1903.

INDEXED
NOV 11 1904
FILED

73 Dec 9/03

No. 87.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, October 17, 1904.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

Sir.

I hereby make the final report on the estate of Schaftel Jacob deceased in this city on September 25, 1903.

Previous despatches on this subject:-

No 7876 Dec 9, 1903.-Showing how by accident we ascertained the existence and death of this man, that he was buried, that he had a little money in a certain bank which we secured later, and that his passport was detained in the custom house in Jaffa, and came later into our possession. The man had no friends or relatives, and none have since been heard of.

No 85 May 27, 1904: I asked permission of the Department to close up the estate as this consulate has no safe and I did wish to be longer responsible for the money. This request was refused.

Inclosed please find, -

Passport of deceased.

Inventory Personal Effects.

Statement disbursements. With three vouchers.

Consul's account with estate.

Consul's account with Treasury Dept for Gov't tax.

Draft payable to Treasurer of the Government at Washington on Credit Lyonnais Bank, Paris, for balance of estate, in francs, namely, 4733.95.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
American Consul

ESTATE of Schaftel Jacob, aged 65, died in Jerusalem, September 25, 1903.

Inventory:-

38 Poor Shirts	38,00 francs
14 Poor Collars	2,00 "
Poor lot of lace	2,00 "
2 Old Braces	1,00 "
Old Underclothing	5,00 "
Old Trunk	1,00 "
Lot of Buttons	2,00 "
Cane	0,00 "
1 Old broken Watch	10,00 "

Total 61,00 francs

Cash 5940.00 francs

6001.00

B Shapiro
J. A. White

Signatures of B. Shapiro and
J. A. White are hereby
authenticated and legalized.

Delah Merrill
American Consul



Estate of Schaftel Jacob deceased :-

Paid for shrouds for deceased and fund for Bicur Cholim Hospital	200.00 francs
Burial place, burial expenses, stones cut and placed	500.00 "
Prayers for one year	200.00 "
Appraisers, porters, selling, miscellaneous, . . .	67.00 "
Gov't tax 5 p cent on 60001.00 fcs	300.05 "
Total	1267.05 "

Vouchers 1-3 inclosed.

Selah Merrill, American Consul, Jerusalem, in account with
estate of Schaftel Jacob deceased, rendered October 17, 1904.

Dr.		
Amount estate per statement herewith	6001.00 francs	
		<u>6001.00</u>
Cr.		
Amts disbursed per statement herewith	1267.05 "	
Balance		
, Amt forwarded to Treasury Dept. at Washington	<u>4733.95 "</u>	<u>6001.00</u>

Selah Merrill
American Consul



REGULAR BUREAU
DEC 13 1904
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REC'D
DEC 12 1904
DEPT OF STATE

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
DEC 13 1904

U.S. Consulate General
NOV 29 1904
Constantinople.

No 88

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, November 17, 1904.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon Francis B Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

CHIEF CLERK,
DEC 13 1904
Department of State.

*asked further
Dec 16/04
H.*

Subject

Claim of Bashe ,Austrian subject, being pressed. Grossman's
unreasonable and suspicious delay.

*To Mrs
July 1904*

*2 Aug 8/03 for G.
84 may 26/04 "*

No 88

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, November 17, 1904.

Hon Francis B Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

We have received official notice through the Austrian Consulate here that Bashe daughter of Samuel Ashtrom is pressing for payment of her claim through that Court.

Thus far we have received no reply to our letter to Mrs Grossman sent through the State Department, and now ask that the request be repeated to her with the notice that, after a reasonable time has passed without response from her, the property will be transferred without her.

omit [The mortgage expired nearly four years since, and this long delay suggests fraudulent motives.

Please refer to your despatch No. 77, June 25, 1904 for details of previous correspondence relative to this matter.]

Respectfully Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
American Consul.

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

File.

CONSULAR BUREAU
DEC 18 1904
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
DEC 13 1904

U.S. Consulate General
NOV 29 1904
Constantinople.

No 89

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, November 18, 1904.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon Francis B Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject

Consul's Proposed leave of absence for three
or four weeks.

INDEX BUREAU
DEC 15 1904
FILED

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

The Consul now reports that as yet nothing has been heard from her and he asks that the Department again write her "with the notice that, after a reasonable time has passed without response from her, the property will be transferred without her". The case appears to be in the Austrian Consular Court in Jerusalem.

*Mr. Hughes suggests
we ascertain if
particular complaint
matter is in Turkish Ct or
Consul.*
AD: [Signature] 11/9/04

No 89

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, November 18, 1904.

Hon Francis B Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

Referring to my despatch No 83, May 3, 1904, and to the Department's reply of June 8, 1904, relative to leave of absence for myself allow me to say that the request of the Department that I should not go before the first of August prevented my going to Europe as I planned after I wrote on the 3 d of May. Pressure of official duties has made it impossible for me to get away. Just now there is a lull and I hope to get away to Egypt for two or three weeks. As to date I can only say "sometime within a week or ten days". Annoying quarantine and consequent disarrangements of steamers make the dates of getting away from Jaffa or returning difficult to fix. If I get away my stay will not be long.

If I go the usual formalities as to Vc Consul will be observed.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
American Consul.

18

CHIEF CLERK BUREAU
DEC 13 1904
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
DEC 12 1904
DEPT. OF STATE

No 90

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, November 19, 1904.

Handwritten signature

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon Francis B Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
DEC 13 1904

CHIEF CLERK.
DEC 13 1904
Department of State

Subject

Acknowledging package private stationery

INDEX BUREAU
DEC 20 1904
FILED

No 90

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, November 19, 1904

Hon Francis B Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

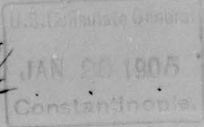
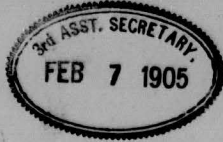
Sir.

Referring to your despatch No. 78, August 9, 1904,
relative to private supplies envelopes left behind when boxes
were shipped, -the same arrived November 14 in good condition.
Please notify me of expense for same and I will account for
it in December quarterly account.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

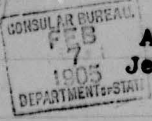
Selahi Merrill
American Consul

Carr M J



D H

No 91



American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 6th, 1905.

File

Selah M rroll, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject

Consul's return from leave of absence
Nov 21 to Dec 30, 40 days



CLERK,
FEB 7 1905
Department of State.

No. 91.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 6th, 1905.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir;-

Referring to my dispatch No. 89, November 18th, 1904,
relative to my leave of absence, I wish to inform you that I
left my post on the 21st of November, went to Egypt and returned
on the 30th of December, having been absent forty days.

I remain respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Seah Merrill
American Consul.

Inclosed: —

*Agreement with Vice Consul as to
Solary.*

Jerusalem, November 19, 1904.

During the temporary absence of Selah Merrill, Consul, from the Consulate on leave from the State Department, I agree to take charge of the office without compensation.

Herbert C. Clark

Vice Consul

The foregoing signature

authenticated and legalized



Selah Merrill

American Consul

Case M.I.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
FEB 3 '05
DEPT OF STATE

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
FEB 7 1905

U.S. Consulate Offices
JAN 22 1905
Constantinople

No 92

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 8th, 1905.

CONSULAR BUREAU
FEB 7 1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CONSUL GENERAL BUREAU
FILED

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject

*Ready for
Feb 9/05*

Marriage certificates
John Stuve---Caroline Hoffmann
Gerri Wieher --- Victoria Shohet

INDEX BUREAU
MAR 6 1905
FILED

CHIEF
FEB 7 1905

No.92.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 6th, 1905.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:-

Enclosed please find two marriage certificates, (1) John
Struve, TWenty-six, and Caroline Hoffmann, twenty-four, dated
October 22nd, 1904; (2) Gerri Wiener, twenty-eight, and Victoria
Shohet, eighteen, dated October 31st, 1904.

I remain respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Selah Merrill

American Consul.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

RECORDED
MAR. BUREAU.

Consular Office of the United States of America,

Jerusalem, Syria, October 22nd, 1904

I, Selah Merrill, Consul of the United States
at Jerusalem, do hereby certify that, on the 20th day of October,
A. D. 1904, at _____ in the city of Jerusalem,
John Struve, aged 26 years, born in Haifa, Syria,
and now residing in Haifa, and Caroline Hoffmann,
aged 24 years, born in Jerusalem, and now residing in
Jerusalem, were united in marriage before me, and in my presence, by
Rev. Christoph Hoffmann, who is authorized by the laws of Turkey
to perform such a ceremony.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal
of my office at Jerusalem, Syria, this 22nd day
of October, A. D. 1904, and of the Independence of the
United States the One Thousand Hundredth and Twenty ninth



Selah Merrill
Consul of the United States of America.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

Consular Office of the United States of America,

Jerusalem, Syria, October 31st, 1904.

I, Selah Merrill, Consul of the United States
at Jerusalem, do hereby certify that, on this 28th day of October,
A. D. 1904, at _____ in the city of Jerusalem,
Gerri Wiener, aged 28 years, born in Jerusalem,
and now residing in Jerusalem, and Victoria Shohet
aged 18 years, born in Jerusalem, and now residing in
Jerusalem, were united in marriage before me, and in my presence, by
Rabbi Menachem Orbach, who is authorized by the laws of Turkey
to perform such a ceremony.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal
of my office at Jerusalem, Syria, this 31st day
of October, A. D. 1904, and of the Independence of the
United States the One hundred and twenty ninth



Selah Merrill
Consul of the United States of America.

FEDERAL BUREAU
NOTED.

Caul
ME

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
FEB 3 '05
DEPT. OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

FEB 9 1905

U.S. Consulate General
JAN 30 1905
Constantinople

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 6th, 1905

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

row

Subject

Reply to question re Item in Paris Herald

INDEX BUREAU
SEP 27 1905
FILED

83

0

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 6th, 1905.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir;-

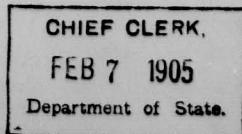
Your dispatch of December 3rd, 1904, with extract from the Paris Herald is just at hand. In reply I would say that I know very little of the Paris New York Herald, have very seldom seen a copy: moreover I do not think a single copy comes to Jerusalem regularly. I have not seen the item in question, and had nothing to do with it in any way.

After my many years of service, I feel that the Department ought to know me well enough to know that, did I desire such a change as the item indicates, I should lay the matter at once before the Department of State. Allow me to add that the conditions indicated point to a coast town; they certainly do not apply to Jerusalem.

I remain respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Seah Merrill
American Consul.



Chas M

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
FEB 3 1905
DEPT. OF STATE

3d ASST. SECRETARY
FEB 7 1905

U.S. Consulate General
JAN 20 1905
Constantinople.

No 93

CONSULAR BUREAU
FEB 7 1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 19, 1905.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Ans Feb 8/05

Subject

Goldfogel, M.C., inquires after Schafel Jacob and is referred to the Department of State

INDEX BUREAU
FEB 9 1905
FILED

FEB 7 1905
Department of State.

No. 93

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 10th, 1905.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:-

Mr. Henry M. Goldfogle, Member of Congress from New York, has written me under date of Nov. 18th, 1904, relative to the estate of Shaftel Jacob, deceased in Jerusalem. I have replied stating that after the expiration of the legal time the entire matter had been turned over to the State Department. My final report on this matter was made, as you are aware, in dispatch No. 87, dated Oct. 17th, 1904.

I remain respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Selah Merrill
American Consul.

ms

CONSULAR BUREAU.
FEB 16 1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED
FEB 12 1905
DEPT. OF STATE

3d ASST. SECRETARY.
FEB 15 1905

U.S. Consulate
CONSULAR BUREAU
FEB 17 1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CONSULAR BUREAU.
FEB 16 1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

No. 94

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 16, 1905.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

*See letter to Mrs. Grossman
Feb 18/05*

Subject.

Bashe's (Austrian subject) mortgage on house owned by
American Jews living in New York. House to be sold.

Department of State.
FEB 15 1905
CHIEF CLERK

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 16, 1905.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

Your despatch of December 16, 1904, No. 79, is at hand. Previous correspondence on this subject is as follows:-
Consulate No. 72, August 8, 1903, details and paper to sign.
Consulate No. 84, May 26, 1904.
Consulate No. 88, November 17, 1904.
Department No. 77, June 25, 1904.
Department No. 79, December 16, 1904.

The last, No. 79, asks for further particulars. I believe I can add nothing to what the foregoing despatches contain. The Department is aware that all land matters are settled in the Turkish Court. On the other hand the Turkish Court cannot act without notice being served on the parties, whether living in Jerusalem or elsewhere, through the American Consulate. In the simple transfer of land, purchase or sale, the papers must pass through the Consulate. This is to prevent fraud. For example, - a man owes debts to different parties amounting to \$800, and has a house worth \$1,000. If he could sell it without the Consul's knowledge he could get the money and run away. In the Bashe or present case what is done must be done with the knowledge of the Consulate. This case is not an exception to the rule, - it follows the universal rule. Bashe is an Austrian subject, the owners of the property are in America and neither this Consulate nor the State Department can get any response from them. In 1901 the mortgage expired. Bashe needs her money. The property is diminishing in value every year because of the lack of very necessary repairs. She has a right to her money. She has had a long and worrying time about it and so has this Consulate. That the parties in New York do not respond has a bad look. Some of ^{our} naturalized Jews seem to think that because they are Americans the American law will shield ^{them} in wrong doing. We have such cases repeatedly. But this Consulate cannot countenance fraud or wrong doing. Bashe, it appears, can get her money through the sale of the property only, and this must be done.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
American Consul

(OVER)

Selah Merrill,

Consul

Jerusalem

Ref to your nos 88 of Nov 17/04
and 94 of Jan 16/05, ~~Jerusalem~~

in regard to the claim of Bashe,
an Austrian subject, against

Mrs M. M. Grossman of New

York City, I now have to inform
you that Mrs Grossman has

~~written~~ written to on Feb 18/05.

and given the information regard-
ing this claim, contained in your
no 88.

The Dept has received no
reply to its letter up to the present time.

I am

CONSULAR BUREAU
FEB 15 11
1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
FEB 13 '05
DEPT. OF STATE

U.S. Consulate General
JAN 27 1905
Constantinople

No 95

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 21, 1905.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject
Leave of absence 60 days granted Vc Consul Clark.

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
FEB 15 1905

Auto
Feb 16 '05

INDEX BUREAU
FEB 17 1905
FILED

CHIEF CLERK
FEB 15 1905
Department of State.

It is almost superfluous to add that if the Department
sees any way by which this matter can be facilitated
and the ends of justice accomplished I trust I shall
be advised of the same.

Assistant Solicitor,
FEB 16 1905
Department of State.

Dear Mr. Carr:

We now have for
the first time all the
facts. The plaintiff,
an Austrian, has a
mortgage on a house
in Jerusalem owned by
American Jews in New York.
As real estate is involved
the suit to foreclose the

apr 21/05

mortgage is brought in
the Turkish court. as
the owner is an American
notice of suit is served thro
the American consulate.

If the owner were in ~~Turkey~~
Jerusalem, the consul
would send the notice to
him. as he is in America
the consul requests the
Dept. to notify him.

While I do not think
the Dept. is required to
serve process for a
foreign court, yet as

apr 21/05

The Turkish court, by
the practice gives notices
through our consulate,
and as the notice would
seem to be beneficial
to the owner, I see no ob-
jection to simply
sending to the address
in New York a copy of
dispatch 88, omitting the
sentence marked in
pencil, stating that
this is done at the
request of the Consul.

F. J.

No 95

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, January 21, 1905.

Hn. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

Vice Consul Herbert E. Clark has requested leave of absence for a certain period, which he alleges is required by his business interests. He expects to return after three weeks for a few days and to go away again; and to repeat this a little later. Hence to cover the entire period I have granted him leave of absence for sixty days beginning on Monday the 23 d of this month.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Seah Merrill
American Consul.

Consul

CONSULAR BUREAU
MAY 2 1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
APR 29 '05
DEPT. OF STATE

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
MAY 1 1905

U.S. Consulate General
APR 12 1905
Consulate General

No. 96

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, March 28, 1905.

File.

Selah Merrill, Consul,
To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject

Ve Consul Clark returns from leave of absence

CHIEF CLERK
MAY 1 - 1905
Department of State

INDEX BUREAU
MAY 4 1905
FILED

No.96.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, March 28, 1905.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

I hereby report that Vice Consul Herbert E. Clark returned to his post of March 27 having left on January 23 d as notified in my despatch No.95, January 21, 1905, which makes 62 days absence against 60 as proposed in despatch just mentioned.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Seah Merrill

American Consul.

Handwritten mark

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
MAY 2 1905

CONSULAR BUREAU
MAY 3 1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

U.S. Consulate General
Constantinople
APR 12 1905

No. 97.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, March 29, 1905

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

CHIEF CLERK.
MAY 1 1905
Subject of State

Use of Vc Consul Clark's name in business

*Over by form 7
Mr Clark must d
may 4/05*

*Please write direct to
Herbert E. Clark and
instruct him to discontinue
the use of his table
in his private business*

*To Consul
June 19:07*

INDEX BUREAU
MAY 5 1905
FILED

No.97.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, March 29, 1905.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

It is my duty to lay before the Department the following facts relative to the continued use of Vice Consul Clark's name as a business card in the business carried on by himself and his brother in New York. Please see your despatch containing instructions, No. 80, (should be No. 74), of May 26, 1904.

Immediately on receipt of this despatch I wrote Mr Clark as follows:-- "I have received a despatch from the Department of State, dated May 26, 1904, relative to the use of your official, in connection with your own and your brother's business, which is herewith repeated:--

" Mr Clark's title of Vice Consul of the United States should not be used under any circumstances in private business matters and you will so inform him "

" Your duty is to notify your brother at once so that your name as Vice Consul will not appear in any tourist or other business circular "

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

U.S. Consul".

Mr Clark promised that the matter should be corrected and stated that he had notified his brother in New York.

Mr Clark's steamer the "Arabic" has been here and gone. The pamphlet with list of names and directions, &c., on page I, says, "H. Clark, U.S. Vice Consul, manager for Palestine and Egypt".---On page 5, in large print, "Manager in the Orient, Mr Herbert E. Clark, United States Vice Consul for Palestine, who meets the ship at Caifa (Haifa)".

Several mentioned this announcement as an inducement to come, for example, a few hours after arrival a gentleman called at my office and said he was "in doubt about coming but when he learned he was to be under the care, and escorted by the United States Vice Consul he thought he would make the trip". Before Frank the brother in New York left, I had an interview with him about this. He simply laughed and replied "what does it matter".--

I leave the case with the Department for their action.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

Isiah Merrill
American Consul.

File with 2964.
(From Merrill's
97 Mar. 29/65)

MEMORANDUM

by the Consul General accompanying Consul Merrill's No 97 of March 29th to the Department of State.

Vice Consul Clark of Jerusalem should of course comply with the Department's requirement that his title as Vice Consul be not used in connection with Frank C. Clark's business announcements. It appears from the accompanying dispatch that the Vice Consul so notified his brother in New-York, but the objectionable statement was repeated in the announcement of the "Cruise of the Arabic" which has just visited the Turkish ports.

It is not improbable that Frank C. Clark has understood that the objection to referring to his brother in his official quality, came from Consul Merrill only. I have no doubt he would readily comply with any requirement which he understood the Department had imposed.

It may be presumed that if the Department's instructions are disregarded by the Vice-Consul, he will be removed as such; and this I should regard as unfortunate. The Clark Cruises from New-York to the Orient each year and the many separate parties of tourists visiting this region under the auspices of the Clark Agency, are doing much to establish good relations between Americans and the people of this country. It is the only American enterprise of the kind and its business is conducted with such experience and knowledge of local conditions and such regard for the comfort and convenience of its patrons that it is worthy of warm commendation. The hundreds of Americans, more or less representative men and women, whom Mr. Clark brings here every year receive courtesies and facilities rarely extended to travelers from other countries and the result is that they invariably go back to the United States with a pleasant impression of the officials and people of this country. This

is educational work of marked value. If the American work established here is to flourish, it is of the first importance that good relations between the people of the two countries be maintained, ^{and} to that end that the unreasonable prejudices which many Americans have formed against the Turks be removed.

I hope therefore that the Department will give to the Clark tourist Agency any consideration it can properly extend.

Constantinople, April 12th. 1905.

Chas. Dickinson
Consul General.

Copy



U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,
CONSTANTINOPLE
Rec'd. May 15, 1905

NO 98



American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 29, 1905.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

File (extracts) to Mrs. Ryerson July 6, 1905 J. G. W.

Subject:-

Reply to despatch No. 81, March 15, 1905, relative to Mrs. Ryerson's charges against the Consul Clark and the Jaffa Custom House. Also her charges against the Consul for neglect of his duty in the matter as she alleges.

March 15 to Mrs R



CONSULAR SERVICE, U. S. A.

Memorandum.

Although the annexed despatch is unsigned, the postscript bears the Consul's signature and for this reason I do not return it to him, but forward it to the Department.

Constantinople, May 15, 1905.

Chas. Dickinson

Consul General.

No 98

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, April 29, 1905.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Your despatch No. 81 of March 15, 1905, relative to Mrs Ryerson's difficulty about her merchandise in connection with the Custom House at Jaffa, is at hand, and I notice your request for some further account of the matter additional to my despatch No. 79 of April 22, 1904. Allow me to say briefly as follows:-

After the alleged affair Mrs Ryerson called on me several times and I urged her to come to some amicable arrangement with Mr Clark. Her frequent use of the word "liar" of Mr Clark convinced me that she was in no mood to meet him for a friendly conversation and settlement. This I regretted as Mr Clark had assured me that he was willing to meet her and talk over the matter. It appeared that she preferred to bring the case before me officially and we told her how to prepare the papers and what fee must be deposited in the Consulate. After that Mr Clark was absent for sometime and I was sick for some time; moreover the city was full of American travellers and we were extremely busy with the usual extra consular work. There was delay in taking up the case, but it was unavoidable, and no one can reasonably be blamed for the delay. Mrs Ryerson was displeased at the delay and made her displeasure evident by her words and manner. Against my advice she took her papers of her own free will, from the Consulate and received back the fee which she had deposited. It was her own fault that the case was not officially and legally examined.

Your despatch now in hand says:--" there is no evidence that you made any effort to investigate the complaint of Mrs Ryerson or protect her against the alleged unjust charges of the Custom House or of Mr Clark".

Unofficially I could not possibly have done more than I did.

Officially, as stated above, the case was taken out of my hands.

The foregoing statements are substantially the same as those made by me in my despatch No 79 April 22, 1904.

After the case was withdrawn from the Consulate matters stood about where they did at first only really worse. I could not go on with a case that was not before me. Mr Clark's private business affairs are not under my jurisdiction, -as the State Department has already decided. After that point an interview between Mr Clark and Mrs Ryerson would have been a bitter wrangle to no purpose. --After Mrs Ryerson withdrew her case any letters, complaints, or criticisms, to the Department or to anyone else by her are unfair and unjust.) *Out*

2

Dragoman of the British Consulate.
from the statement of the dragoman of the British Consulate twenty five bottles of milk were missing when the goods were turned over to Mrs Ryerson by Mr Clark after they had lain for several days in the latter's magazine at Jerusalem. - "Certificate of C.N. Tadros, March 22, 1903, that he was present when Mrs Ryerson's goods were unpacked and that there were only 143 bottles of malted milk". Your Despatch, page 1, and 3.

The statement was so unusual and if true so discourteous to another Consulate that I addressed a note to my colleague the British Consul here asking for a statement of the facts in the case. His reply ^{dated 11/11/03} states, - "it is not usual for any employee of the British Consulate here or of the Vice Consulate at Jaffa to attend at the unpacking and examination of the goods of subjects of other nations in the Jaffa custom house". This took place at his (the dragoman's) house here in Jerusalem". The details stated are as follows:-

Both Mrs Ryerson and Mr Tadros received cases of malted milk at the same time by the same steamer. (2) When cleared from the Custom House the cases were sent on to Jerusalem. (3) By some mistake (say that of the porters) Mrs Ryerson's case went to Mr Tadros' house and Mr Tadros' case went to Mrs Ryerson's house. (4) Mr Tadros states that Mrs Ryerson opened his case and began to distribute or sell the goods. (5) Later each case was exchanged, each getting to its rightful owner. (6) Mrs Ryerson, however, before accepting her case from Mr Tadros required that the bottles be counted in her presence.

From these facts it is impossible for any one to say at what point the alleged loss occurred.

Mr Tadros and Mrs Ryerson received the same treatment, namely suffered the loss of goods; - subjected to the charge of smuggling; - had each to pay the penalty. Mr Tadros received his goods, submitted to the loss, paid Mr Clark's bill, and made no complaint or protest.

Mrs Ryerson's trouble with Mr Clark was early in 1903 (the season of 1902-1903). Three years following, 1904 (the season of 1903-1904), Mrs Ryerson wanted other goods sent out from America and asked me if she might have them directed in care of the Consul. I said "certainly": - "United States Consul, Jerusalem. For Mrs Ryerson". In due time the goods arrived and I notified her telling her that I could not clear them in my name ("never clear goods or attempt to clear goods for anybody), that she must attend to that herself. She did so. I wrote to her friend Mr R.H. McCready, March 10, 1904, stating that the goods had arrived and been turned over to Mrs Ryerson. -- While we were doing Mrs Ryerson this favor it appears that she was writing to the Department a letter of complaint against me for the affair of the year previous for her letter to the Department is dated February 22, 1904. This was many months after she had, of her own accord, taken her case out of the hands of this Consulate.

3

The case summarized.

- 1.-Mr Clark(of New York) allowed the friends of Mrs Ryerson to send her, as a missionary, some clothing and other effects for her personal use.
- 2.-The goods were not seen by Mr Clark.
- 3.-The actual contents of the cases were not declared to Mr Clark.
- 4.-The steamer was chartered as a yacht with stipulations that he was to carry no freight.
- 5.-Had the nature of Mrs Ryerson's goods been declared to Mr Clark he would have refused to take them.
- 6.-They were brought gratuitously from New York and landed at the custom house in Jaffa.
- 7.-For this favor Mrs Ryerson has never expressed her gratitude in any way.

One of Mrs Ryerson's severe charges (frequently repeated) against Mr Clark (of Jerusalem) is that he did not attend personally to the landing and delivery (to herself) of her cases. But Mr Clark had several hundred (say 600) travellers to land and the conveniences for landing at Jaffa are few; there was great confusion as there always is; and it was not in ^{the} range of human possibilities for Mr Clark to look personally after her boxes as she insists he "ought to have done". Mrs Ryerson has been told this more than once, but she continues to blame Mr Clark.

The fact that Mr Clark in doing his private business is acting for himself and not for the Consulate, has been told to Mrs Ryerson many times; but she persists in regarding Mr Clark as Vice Consul and all his actions as actions for which the Consulate is responsible. Such conduct betrays wilful ignorance on her part. This may not be the reason, but I can think of no other explanation of her efforts to involve me in this matter.

At the Custom House in Jaffa.

There was no bill of lading, and no declaration as to the character of Mrs Ryerson's goods. The officers opened one case and found merchandise. Then all boxes, cases, everything of that description must be examined. In the eyes of the custom house officers there was smuggling. I do not charge Mrs Ryerson with smuggling, - that is the matter of the custom officers. No amount of protestation by Mrs Ryerson or anybody else will make them change their opinion. They construe their own laws and regulations. There was smuggling and the penalty had to be paid. Mrs Ryerson puts this on the ground of "unjust charges". Now the Governor of Jerusalem and Palestine has no jurisdiction over the custom house at Jaffa or Jerusalem. The Custom House is under that of Beirut and both are directly under the customs administration at Constantinople. Suppose Mrs Ryerson had made a claim for "unjust charges" against the custom house. The Consul cannot reach the custom house except through the Legation at Constantinople. If the officers at Jaffa declare that goods are smuggled no protest from the Consul in Jerusalem sent through the Legation would even be received, or if received would be rejected at once.

{--Did Mrs Ryerson explain to the Department that her goods were considered as smuggled goods?

4

"Take no notice of Mrs Ryerson's letter of October 25,1904".-

On November 9,1904 Mr McCready wrote me ,-"the incident as far as I am concerned is closed". Mrs Ryerson's letter was as above,of October 25,1904.My answering it surely was optional. In my judgment it was simply to contradict my statements,was in bad taste,and was impertinent. Such letters I never answer. Mr McCready's letter I acknowledged on January 20,1905.

What is my offence?

Mrs Ryerson does not state clearly what my offence is of which she is complaining to the State Department. Any wrong that I have done I shall be only too glad to rectify. But she is blaming me for something that happened entirely outside of my jurisdiction;for failing to do something which it was not in my power to do. She made it impossible for me to do anything by taking her case out of my hands.After thus taking her case out of my hands she had no legal or moral right to complain to any one.Under the circumstances complaints from her cannot be,for the sake of peace or of an amicable settlement of her alleged difficulties.

Mr Tadros had the same cause for complaint as Mrs Ryerson; but he knew that he was paying the penalty for smuggled goods and he said nothing;he never has said anything. He states,- " a lot of my bottles were also lost ".

What is to be done ?

I have heard that Mrs Ryerson intended to return to Jerusalem and on the other hand this is denied. Should she return she might ask (1) for a personal interview with Mr Clark. This would result,probably,in a quarrel,and nothing would be accomplished. (2) She might prepare her papers and reopen her case in the Consular Court.This would not be advisable,for her feelings towards me are such(probably) that she would not wish me to decide her case. (3) The only course would be to put the matter into the hands of properly chosen and qualified arbitrators. In any case there would be some expense which she might not be willing to meet.

Caution.

At the close of my letter to Mr McCready of January 20,1905, I referred to Mrs Ryerson's attempt to treat people medically. As she has no medical training and no license from the Turkish authorities she may,if she gives people medicine,involve herself and the Consulate in serious difficulty especially should death ensue to any Turkish subject while in her care or under her treatment.A person to practise medicine here requires a diploma from the Turkish authorities in Constantinople.

5

Loss of goods in the Custom House at Jaffa.

Every merchant in Jerusalem and very many individuals who import goods can testify to annoyances of this sort. By some inadvertance it happens in a great ^{many} instances that not ^{the} goods taken from a box for the purpose of examination are returned to it. Protests if made generally result in nothing. There seems to be no redress.

Personal relations.

Since the Department does not know about this I should be doing myself and my wife an injustice if I did not refer to this matter, although I should much prefer to not refer to it. I consider that the Department ought to know this as it affects my general relations to American residents.

The relations between Mrs Ryerson and ourselves have always been pleasant. It was my wife and myself who enabled Mrs Ryerson to obtain the money for her recent visit to America. My wife went to Jaffa to see Mrs Ryerson and her companion off on the steamer. My wife paid her hotel bill, the porters for her baggage, her carriage to the landing place, and her embarkation fees to the steamer. I gave her (gratis) a Consular certificate that she might receive special attention as a missionary on her way home. I gave her (gratis) a Consular certificate which she could use at the custom house wherever she might land, -New York or Boston. I asked the Agent of Thos Cook & Son here to write, which they did and also telegraphed, to their Agent in Naples to meet Mrs Ryerson and her companion and do everything in their power for them. I always had the dragoman of the Consulate attend to her rent to see that the contracts, receipts, &c., were properly made out so that she, as she could not speak the language, might not be cheated or imposed upon. Since she left for America I have forwarded all her letters re-addressing and recording them with my own hand.

For all these favors (residents generally account them as such) Mrs Ryerson has never said "thank you", and never manifested the slightest expression of gratitude. We are always glad to do for Mrs Ryerson as we do for many others, small favors of this kind, and while we do not ask for thanks still some signs of appreciation are more agreeable than are letters of complaint against us sent to the State Department at Washington.

We have always regarded Mrs Ryerson as a good woman at heart but as unreasonably obstinate. This characteristic appeared prominently in a bitter quarrel which she had a few years since with an English missionary. I think if she knew the language, and the Oriental character better, she would get on better with the people with whom she comes in contact whose number is really very limited.

---The foregoing report whose length I regret has been prepared with great care and I am certain that it more than covers the points raised on p.2. of your despatch. If it fails to show that I have been attentive and kind to Mrs Ryerson then I do not understand what attention and kindness mean.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

American Consul

NOTE .Page 1.- Our interpreter Mr Gelat reminds me that one reason of the delay was that Mrs Ryerson herself urged it until such time as Mr Clark could attend to the matter and this in order to save the expenses of a trial in the Consular Court. This was while I was sick.

NOTE. Page 2.- Not possible to tell at what point in transit loss occurred.- Between the sender in America and the receiver in Jerusalem goods must pass through many hands; -shipper in America; Atlantic steamer; custom house at Jaffa; train between Jaffa and Jerusalem; agents in Jaffa; agents in Jerusalem; magazines; &c, &c. See top of Page 5. It will be difficult for Mrs Ryerson as for any other person who imports goods and suffers loss, to prove at what point the loss occurred.

NOTE.- It is alleged that Mrs Ryerson sold the salve, Rochelle salts, and some other of the goods she received from America. This is chiefly a matter between herself and her friend in America. Still there is a difference between having a few articles sent her for her personal needs and importing merchandise for sale. The altercation which she reports in her letter of Feb. 22, 1904 as taking place between herself and a "Doctor" in our dragoman's office, was a quarrel about the price of some quinine which she had received from America in the boxes in question and had sold to this man. She says that I knew about this or heard the quarrel "sitting in my private office". This is a mistake. I knew nothing of it until Mr Gelat told me. There were hard words on both sides. --- Should she return and reopen her case this matter of importing merchandise to sell she would have to meet in connection with the custom house affair.

On Page 4 on her letter of Feb 22 1904 she states that she "was charged double", that is 16 instead of 8. This double charge was for smuggled goods.

NOTE.- The Clark brothers thought they were doing Mrs Ryerson a favor; but for their act of kindness and generosity they were subjected to a great deal of annoyance on account of her merchandise as her "personal effects" proved to be. Moreover they aroused against themselves her animosity which became so intense that she declares them to be "liars" and charges them with "swindling". Anyone, however, who knows Mr Herbert Clark will never believe that he practised fraud against any one, Mrs Ryerson or anybody else. Nothing is clearer in this case than the absence of motive for such a thing.

The Department will understand that I have spent much time and very much patience over this letter and I have endeavoured to put my statements into as calm language as was possible. I confess that I do not understand Mrs Ryerson. It may be that lack of education and limited experience in the world has developed in her an unreasonable disposition, - one of her best missionary friends here says "quarrelsome". I will quote this from my letter to Mr McCready of Jan 20 1905, - "Mrs Merrill and I have always treated Mrs Ryerson with kindness and should she return here we shall continue to do the same".

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Seah Merrill
American Consul

I think this might be
held for Mr. Carl's return.
He went through the report
& other papers with Merrill
and it was on the original
that which has had our
instruction to General
written. Merrill's explana-
tion seems plausible but
in view of the contents and

Last numbered despatch
sent, June 17, 1905, should
have been No. 99, not
No. 98.
Corrected on
index. Despatch not
on file. J.H.

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

Mrs R's insistence, Mr
Carr may want to go
into it further.
J. S. J.

Bureau of Indexes and Archives.

Leave Space

App.

19

No. 99 June 19, 1905

from

Jerusalem

Charged [K]. - 5-17-07

Consul

U.S. Consulate
JUL 14 1905
Constantinople.

No.100.

American Consulate,
Jerusalem, Syria, July 3, 1905.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Ans Aug 12/05

Subject.

Naturalization Isaac M. Roth.-What is to be done with
our naturalized Jews.- Filthy condition of Jewish passports.
--Photograph inclosed.

INDEX BUREAU
AUG 14 1905
FILED

No.100.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, July 3, 1905.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

The attention of the Department is hereby called to the following Sample Case, -one of a thousand.

Isaac M. Roth:-

Naturalized So Dist, New York, May 13, 1897.

Passport St Dept., No 3203, 1897.

Registered in this Consulate July 1899.

Went to America August 1902.

Obtained new passport, St Dept., No. 78878, Oct. 10, 1903.

Returned to Jerusalem May, 1904. He has a wife and 5 or 6

children, two or more are married with families. His wife and children have never been in America.

--He called recently saying that he was going to America and wished to take with him son David. David is 8 years old and was born in 1897.

His Passport dated in 1897, his Citizen Paper dated in 1897, and his son David born here in Jerusalem in 1897, - too much for one year. Previous to his naturalization there cannot have been five years continuous residence in the United States.

What is to be done with the army of naturalized Jews in Jerusalem and Palestine? I have taken the utmost pains, no officer of the Government can have done more than I have done, to expose frauds in connection with passports and naturalization papers. I gave Commissioner Braun when he was in Jerusalem last year, a chapter of facts which startled him. When he left he felt very confident that something would be done with this national disgrace. Year after year I have studied this matter, the tricks resorted to, and written repeatedly upon this subject. There is a possibility that the Department does not wish me to keep watch, to investigate, and to report on such matters. This I cannot believe. The trouble is not sporadic; it has grown to be a vast evil, - like the plague in India. As I said in my last despatch, - "every passport and every naturalization law that has ever been framed by our government has been evaded and circumvented by these Jews".

The Turkish Government is now trying to enforce a "registration law". The ultimate object is more taxes. There is trepidation amongst the thousands of Jews who have never been registered under any government. The Consuls are besieged with applications to take under their protection bogus citizens. Curious cases are coming to light constantly. One of our American citizens, a wo -

man, has within three weeks past, been to the office six times, generally with an advocate (different persons) to allow her to adopt a young man who is married and has a family, so that they may be registered as American citizens and thus evade Turkish registration. Apart from the matter of taxes which does not concern us, this law will work much good provided it is carried out. The rule with regard to any new Turkish regulation is that after a few weeks or months they get tired of it and drop it. A few days ago one of my colleagues was offered ten thousand francs if he would take certain Jews under his protection.

In our Case for Documents we have a pile of Jewish Passports, - a remarkable collection, worn, tattered, and most of them offensive with Jew ear marks, namely, dirt. Every time we handle the pile we immediately wash ourselves with carbolic soap. The fact is that Jews take no pains whatever to preserve their passports neatly. I think these Jews ought to be taught a lesson in some way, but my admonitions to them are of no avail. --A passport was brought in last week and I made a photograph of it which I inclose. Photography does not reveal dirt.

What I should like to receive from the Department is a document drawn up carefully, comprehensively, and legally, stating what my duty is with reference to this large and ever increasing body of naturalized American citizens. May I be allowed to cut off permanent residents?

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Salah Merrill

American Consul

Inclosure; -

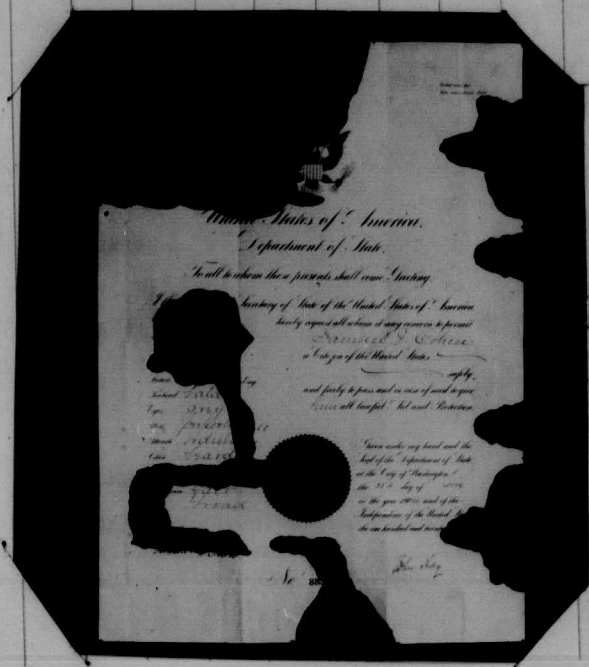
Photograph of a Jew Passport.

--With regard to Isaac M. Roth:-

He never had any intention of residing in America. Like most Jews his citizenship is for his personal convenience. His business is to collect money for some Jewish society here and this takes him to America from time to time. The Society would not employ a person who resided in America all the time. It is for his advantage to reside in Jerusalem under United States protection.

I. M.

Inclosure with
Despatch No. 100, July 3, 1905.

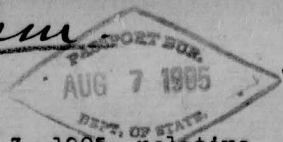


DEPT OF STATE

CONSULAR BUREAU

Prepare for sig.

To Jerusalem

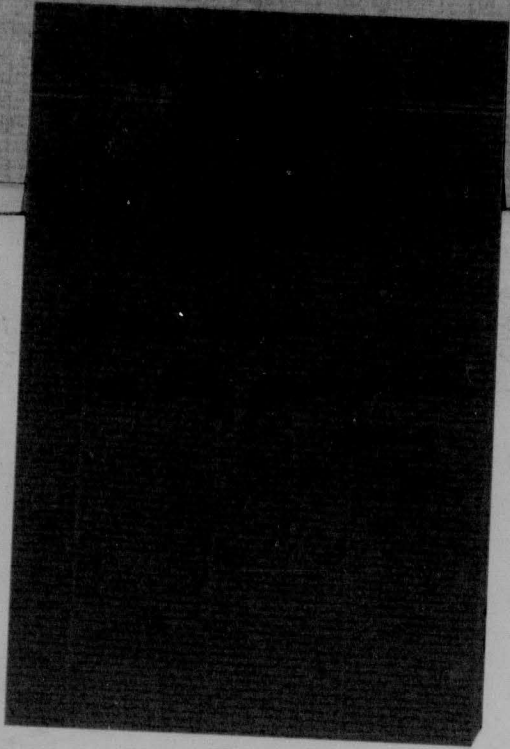


The Department has received your No. 100, July 3, 1905, relative to the status of naturalized American citizens in your district, ~~and~~ reporting specifically the case of Isaac M. Roth, to whom passport No. 78878 was issued by this Department October 10, 1903, and sending a photograph of the passport of Samuel J. Cohen, No. 88343, issued May 31, 1904. I enclose a copy of the applications upon which these passports were issued. You will perceive that they are regular in form and no reason appeared for refusing to issue the passports. Roth, ^{his} as application shows, was born in Hungary, and Cohen in Russia, and ^{the} naturalization of both was, apparently, lawful. Under the circumstances of their residence in a land where the United States claims extraterritorial jurisdiction as American citizens ^{their protection} seems, as the law now stands, to be unavoidable.

The Department commends the zeal and industry which you have shown in investigating suspicious cases of naturalization, but it sees no occasion for multiplying instructions on the general principles which should govern you in the exercise of the important function of *revising* applications for passports and protecting those who already hold passports. Those instructions are already well known to you, and the Department has at this time nothing to add to the circular instruction of March 27, 1899, on the subject of passports for persons residing or sojourning abroad.

[Handwritten signature]

Applications referred to



1958

1958

ons. J.

File.

JUL 14 1905
15

CONSULAR BUREAU
AUG 7 1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

No. 101.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, July 4, 1905.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Subject.

Flg at half mast on account of the death of the Honorable
Secretary of State Mr. Hay on Saturday July 2 nd.

CHIEF CLERK,
AUG - 7 1905
Department of State.

INDEX BUREAU
AUG 12 1905
FILED

DEPT OF STATE
AUG 7 1905
2ND ASST. SECRETARY

PASSPORT BUREAU
AUG 7 1905
DEPT. OF STATE

Dear Mr. Loomis,
The Hunt
"I concur" [J. Wharton]
— A chunk in the
@ 226

Common law now smothered by
the large number of consuls
who have escaped through it—
a quotation which could be adapted
to the present conditions which
morry Mr. Merrill. Jew or Christian,
clean or dirty, native or naturalized
it matters not; they are ours.
Under the law as it stands a man
does not have to say he intends
to reside in the United States before
he can receive naturalization. It
touches only his past; not his future.
1/18.

No.101

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, July 4, 1905

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

I have just received a telegram from Consul General Dickinson announcing the death of the Honorable Secretary of State Mr Hay. Anticipating the Department's usual Circular of Instructions in such cases I would say that mourning emblems are adopted and the flag is at half mast.

Mr Hay's death is a national calamity; at home and abroad he will be deeply and sincerely mourned.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Leah Merrill
American Consul

Con

CONSUL GENERAL
JUL 31 1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUL 3 1905

JUL 14 1905
15

0

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, July 5, 1905.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

File

File

Subject

Information called by unnumbered despatch June 6, 1905,
relative to honorary employees. American interest at Jaffa
very important and demand more consideration than our govern-
ment has hitherto given to that place.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, July 5, 1905.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

Sir.

Your unnumbered despatch June, 6, 1905, is at hand, relative to 'honorary employees' in this Consulate.

Besides the list furnished every year with the December quarterly returns there are no honorary employees employed or retained in any way by us.

Herbert E. Clark is Vc Consul. He receives no salary. He comes in whenever papers must be sworn to, or in the temporary absence of the Consul. Otherwise he does nothing for the Consulate. Still he is needed.

Jaffa Agency:-

..E. Hardegg is the Agent. He has served faithfully many years and is indispensable. He receives no salary. A great deal of his time is spent in running to the custom house, the local governor, to the police station, to help naturalized Jews whose troubles are many, -who pay nothing, -who forget to be thankful. The Agency has two dragomans and two kawasses. None of these four persons receive any salary. They frequently have to leave their work when it is very inconvenient for them to do so, in order to, ^{some} some important Consular matter. One of the dragomans is a prominent citizen. He is a physician, graduated at the American College and Medical School in Beirut, is highly respected in his profession, and as a citizen. Because of his position as a doctor he is on friendly terms with the local authorities, governor, police, and customs, -and is able frequently ~~able~~ to do the American interests as they come before the Consulate great service. He is of special service in cases of illness on shipboard, invalid sailors, and the like. I do not see how his services can be dispensed with. We are particularly fortunate in having at our command such a man. The other dragoman Mr Moussa (the other is Dr. Ghoreyib), is the son of a former dragoman of the Consulate who served it without compensation for many years.

The kawasses at Jaffa:-The Turkish authorities want them dropped. They are necessary to the Consulate. They receive no pay. They earn their living as boatmen. There are frequent disputes between the quarantine doctors and the boatmen as to the boats starting before the proper time. The boatmen are arrested and imprisoned. They pay a fine and ~~are~~ discharged almost immediately. This goes on constantly, although I presume the Department will scarcely credit it. The two American boatmen, kawasses, the authorities cannot arrest and fine, -hence they have repeatedly demanded that they be dropped as kawasses. For twenty years we have fought this and succeeded till now in keeping them along.

at least they never have arrested them

This demand of the Turkish authorities comes up periodically. Sometimes I report it to the Legation and sometimes I get along without doing so. The last time I reported it was April 10, 1905.

The work of carrying on the Agency at Jaffa is more important than can be realized at a distance. The coming and going of ships, the arrival of hundreds and even thousands (so in late years) of American tourists, the constant arrival of recruits from New York to swell the army of American naturalized Jews in Jerusalem, - this class are sometimes robbed, sometimes abused, their passports and baggage taken from them, - requiring the interference of the Consul, the scores of American Jews that live in Jaffa or belong to the Jewish colonies in the neighborhood of Jaffa, all of whom have to come to Jaffa for "their rights" if they are in trouble as they always are, - the Jewish quarrels, the court business, the legal papers that must be made out in the Consulate (in order to be legal) when Jews buy and sell land, the hundred and one interruptions, annoyances, and serious duties that must be attended to at once, - seem to demand that the Agency at Jaffa be raised to a Vice Consulate with a reasonable salary attached. With all these important, - and the majority of them are important although disagreeable, - American interests at stake it seems to me now and has seemed to me for a long time that our Government belittles American interests by keeping the place as a simple agency, - with ^{one} a penny of salary to any of the five men who are doing their work as they have done it for many years, faithfully.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Delahell Merrill
American Consul.

MEMORANDUM

by the Consul General accompanying Consul Merrill's unnumbered dispatch of July 8, 1905, regarding Honorary employes.

;;;;;;;;;;

The services of the Consular Agent and his employes at Jaffa ^{are} undoubtedly important and to some extent exacting. But they are no more important than they are at Salonica and other points where Agencies have been established.

Section 1696 of the Revised Statutes prohibits an allowance to any Vice Consulate or Consular Agency except for stationery and postage on official letters. Therefore, raising the grade of the Agency to a Vice Consulate would afford no relief.

These Agency employes are as a rule amply remunerated by fees. If the Consular Agent by receiving fees ^{can} be taken out of the category of "honorary employes", it seems difficult to recognize any distinction between him and his subordinates, who are remunerated by fees.

In this connection I beg to call the Department's attention to my N° 373 of June 9th. bearing upon this question and to renew the recommendations contained therein.

Constantinople, July 14, 1905.

Chas. M. Dickinsen
Consul General.

Bureau of Indexes and Archives.

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Leave Space

4 pp.

No. 102, August 30, 1905

from

Jerusalem

Charged RA 5-17-07

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SEP 28 1905

CONSULAR BUREAU
SEP 28 1905

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, September 8, 1905.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

File.

Subject.

Condition and Needs of the Jerusalem Consulate.
Reply to Dept Circ of June 24, 1905.

Summary:-

Difficult post on account of nature of work required. At both Jerusalem and Jaffa Agency a large part of the work is caring for the great number of naturalized American Jews whose number is constantly being augmented. The Turkish government not friendly to our Treaty and far from being helpful to the Consul in his duties. Work at this Consulate vastly increased during the past twenty years while no additional help has been provided to do it. Great need of a special clerk. A safe needed. Jaffa Agency to be made a vice consulate with a small salary. Vice Consul to be also Deputy Consul. Certain items of contingent expense.

INDEX BUREAU
SEP 28 1905
FILED

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American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, September 8, 1905.

Hon. Francis B. Loomis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir. -

In the Department's Circular of June 24, 1905, entitled
Contingent Expenses For The Fiscal Year 1905-6 was a request
for a statement as to what was necessary to enable this consulate
to do efficient work for the best interests of the public ser -
vice. I have therefore the honor to report as follows on the
Condition

Condition and Needs of the Jerusalem Consulate.
Department Circular June 24, 1905.

Consul.

This is a difficult post and whoever occupies it must expect to encounter many obstacles and must be willing to do a great deal of hard work. Taking care of ten or twelve hundred naturalized Jews, fifteen hundred to two thousand tourists, and a considerable number of troublesome cranks as many documents on file in the Department will show, to say nothing of many other duties, is no easy task.

Vice Consul.

He should be also Deputy Consul. Mr Clark the present Vice Consul is obliged to be absent on account of his business several times during the year and this frequently happens in the season of travellers when he is most needed. There does not seem to be any suitable person to take his place, -should that be thought of.

Dragomans or Interpreters.

Two are absolutely needed. Our second dragoman, Mr D. Feinstein, is a Jew and his services are indispensable. He is reliable and strictly honest. He knows the many 'jargons' which our army of naturalized Jews speak. He has a store and cannot be in our office more than two or two and a half hours a day. He receives from our Government only \$100.00 a year. On such pay we have not the face to ask him to spend more hours in the Consulate. He does a great deal of clerical work in connection with our accounts, invoices, and other matters. Our First Dragoman, called 'Interpreter', Mr Antoine Thos. Gelat, is able and thoroughly efficient. His character and his services for the Consulate are known to the Department. By his knowledge of the Turkish law and his wisdom in dealing with Turkish officials many matters are settled in Jerusalem which, under less skilful management, would flame up into serious and annoying controversies between the two Governments. He is paid \$1000.00 a year.

Guards or Kawasses.

We have two. During the six months embracing the busy season three kawasses are greatly needed. It is next to impossible for two to do, at that time, the necessary work. One of them is on duty in the Consulate every night and in case one is sick the work becomes hard. These are paid, each, \$200.00 annually.

Jaffa Agency.

At the Agency five persons are employed and they are all needed. See my Despatch to the Department, no number, July 5, 1905, on the needs and work at that post, and the reasons why it should be raised to a Vice Consulship with a small salary attached. Since the present arrangement was made many years ago the Jaffa Agency has grown immensely in importance. The amount of work is fifty fold greater than it was then. The Department ought to be acquainted with the character of the work required at that post.

2

On account of the large number of naturalized American Jews arriving at Jaffa and residing in its neighborhood the work of the Agent is chiefly dealing with foreign officials who have no respect for the treaty rights of Americans and who do not hesitate to invent ways to annoy them. This the Department will understand, is delicate and difficult work, for a false move would involve our Government with the Turkish Government in some serious collision.

A Safe.

A Safe is greatly needed for the Consulate. We have some important documents which should be cared for more carefully than is done at present. Moreover every year money, jewelry, and other valuables are entrusted to us and the best that we can now do is to lock them up in the Consulate. Occasionally we have a considerable amount of money belonging to some person deceased, which we must keep. If it is said that in the case of travellers and residents we are not obliged to do this it would, on the other hand, be very uncivil to refuse to do this favor.

Telegraph.

We use the telegraph as little as possible and from year to year our bill for telegraphing is small. This will continue so unless some special emergency should arise.

Letters.

The number of letters received making inquiries about business matters is large. I am obliged to answer all these letters which I do faithfully. If I could be authorized to decline to answer about one half of these, because the questions become absurd when asked in view of the conditions existing in this country, our postage bill would be lessened a few dollars each quarter. The entire expense, however, seems small; still it is an item. If without such authorization I decline to answer letters of that class, I expose myself to complaints.

Writing Machines.

I have two machines, one in the Consulate and one in my private residence, and both are my own. The only expense the Government has incurred for writing machines is a few sheets of carbon paper and half a dozen ribbons three of which have not yet been used. I use and repair my machines myself. But were I to be removed from this office and a person appointed who does not own a machine and does not know how to use one, the matter of copying all letters and documents by hand would come again into vogue as was the case formerly, and this would throw much extra work upon the Interpreters who, with all the work now required of them, would scarcely be able to do it.

Rent.

This is very high as compared with Beirut and some other cities with which I am acquainted. The present office is convenient and central both for business and for travellers. It has been the American Consulate for a large part of the time during

the last forty years. It is a stone building and we occupy the second story and have entire control of the only entrance. It is an old building and far from elegant. Some travellers do not hesitate to criticise our present Consulate for its (in their judgment) lack of modernness and smartness. But my observation has shown me that the efficiency of a Consular Officer does not depend upon the elegance of the apartments he occupies. Our present Consulate is owned by the Armenian Convent and twice during the past six years they have been on the point of demanding the building in order to pull it down and to erect a new one. They may do this at anytime, -of course with the formal legal notice. The Spanish have for a long time owned a consular building, but for twenty or more years they have not occupied it as such. The Russians own their own building. They have in fact a number of buildings besides a large compound, but they are no example for us since their national purposes are entirely different from our own. Within a few years past the Germans have bought property so that now they own their Consulate. This makes really but two out of twelve governments represented here who own their consular buildings. Personally, if my opinion may be expressed, I disapprove of the plan of the Government owning its consulate for many strong reasons.

Should we change our Consulate for another we should have to pay more rent than we are now paying. The English, French, German, Austrian, and Russian, have quite showy buildings, compared with which ours is very humble.

Fuel and Lights.

During the year this is an item although not a large one. In former years I paid for these expenses myself, but in recent years it has been charged to Contingent Expense account. The natives of the country have little fire, but foreigners cannot get along without warming their rooms in some way. One of the kawasses remains in the Consulate all night and he cannot get along without light and some fire. Further the kawass or guard must have a bed, and bedding with its repairs and cleaning is also a small item of expense.

Furniture.

All our furniture is plain, some of it very plain. Formerly it was shamefully plain, but better was never allowed. From time to time this needs repairing or replacing which must be done.

Flags and Flagstaff.

Our flags are frequently torn by the strong winds especially in the winter storms. We have also very strong winds all summer, every afternoon. The flags are kept in repair at a small price.

Carriages.

During the year there are a number of occasions when carriages have to be employed and there is no provision for this outlay under 'contingent expenses'. These bills I pay with my own funds. If a carriage is employed to meet a newly appointed Consul of some one of the governments represented here, or to make an

official visit when, for example, the Russian Consul General orders an 'official reception' on the occasion of the Czar's accession day, it is not the American Consul but his government that is asked to pay these compliments to a friendly power, and it would seem to be right for this expense to be charged to the government instead of being borne by the Consul himself. I do not consider it out of place for me to call serious attention to this matter.

Special Clerk.

The work of this Consulate has increased so much during the past twenty years that a special clerk is greatly needed. The Consul and two Interpreters have more writing than they can possibly do, with all the other work that demands their attention. There is a great deal of indexing that ought to be done which at present is neglected simply because we cannot do it.

When I visited the Cairo office last November I found letters, documents, and papers arranged and indexed in a neat and useful manner. But I was told that the expense for this work was borne by a wealthy gentleman and was not borne by the Government.

A person who is a fairly good penman, a fairly good English scholar, who knows short hand and typewriting, who would receive say \$600.00 a year, would be invaluable in this office. Had I means I should hire such a person myself. But that is out of the question. Sometimes there is a great pressure of writing when a special clerk would be of the greatest service. Not infrequently at such times, my wife comes to the office and spends half a day upon copying or the writing of letters as may be necessary. I do not wish to boast, but this very report has been written out on the writing machine by my wife because from the pressure of other duties I was not able to do it myself.

The Consul and the two Interpreters advise with each other on most matters and work together in harmony. The Consul decides all legal cases. He conducts all the correspondence except the actual writing of letters in Arabic, Turkish, French, and Hebrew (Jewish). Official calls are made by the Consul accompanied by Mr Gelat the first dragoman. Mr Feinstein interprets for the Jews, prepares invoices, keeps the accounts, and does some of the copying. Mr Gelat does the court business, attends to some of the complaints, looks after the Jews that are robbed or beaten, is the general peacemaker (when that is possible) in all Jewish quarrels, family, neighborhood, rent matters and taxes, overreachings, thefts, accounts not paid, fraudulent dealings of all kinds, houses, cisterns, drainage, protested bills, personal squabbles, &c., &c., without end, and defends American citizens in the Turkish Court. His work is the most annoying, the most trying, the most perplexing, the most delicate, of the three divisions. Hundreds receive the benefit of his constant, patient, and skilful labors. Some of these people are grateful, while not a few seem to have little sense of gratitude. For the most part our American Jews are too poor to pay for any services, but we cannot refuse to do these services for them so long as they are reckoned as American citizens. -- This last remark touches the secret of more than half the labor and worry attendant upon the carrying on of this Consulate. .

Fewer naturalized American Jews should be allowed to come here to reside forever or more help should be provided to enable us to do the ever increasing amount of work. While the work is peculiar and hard, everything in our power is done for the interests of American citizens visiting Jerusalem or residing in this Consular district. No Consulate takes greater pains to help its subjects than does the American Consulate. And this work is carried on under a government which does not like our Treaty by which we exist here, and which is very far from being too willing to assist the Consul in his special duties towards American citizens. As to expenses I do not see how it is possible to carry on this Consulate more economically than is done at present. The appropriations should be larger and soon must be or American interests here will suffer.

The Growth of Consulates.

It seems to me that Congress which provides the money for the support of the Consular service, does not realize that the responsibilities of the Jerusalem Consulate and the work necessary to carry it on successfully have vastly increased in the last twenty years. The same should be said of the Jaffa Agency. The salary of the Consul, first Dragoman, and each of the two Guards, has been increased, but in other respects everything remains as it was many years ago when, to mention but one item, we had less than two hundred naturalized American Jews to care for whereas now we have more than twelve hundred.

Selah Merrill
Consul.

Jerusalem, Syria
September 8, 1905.

That the whole matter of this Consulate and its Needs may be before the eye at once I will copy from my unnumbered despatch of July 5, 1905, referred to above, what I reported relative to the Jaffa Agency. --

"Jaffa Agency.

E. Hardegg is the Agent. He has served faithfully many years and is indispensable. He receives no salary. A great deal of his time is spent in running to the custom house, the local governor, to the police station, to help naturalized Jews whose troubles are many, - who pay nothing, - who forget to be thankful. The Agency has two dragomans and two kawasses. None of these four persons receive any salary. They frequently have to leave their work when it is inconvenient for them to do so, in order to attend to some important Consular matter. One of the dragomans is a prominent citizen. He is a physician, graduated at the American College and Medical School in Beirut, is highly respected in his profession, and as a citizen. Because of his position as a doctor he is on friendly terms with the local authorities, governor, police, and customs, and is frequently able to do American interests as they come before the Consulate, great service. He is of special service in cases of illness on shipboard, invalid sailors, and the like. I do not see how his services can be dispensed with. We are particularly fortunate in having at our command such a man. The other dragoman, Mr. Moussa, (the other is Dr. Ghoreyib), is the son of a former dragoman of the Consulate who served it without compensation for many years.

The kawasses at Jaffa: - The Turkish authorities want them dropped. They are necessary to the Consulate. They receive no pay. They earn their living as boatmen. There are frequent disputes between the quarantine doctors and the boatmen as to the boats starting before the proper time. The boatmen are arrested and imprisoned. They pay a fine and are discharged almost immediately. This goes on constantly, although I presume the Department will scarcely credit it. The two American boatmen (kawasses), the authorities cannot arrest and fine, - hence they have repeatedly demanded that they be dropped as kawasses. For twenty years we have fought this and succeeded till now in keeping them along. This demand of the Turkish authorities comes up periodically. Sometimes I report it to the Legation and sometimes I get along without doing so. The last time I reported it was April 10, 1905.

The work of carrying on the Agency at Jaffa is more important than can be realized at a distance. The coming and going of ships, the arrival of hundreds and even thousands (so in late years) of American tourists, the constant arrival of recruits from New York to swell the army of American naturalized Jews in Jerusalem, - this class are sometimes robbed, sometimes abused, their passports and baggage taken from them, - requiring the interference of the Consul, the scores of American Jews that live in Jaffa or belong to the Jewish colonies in the neighborhood of Jaffa, all of whom have to come to Jaffa for 'their rights' if they are in trouble as they always are, - the Jewish quarrels, the court business, the legal papers that must be made out in the Consulate (in order to be legal) when Jews buy and sell land, the hundred

and one interruptions, annoyances, and serious duties that must be attended to at once, - seems to demand that the Agency at Jaffa be raised to a Vice Consulate with a reasonable salary attached. With all these important, - and the majority of them are important although disagreeable, - American interests at stake it seems to me now and has seemed to me for a long time that our Government belittles American interests by keeping the place as a simple Agency, - without a penny of salary to any of the five men who are doing their work as they have done it for many years faithfully. "

(Jerusalem)

Jerusalem, Syria, September 18, 1905.

Hon. Alvey A. Adee
State Department
Washington, D.C.

Adee
OCT 10 1905



Dear Mr Adee.

I trust you will pardon me if I ask you to give me your personal and friendly opinion relative to the following matter. You know something of my position among Palestine scholars in both England and America. Had I not learned pretty much all there is to be known of Jerusalem after residing here a number of years, I should not be Selah Merrill. Still my time for study has been very limited; my time and strength are devoted sacredly, foremost and always, to my office duties. But I have gathered many facts which some of my warm friends and co-workers in this field, Sir Charles W. Wilson, Sir Charles Warren, Prof. George Adam Smith, and many others, are urging me to put into shape and have printed for the benefit of the world. This I have done roughly and could complete the work in a short time. It is so far complete that I can tell accurately its character:- The work will be brief, say 100 to 150 pages. (2) It is in no sense a criticism of other works. (3) The pronoun 'I' does not occur in the text. (4) There is not a harsh criticism or remark in the entire work. (5) It begins with the approach of Titus A.D. 70 and works back to remote times. (6) There is no reference to modern times, things, or governments. (7) It is strictly some archaeological notes collected under the title 'Ancient Jerusalem'.--- Certainly it can offend nobody, it can harm nobody, -it is hoped that it may do somebody some good. Through the kindness of the friends just mentioned, especially Wilson and Smith, three publishers have asked or offered to print what I may prepare. This is the matter as briefly as I can state it.

You know that I am in the service of the State Department and have been for some years. This, as you know, is a difficult post, but I am proud of my record. No consular officer has worked more faithfully than I have for the interests of our Government. Scores and hundreds of travellers have expressed themselves strongly as to the benefit they have received from me during their visit to Jerusalem. Be assured that I do not wish to publish even the brief notes as described above without your telling me if you think there can be any objections to my doing so.

Yours Very Sincerely Selah Merrill (American Consul)

--You will not be offended if I say that had Mr Hay lived I should have addressed this letter, or some letter of this kind, directly to him. He knew me and seemed interested in me, and once declared to a friend of mine that "Mr Merrill had been a very faithful and efficient officer".

-Let me add that the word "consul" will not appear on the title page or in the text in any connection whatsoever. I say this to you since it is only a natural inference that I might think to make capital out of my position as consul. I have no such *thought*. I wish to avoid anything of the kind.

-I shall be gratified if you will consider this letter as confidential. Your long experience in the public service will enable to know the pulse of the Department without too much noise.

Yours sincerely
Selah Merrill.

Jerusalem, Syria, September 18, 1905.

RECEIVED
OCT 10 1905

Hon. Alvey A. Adee
State Department
Washington, D.C.

You will not be offended if I say that had Mr. Hay lived I should have addressed this letter, or some letter of this kind, directly to him. He knew me and seemed interested in me, and once declared to a friend of mine that "Mr. Merrill had been a very faithful and efficient officer."

Let me add that the word "consul" will not appear on the title page of the text in any connection whatsoever. I say this to you since it is only a natural inference that I might think to make capital out of my position as consul. I have no suggestion I wish to avoid anything of the kind.

DEPT OF STATE
OCT 8 1905
2nd ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Dear Sir:
I am in a position to publishing a manuscript on the Ancient History of Jerusalem, if as Mr. M. assures us, can furnish with certain countries and his own personality are left out.

Consul
BUREAU
OCT 27 1905
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE

CONSULAR BUREAU,
NOTED. 27 1905

U.S. Consulate General
DEC 8 1905
Constantinople.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, November 20, 1905.

CONSULAR BUREAU
DEC 27 1905
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Robert Bacon
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

CHIEF CLERK
DEC 26 1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Answer by Jan 2/06

Subject

Forwarding marriage certificates of Benjamin Leon and Zivjah Kaufman, -also of Asher Shapiro and Feiga Klein.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

Consular Office of the United States of America,

Jerusalem, August 21st, 1905.

I, *Selah Merrill*, Consul of the United States

at *Jerusalem*, do hereby certify that, on this *12th* day of *August*,
A. D. 1905, at _____ in the city of *Jerusalem*,

Benjamin Leon, aged *16* years, born in *Prag, Bohemia*,
and now residing in *Jerusalem*, and *Zivjöh Kaufmann*,
aged *16* years, born in *Jerusalem*, and now residing in _____

*Written in
part of the
book of
Marriage
Book No. 1
Aug. 12, 1905
Filed in
office.*

Jerusalem, were united in marriage before me, and in my presence, by
Rabbi ^{Haim} Hagan Sonnefeld, who is authorized by the laws of *Turkey*
to perform such a ceremony.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal
of my office at *Jerusalem*, this *21st* day
of *Aug.*, A. D. 1905, and of the Independence of the
United States the *One hundred and thirty*

[L. S.]



Selah Merrill

of the United States of America.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

Consular Office of the United States of America,

Jerusalem, Syria, September 11, 1905.

I, *Selah Merrill*, *Consul* of the United States
at *Jerusalem*, do hereby certify that, on this *first* day of *September*,
A. D. 1905, at *Jerusalem* in the city of *Jerusalem*,
Asher Shapiro, aged *21* years, born in *New York*,
and now residing in *Jerusalem*, and *Felga Klein*,
aged *16* years, born in *Hungary*, and now residing in
Jerusalem, were united in marriage before me, and in my presence, by
Rabbi Haim Sonnenfeld, who is authorized by the laws of *Turkey*
to perform such a ceremony.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal
of my office at *Jerusalem*, this *11th* day
of *September*, *A. D. 1905*, and of the Independence of the
United States the one hundred and *thirtieth*.

[L. S.]



Selah Merrill
Consul of the United States of America.

CONSULAR BUREAU
NOTED.

0

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, November 20, 1905.

Hon. Robert Bacon
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

Inclosed please find two marriage certificates , -
1. Benjamin Leon and Zivjah Kaufman aged respectively 16 & 16
years, married August 21, 1905, and
2. Asher Shapiro and Feiga Klein, aged 21 & 16 respectively, mar -
ried Sepetmber 11, 1905.
The parties were born in, respectively, Prague, Jerusalem, New York,
and Hungary.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
American Consul.

Condy

RECEIVED
DEC 22 1905
DEPT OF STATE

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
DEC 27 1905

U.S. Consulate General
DEC 8 1905
Constantinople

No.103

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, November 22, 1905.

RECEIVED
DEC 27 1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Selah Merrill, Consul

To

Hon. Robert Bacon
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

See Dec 30/10
2

CHIEF CLERK
DEC 28 1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Subject.

1. Contradictory statements of Isaac M. Roth as to his residence in America.
2. Doubtful case of Mayer Rosin
3. Peculiar conditions in Jerusalem not covered by Department Circular of March 27, 1899.

No. 103.

American Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, November 22, 1905.

Hon. Robert Bacon

Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

Referring to Department's despatch No. 83, August 12, 1905, also to my despatch No. 100, July 3, 1905, relative to naturalization of Isaac M. Roth, I wish to put on record the following facts:-

In application for passport Roth declares that he "resided uninterruptedly in the United States from August 1891 to 1903." His wife was never in America.
His son David was born in Jerusalem in 1897.

II.

Case of Mayer Rosin.

Has passport from State Department dated March 7, 1903, and numbered 66999.-We have ^{asked} him several times for his citizen paper but he has never presented it. Says that he lost it. Those who know him assert that he was never away from Jerusalem long enough to secure American citizenship. We know positively that in 1901 this man was here, that he had a lawsuit in the Russian consulate with an Austrian subject, that he was then a Russian subject and so protected by the Russian consulate, and that he bears An American passport dated as above.

III.

The Despatch above referred to states that "the Department has nothing to add to the Circular of Instructions of March 27, 1899". But I do not find that those instructions apply to Jerusalem. The conditions here as I have many times reported, are peculiar. We have a large and constantly increasing number of naturalized American Jews. They are becoming a burden and a menace to our Government. Jews go from Russia to New York, get their papers by proper or improper means, come to Jerusalem to reside permanently. I am aware that if such persons apply for renewal of their passports their status is examined with fair prospect of refusal. Our Jews are keen. They know we cannot compel them to apply for new passports. Hence they never apply for renewal of passports. These people have lived here anywhere from two to forty years. We are obliged to protect them. If this thing is not checked the Government will be obliged to establish here a special court with all the outfit, police, petty and supreme judges, prisons, &c.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Edmund Merrill
American Consul

PASSPORT BUR.
DEC 28 1905
DEPT. OF STATE.

Dear Mr. Austin,

If the threatened evils set forth in Mr. Merrill's No. 100 were as serious as he represents them to be, the proper course for the Department to pursue would be to order a special and thorough investigation by some competent person in order to ascertain what ^{would be} the best course for the government to pursue; ~~would be~~ but I believe Mr. Merrill magnifies the difficulties, quite naturally, no doubt, as they probably appear to him larger than they would appear to one not so frequently vexed by them. ~~and~~ Mr. Dickinson, Consul General at Constantinople, has investigated the Jerusalem conditions, and when he comes to this country it would be well to take his views on the subject. At present, therefore, the best course would seem to be to treat the individual cases in the usual way, and as a reply to Mr. Merrill's No. 105, I suggest the appended draft.

CONSULARY BUREAU
APPROVED.
W. H. D. F.

[Handwritten signature]

To Jerusalem.

RECEIVED
DEC 28 1905
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
PASSPORT BUR.
DEC 28 1905
DEPT. OF STATE.

The Department has received your No. 103 of December 22, 1905, relative to the protection of certain persons claiming American citizenship in your District. If your investigation shows that Isaac M. Roth was not in the United States when he claims to have been and was unlawfully naturalized he should not receive your protection. With reference to Mayer Rosin, I enclose a copy of the application upon which passport No. 66999 was issued in his favor by the Department March 7, 1903. As you state that you know positively that he was in Jerusalem in 1901, two years before his naturalization, and was then protected as a Russian subject, he should not be protected *by you.*
~~citizen of the United States.~~

In cases of this character it is desirable that you should obtain evidence in the shape of affidavits from credible persons having personal knowledge and ^{other} documentary proof and transmit the same to this Department, to be submitted to the proper legal authorities for appropriate action.

CONSULAR BUREAU.
APPROVED
N. W. D. S.

[Handwritten signature]

Consul

CONSULAR BUREAU
RECD.
JAN 23 1906
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASST. SECRETARY
JAN 23 1906

*Red
Feb 6*

No. 104.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, December 23, 1905.

CHIEF CLERK
JAN
23
1906
DEPARTMENT
OF STATE.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Robert Bacon
Assistant Secretary of State

*Ans by fm
Jan 31/06*

Subject

Cipher Codes: -Reply to Circular November 16, 1905.

INDEX BUREAU
FILED
JAN 23 1906

No.104.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, December 23, 1905.

Hon. Robert Bacon
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

Sir.

Your circular "Cipher Codes", November 16, 1905, is at hand and I would reply as follows:-

1. We have in this Consulate the "Cipher" sent to this office by Minister Horace Maynard December 26, 1876, accompanied by a letter of instructions as to the use of the same.

2. "Western Union Telegraphic Code and International Cable Directory of the World". Received and acknowledged in despatch, no number, February 20, 1903.

3. "The Cipher of the Department of State". Acknowledged August 22, 1904.

NOTE:-The "Slater Code", according to circular of January 8, 1900, was burned as reported in despatch February 3, 1900.

Besides Nos. 1, 2, and 3, as described we have nothing.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill

American Consul.

Handwritten scribble

0

CHIEF CLERK
MAR 21
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CONSULAR BUREAU
MAR 22
1906
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CONSULAR BUREAU.
NOTED.
F

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
MAR 16 1906

American Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, February 8, 1906.

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
MAR 21 1906

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Robert Bacon
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

*Analysis form
mch 23/06*

Subject

Marriage Certificate, January 12, 1906, A.G. Murray to
Emma Barton.

INDEX BUREAU
MAR 26 1906
FILED

CONSULAR BUREAU,
NOTED.

0

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, February 8, 1906.

Hon. Robert Bacon
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

Inclosed please find marriage certificate of Mr. A. G. Murray, aged 21, born in Canada, and Miss Emma Barton, aged 28, born in Illinois. Married in Jaffa, January 12, 1906.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill
American Consul.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

CONSULAR BUREAU.
NOTED.

Consular Office of the United States of America,

Jaffa January 12, 1906.

I, *E. Hardegg*, Consular Agent of the United States
at *Jaffa*, do hereby certify that, on this *twelfth* day of *January*,
A. D. 1906, at *the Yacht "Coronet"* of the city of *Jaffa*,

Mr. A. G. Murray, aged *21* years, born in *St. Blaswick London*
and now residing in *Yacht "Coronet"*, and *Miss Emma Barton*,
aged *28* years, born in *Lincoln, Illinois*, and now residing in

the Yacht "Coronet", were united in marriage before me, and in my presence, by
Rev. D. W. Sanford, who is authorized by the laws of *Maine*
to perform such a ceremony.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal
of my office at *Jaffa*, this *12* day
of *January*, A. D. 1906, and of the Independence of the
United States the *129th*

E. Hardegg
Cons. Agent of the United States of America.

ms. 9

No. 10⁵

CHIEF CLERK
MAR 21
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED
MAR 21 1906

CONSULAR BUREAU
MAR 22 1906
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mar. 1

American Consulate,
Jerusalem, Syria, February 12, 1906.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Robert Bacon
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

*Call
Merrill 2/12/06*

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
MAR 21 1906

Subject

Leave of absence, fifty days, granted to Herbert E. Clark,
Vice Consul

INDEX BUREAU
MAR 20 1906
FILED

No. 105.

American Consulate,
Jerusalem, Syria, February 12, 1906.

Hon. Robert Bacon
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Vice Consul Herbert E. Clark has requested leave of absence for a certain period, which he alleges is necessary on account of his business interests. He leaves to day, February 12, and intends to return during the first week in April. This request I have granted according to the practice of previous years. The time of his absence will be, as he states, under fifty days.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Selah Merrill
American Consul

com.

No.106.

INDEX & BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 11 1906
DEPT. OF STATE

U.S. Consulate General

J
MAR 19 1906
20
Jerusalem

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, March 9, 1906.

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
APR 10 1906

Selah Merrill, Consul ,

To

Hon. Robert Bacon
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

CHIEF CLERK
APR
10
1906
DEPARTMENT
OF STATE.

Am
Apr. 16/06.
Wm. Miller
secret

Subject

Interests of the Consular Service: Salary of the
Jerusalem Consulate.

INDEX BUREAU
APR 17 1906
FILED

No.106.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, March 9, 1906.

Hon. Robert Bacon
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

Sir.

Some one has sent me recently a copy of the Boston Transcript, with a marked article on the new classification of Consuls. Jerusalem is put in the eighth class, \$3,000. For the good of the Consular Service allow me to lay before you the following considerations. It is in the interests of the Jerusalem Consulate and not of myself personally that I write these facts. The regulations prohibit me from appealing direct to any Senator or Congressman in this matter, -my appeal is to the Department to lay the matter before the law makers. The Department knows that I have never asked for promotion, -for more salary, -for a better house, -and I have never applied to any Senator or Congressman or to any other person to exercise influence for me at Washington. Several very prominent Americans have offered to do me services of this kind, but I have never asked them to do so.

Jerusalem is really degraded below Beirut and below Smyrna, Smyrna being raised \$1,000 and Beirut \$2,500.

Cost of house rent: -in Jerusalem house rent is one third higher than in Beirut.

Cost of living; -in Jerusalem the cost is more than one third higher than in Beirut. -This is the testimony of the British Consul here, my colleague, who spent many years in Beirut.

Care of Travellers; -If there are 1,600 Americans they all have a claim on the Consul. Not 300 of these 1,600 visit Beirut, and only a portion of those have anything to do with the Consul. For example, -Clark's Steamers (one is now here with 630 Americans on board) never touch at Beirut.

Care of naturalized citizens and others; -Our naturalized citizens are Russian Jews who here, as in America, are American citizens. Naturalized citizens in Syria are Syrians who, the moment they return to Syria, revert to their former condition as Turkish subjects. Everything pertaining to an American citizen must come before the Consul. The Department knows what a burden this class has become.

Hard work; -I have reason for saying that with the exception of Constantinople there is more work, difficult and delicate work, done in this Consulate than in any other in Turkey and this includes the Cairo Consulate.

It seems to me that our lawmakers have not comprehended the situation. The classification is based on conditions and especially work, which existed fifteen years or more ago. Since then work has increased in this Consulate ten fold. We need an extra ~~law~~ ^{lawyer}, an extra clerk, and a paid Vice Consul at Jaffa, as I laid before the Department in letters of Sept. 8, 1905, and Feb. 10, 1906.

I submit that these matters should be laid before the lawmakers before the bill becomes a law and I trust that I am clearly within my right in laying them before the Department.

I remain respectfully Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill
American Consul

Handwritten initials

No.107.

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, March 22, 1906.

CONSULAR BUREAU
APR 28 1906
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
APR 16 '06

U.S. Consulate General
Constantinople
APR 3 1906

CHIEF CLERK
APR 25 1906
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Granted by the
Asst. Secy
Apr 25 '06*

Subject:
Consul asks leave of absence, possibly to visit the
United States.

The Honorable
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
APR 26 1906

Sir.

I would hereby respectfully ask for leave of absence from my post for a period of sixty and probably for ninety days. Some to me important business matters have come up which, to demand my presence at my home in America. It is yet too early for me to know what action the Department has taken relative to the serious matter which I brought before it in my unnumbered despatch of February 10, 1906, but should anything be done the English Consul here would sign papers for me. Whoever acted in my place would have little to do for our efficient Secretary Mr Gelat would do all the work. Mr Gelat is the person whom I should like to place in charge during my absence; everything would be done properly and I should have no anxieties from internal or external sources.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill
Consul

INDEX BUREAU
MAY 2 1906
FILED

W.M.D.

CONSULAR BUREAU
MAY 24 1906
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

U.S. Consulate General
APR 26 1906
Constantinople.

No.108.

American Consulate, Jerusalem, Syria, April 15, 1906.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D.
MAY 12 1906
DEPT. OF STATE

CHIEF CLERK
MAY 23 1906
DEPT. OF STATE

Subject: Return Vice Consul from leave of absence.

The Honorable
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
MAY 24 1906

Sir.

I hereby inform you that Vice Consul Herbert E. Clark granted leave of absence as per despatch No.105, February 12, 1906, returned to Jerusalem on the 9th of April, making fifty six days absence.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill
Consul

INDEX
MAY 22 1906
OFFICE

con.

00

BUREAU OF APPOINTMENTS
JUN 19 1906
Department of State.

U.S. Consulate General
Constantinople.

RECEIVED
JUN 14 '06
DEPT. OF STATE

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, May 21, 1906. *C*

Subject:-Vice Consul Herbert E. Clark's reply to
letter of State Department April 20, 1906.
Use of his name in business.

The Honorable
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Ans. June 15/06
FILE = 8.

Sir.

Inclosed herewith is Vice Consul Herbert E. Clark's
reply to Department's letter of April 20, 1906 relative to use
of his official name in business. -His letter is dated
May 20, 1906.

Let us suppose that his statement of his relation to his
brother is correct, the public do not understand it but
fully believe that they are coming here under the protection
and care of the American Vice Consul. I have told Mr Clark
this and a little attention on his part would have corrected
the matter long since.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill
Consul

*Inclosure
as above.*

Herbert E. Clark

Jerusalem May 25th 1906

Herbert H. D. Pierce Esquire
Third Secretary
Department of State
Washington

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 20th Ult. in regard to my using my title of Vice Consul in private business etc. I beg to state that I have never done so, neither by writing, or in printed matter for advertising.

The fact of the case is; my brother Mr. Frank C. Clark 96 Broadway New York has his own Linnæus-Business and I am employed by him on salary per An. as his manager for Palestine & Egypt. he advertises me as his manager in the East. In 1904 and last year I wrote him on the subject and informed him that it was prohibited; and to day I have done so again which is all I can do in the matter and beg to remain

Yours respectfully

Herbert C. Clark

Vice Consul

Jerusalem

Herbert C. Clark

over

ASST. SECRETARY
JUN 12 1906

CONSULAR BUREAU
JUN 12 1906
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHIEF CLERK
JUN 11 1906
DEPT. OF STATE

American Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, May 25, 1906.

FILE - 8

CONSULAR BUREAU
REC'D
JUN 11 '06
DEPT. OF STATE

Subject: Consul's leave of absence: urgent information wanted.

The Honorable
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

*Telegraphed
July 6 '06*

Sir.

My leave of absence dated April 28 reached me yesterday. I at once notified Mr Clark, Vice Consul, to whom I had some time since mentioned that I expected to go away. He has to day sent me a letter saying that his business demands his presence in Europe for two months, namely, July and August. Mr Clark has already had one leave of 56 days this year, see Despatch No. 108, April 15, 1906. You are aware that since I have been in charge of this post I have been absent very little; now it seems absolutely necessary for me to go as stated in Despatch No. 107, March 22, 1906. I wanted to get away during the month of June; now I feel that I cannot leave without further instructions from the Department. This will delay my departure till after the first of July; between July 1st and October 1st I could go and return as proposed.

Whoever is in charge of the office will not have the work to do for that will all be done by Mr Gelat and Mr Feinstein.

Shall I grant Mr Clark's request?

May I be allowed to name Mr Gelat to act for me?

Even now the Department knows that once or twice each year I have to ask Mr John Dickson my English colleague to sign papers for me and, if authorized, he would be willing to sign any papers for me during my absence.

My leave was 26 days on the way and as this is an emergency letter I shall send it direct and not through Constantinople, - for to day our quickest mail via Brindisi is leaving. Nor is there time for a reply by mail, therefore I would request an answer by telegram, - at my expense.

Allow me to refer again to unnumbered Despatch of February 10, 1906, where I expressed solicitude, on account of family and other associations, as to the security of consular matters if left in certain hands.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill
Consul

CONSULAR BUREAU
JUN 11 1906
DEPT. OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
CONSULAR BUREAU.

Merrill papers

Jerusalem

Also his leave &
trouble with Vice

Counsel...

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

JUL 23 1908

For Mr. Wilson

This memorandum has just been returned to me without direction. In view of Consul Merrill's program, I think he might be wanted here and if the Vice Consul is absent the British Consul might be asked to take temporary charge of our interests.

M.B.

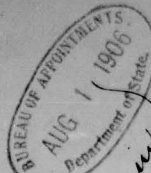
OFFICE OF THE
THIRD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Dear Mr Carr
I will sign
telegram in the
of your name, if you
will send one up.
must go in a few
moments

G. F. '06. - 4:15.

EFFICIENCY RECORD

ons.
No. 109.



U.S. Consulate General
Constantinople

CHIEF CLERK
JUL 21 1906
DEPT. OF STATE

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, June 16, 1906.

Subject: - Reply to Mr. Clark's letter of April 19, 1906.

The Honorable
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

Your number 89 of May 14, 1906 containing letter of Mr. Frank C. Clark of April 19, 1906, is at hand and the following my reply.

First.- Mr. Clark's letter was a surprise to me for in all our long acquaintance since he was a lad we have never had a quarrel, a difficulty, or a misunderstanding of any kind. I never dreamed that during all these years he was harboring resentment towards me. Besides being friendly to him I have done him innumerable acts of kindness some of which are mentioned later. My surprise is so great that I cannot even now bring myself to think that the letter was prompted by Mr. Clark himself but that it is due to Jerusalem influences with which his brother and his brother's wife are too closely allied, -not only closely allied but dangerously so for Mr. Clark's reputation and business.

Second, the Arm Incident, Page 3.

If Mr Clark believed this statement why did not he ask me if it was true? This is what happened:-A woman, name and date I do not know, came to me with her arm in a sling, saying that she had been injured and asking what she should do for redress. I replied in these words:- "When you see Mr. Clark I advise you to lay all the circumstances before him for I believe he will do everything that is proper and honorable in the matter". Every item in the last three lines of that paragraph is absolutely false.

Third, the Celtic Incident, 1902. Page 2

Every statement between the words "Consul Merrill" 6th line and the words "although the passengers" 15th line, and between the word "misrepresentation" 16th line and the word "reputation" 19th line, is absolutely and maliciously false. What happened was this:- I wished to notice officially the large number of Americans arriving by this steamer and also to compliment Mr. Clark, and my wife wished to see the steamer. We went

Reply to Clark to
Inspector Dickinson
July 20, 1906
Noted on Efficiency Record
To Annual
June 1907

FILE

to Jaffa with this object in view and this only. Neither of the Clark's had invited me to visit the steamer, neither of them had offered to give me a boat for that purpose. This formality I did not think of. Mr. Clark now says that I 'had the effrontery to board his ship'. If he thought this he concealed his feelings for he appeared to give me a cordial welcome. My predecessor was on board, namely Mr. Wallace, and he with Mr. Clark introduced me to many people. The Celtic lay about one and a half miles from the landing and was reached by boats. I hired my own boat. I asked the Consular Agent Mr. Hardegg to accompany me. I asked the Interpreter and Dragoman of the Consulate to go with me. I had with me one kawass from my office in Jerusalem with his official dress, also one kawass from the Jaffa office. I made my official visit, was warmly received, and came away feeling that my effort in giving an official welcome to these Americans was the proper thing. To this act of courtesy Mr. Clark gives, as just quoted, another name.

After the Celtic left I wrote to the Department, March 17, 1902, what I considered a very complimentary report of its visit partly because I thought it would please Mr. Clark. Among other things I spoke of the steps taken by myself to insure the comfort of Mr. Clark's people, as follows:-

• This Consulate did all that was in its power to do for their convenience and comfort. (1) We waited upon the Governor and obtained a special detail of policemen with special officers to serve for the occasion. (2) We called the drivers together and warned them that they would be held responsible for any accident. This was very necessary as the native drivers have no other idea of driving than to hold the reins and lash their horses into a gallop, and there is no other way to restrain these Jehus than to threaten them in a body. (3) We sent word to the sheikhs of the neighboring villages where vicious boys are known to live, the Mount of Olives, Bethany, Silwan (Siloam), Neby Daoud (Prophet David), that they should not molest the travellers. (4) We requested the police to send away from the city, or to have them under strict surveillance, any men or boys that were known to be pickpockets or thieves. (5) As the trains arrive in the evening and the streets are not lighted we arranged that the station should be lighted and also the road to the city one mile distant. (6) We requested the chief of the municipality as there had been no rain and the dust was very uncomfortable, to have the streets watered during the stay of the party. Thus at considerable trouble and some expense we were able to make this distinguished company of American tourists far more comfortable than they otherwise would have been. No one asked us to do this, it was voluntary of my part, and no one on the steamer including the Clarks who were both on the steamer, knew what had been done or the pains I had taken. • What more could I have done to show my friendliness towards Mr. Clark and my willingness to help him?--The other charges in this paragraph I have already characterized. If this is 'effrontery' I do not know his standard for estimating human actions.

Fourth; Sunday School Convention. Page 2 and 3.

Mr. Herbert Clark (in Jerusalem) told me repeatedly that his brother contracted for the steamer and the Sunday School were to furnish the passengers.--Anyway the S.S. Committee did not write to me nor did I write to them. There was no communication what-

ever between us. Therefore the charge that I sought to influence the Committee is pure fiction. Moreover, and this is to be considered, the steamer was contracted for and half its load of passengers engaged before I learned that such a Convention was to be held. I wrote to two personal friends, one of whom was delicate, who asked me about coming, stating that if they wished to derive the greatest benefit from a journey to Palestine they should not come with a crowd.

To the following matter special attention is called:-

When I learned from my friends that the Convention was to be held I trembled for the result. Some years, it was proposed to hold a Convention (not Sunday School) in Jerusalem and Minister Angell at Constantinople opposed it strongly on account of the feelings of the Turks. That proposed Convention was not held. I felt sure that in this case the undertaking was most hazardous. Mr. Clark never knew nor does he yet know what an anxious time it was for me. These matters could not be talked about publicly. We saw the Governor who after consideration politely but coolly acquiesced. His manner meant a great deal. One word from him and the thing would have been blocked. That fatal word was almost spoken in a letter which we received the night or the night but one before the Convention opened. It required great diplomatic skill to get matters smoothed so that the Convention could go on. Mr. Clark owes the Consul everlasting gratitude for what was done at that critical juncture. In view of the conditions which I faced at that moment it is cruel and wicked of Mr. Clark to talk about 'continuous hostility'.

--After the Convention was over orders came from Constantinople to the Governor here that such a thing was never to be allowed again.

We took the usual and necessary steps as in case of the Celtic to insure the comfort and safety of Mr. Clark and his people because of our interest in him and in them. This was all voluntary on my part; Mr. Clark did not request it; he was innocent as possible of any knowledge of these conditions and of the delicate conditions just mentioned; very few in that great company knew of the anxiety the Consul had had on their account or the efforts he had made for their comfort and safety. After the Convention I wrote what I considered an excellent report of it and sent to the Department, May 3d 1904. At the close I said,--'Considering all the circumstances it is a matter for thankfulness that the visit of so many people to this city turned out so successfully under the efficient management of Messrs Frank and Herbert Clark.'

In regard to the coming of this Convention the committee acted in a strange manner. They ignored the people of Jerusalem entirely. The English Bishop, the clergymen, the missionary workers and teachers, the consuls, every one who would naturally take an interest in the affair were treated as if they did not exist. It was a wholesale slight. Consequently there was no plan, no organization, no committee, no reception;--nearly a thousand people landed here,--a bewildered multitude having only a vague idea of a Convention. These facts illustrate and emphasize my statement that the many things which I did for them I did voluntarily.

Fifth. The two paragraphs on Page I, beginning 'during the years', and 'I am reliably informed', 13 lines in all, mean, if they mean anything, that I accept favors and give services in return. The purpose of the charge is malicious. For a man in Mr. Clark's

position to complain to the State Department at Washington about where Consul Merrill boards, what room he occupies, what price he pays, is childish. Since being in Jerusalem I have lived at two hotels, the Mediterranean and the Grand New neither of which is or ever was 'leased by Thomas Cook & Son' as asserted. They were leased by their respective landlords. From the outset my arrangements have been made with the landlords without any reference to the Cooks, - the same as though the Cooks did not exist. I never even spoke to the Cooks about hotel, rooms, price, or anything of that kind. Mr Clark must be desperate to resort to such falsehoods. Both the landlords referred to took Cook's people but they have and always have had a great many guests besides. From the commencement of my consular career I have never accepted any favor of dragoman, shopkeeper, tourist agent or company, hotel, or anybody else. I honor myself for making this rule at the outset, even putting it in writing, and adhering to it. I am not indifferent to this matter and I wish to state it strongly and to put on record here. My public and my private life have been entirely free from the vice of accepting favors. I cannot see what Mr. Clark hopes to gain by indulging in charges of that kind.

Sixth. British Interests. Pages 1 and 3.

Mr. Clark charges that I favor British instead of American interests. This is based on another charge equally false, namely, that I do not favor him. In general I wish to say that he little knows the personal efforts I have made and make every year to introduce American goods and the like. As to his charge the inference is that in his opinion his interests are the only American interests that I should look after. There are hundreds and thousands of Americans visiting this country who have nothing to do with Mr. Clark, large numbers of whom never heard of him, and are the interests of these Americans to be considered as well as his individual interests? Mr. Clark is engaged in a private business and is bidding for patronage; but he makes a mistake if he presumes that 'American interests' are centered only in his personal affairs.

If Mr Clark is so zealous for American interests as against British interests how does it happen that he himself is so devoted to German interests? There is a German here who has a store where goods for travellers are sold. The German Consul informs me that this man is recorded in the German Consulate as a German subject and that his store and all that it contains is likewise recorded in the German Consulate as German property. This last season there was suspended in Mr Clark's office over the desk-counter in the face of everybody who came to the desk, a notice advising all his passengers to patronize said German store. The notice is signed as follows: - "p.p. Frank C. Clark, Herbert E. Clark Manager". - This signature is in the hand writing of Herbert E. Clark.

Seventh: - Mr. Clark reminded of favors from myself which show uninterrupted friendship and assistance instead of 'continuous hostility'.

Mr. Clark says that he had been in the tourist business eleven ^{years}. I thought it was a longer period, but never mind. Eleven years takes matters back to 1895. Mr. Clark says, Page 2, "In every instance our Consul has taken advantage of his official position to work against me". Again, Page 2, 6th line from bottom, - "This hostility has been continuous". - But I did not arrive in Jerusalem till the early summer of 1898, and Mr. Clark's career, as he states, began in 1895, so here are nearly four years off in my favor to begin with. But 'continuous' and 'in every instance' mean, if they mean anything, beginning with 1895. I should really like to know at what point, in Mr. Clark's mind, my alleged 'hostility' began.

Consider these facts: -

- (1). In 1896 some of my relatives and personal friends wished to visit Palestine and asked me to go with them, and as I could not do this I turned over the party to Mr. Clark.
- (2). In the autumn of 1897 I did considerable work soliciting patrons for Mr. Clark.
- (3). In 1899 I wrote from Jerusalem over one hundred personal letters to friends and prominent people soliciting them to become patrons of Mr. Clark. Some of these people I afterwards saw in Jerusalem in Mr. Clark's care.
- (4). In 1902 my special services to his people were largely personal to himself, and the many things I did for him in connection with the Celtic including my report to the Department, I have fully explained under No. 3.
- (5). In 1904, the year of the S.S. Convention, see above under No. 4, my personal service for Mr. Clark was all that any body could ask or expect, and my mention of him in my official report to Washington was highly commendatory. Thinking it would please Mr. Clark and gratify the Americans with him, Mrs Merrill made a reception for them and between 400 and 500 of them paid their respects to the Consul and his wife. This cost us a fine sum which our limited means hardly justified, and one would naturally think that Mr. Clark would have been pleased with the compliment and been grateful for it.
- (6). - Let me look back beyond the year 1895; has Mr. Clark forgotten that it was I myself who made him Vice Consul?
- (7). Let me look still farther back when Mr. Clark was a lad, when he, his brother, sister and mother were in mortal terror of his step-father, inhumanly unkind and cruel, - has he forgotten how I befriended his mother in those dark days and assured her over and over again that she and her children would be defended and protected from harm? Has he forgotten how my cordial and so far as I was able my helpful interest in his mother continued through all her years of trouble till her death last year? Have these acts covering more than twenty years any significance? The Department can judge. Mr. Clark's mind has been poisoned somehow and this letter, if he reads it, may make him realize how cruelly and wickedly he has treated a life long friend.

I remain respectfully

-Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill
Consul.

File with 2964
From Jerusalem 109
June 16/06

only
40

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

BUREAU OF APPOINTMENTS
JUN 25 1906
Department of State

From Jerusalem
JUN 25 1906

State Dept

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
JUN 25 1906

Wash. case

Awaiting telegram instructions
absence

Merrill

confer with
July 10/06

Note sent to Mr. Bacon

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUN 25 4 56 PM 1906

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

INDEX BUREAU
JUN 27 1906
FILED

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

RECEIVED
JUL 23 1906

only
FORM No. 282

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

RECEIVED
JUL 5 1906
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
JUL 2 1906

From

7 PO P JM 21 Paid

Jerusalem, July 4, 1906.

State Department,
Washington, D.C.

CHIEF CLERK
JUL 8 1906
DEPT. OF STATE

No reply telegram or letter physicians urge immediate absence ~~xxxxxxx~~
consulate specialist London is permission granted.

Merill.

*Class & granting
leave July 6/06
Confirming July 10/06*

INDEX BUREAU
JUL 11 1906
FILED

Deciphered by the Chief Clerk's Office.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIRHER

CHIEF CLERK
JUL 27 1906
DEPT. OF STATE

NO. 110.

INDEX BUREAU
REC'D
JUL 27 '06
DEPT. OF STATE

3rd ASST. SECRETARY
JUL 27 1906

American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, July 5. 1906.

JUL 11 1906
DEPT. OF STATE

Subject:- Information wanted re use of stamps on documents.

The Honorable
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Received 21. 1906
CHIEF CLERK
JUL 27 1906
DEPT. OF STATE

Sir.

The circular Official Fee Stamps, June 1, 1906, is hereby acknowledged and also \$475.00 worth of stamps as per receipt inclosed to Chief of Bureau of Accounts.

INDEX BUREAU
JUL 27 1906
DEPT. OF STATE

We have two lists of fees, -official and notarial. Circular page one says that stamps are to be affixed to every document "for which a fee is prescribed", -which means which is mentioned in the two lists. We do several things for which we receive pay and we call all this work notarial whether the item is mentioned under "notarial" services or not. These sums we have always reported to the Department. As the Circular reads the Consul is to affix a stamp (furnished by the Department) only to such acts as are "prescribed". Therefore, -

1. I have been doing wrong in reporting these other services as notarial acts.
2. The Department does not wish me to affix a stamp to any such document.

For example, take what we call "Mosque Orders". We prepare them, they are signed by the Governor, returned to us, and when needed we call at the Court House, present the paper and obtain a guard, -a Turkish guard. The paper does not go to the person who visits the Mosque, it remains in the hands of the Government. The Governor does not require a stamp, he knows and cares nothing about it. The same is true of what we call Teskerehs.

This creates a third ~~class~~ class which we have always called "fees" but which it seems are not to be reckoned as such. Is this correct?

I mention this matter that there may be no misunderstanding.

2. In a few cases, where the party is very poor and not able to pay the required fee, we have always remitted it. Is this to ~~be~~ continued?

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill
American Consul.

*Bur. of Accs.
27. '06*

There is to be made for these fees or for any other is not a violation of the Treaty.

no

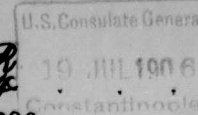
OFFICE OF THE
THIRD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Dear Mr Carr,
It strikes me Mr
Merrill never did have a
right to tax sighters in
this way.
HW

No right whatever.
Instruct him as indicated
below

Conroy

0



American Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, July 7, 1906.

Subject:-re details of leave of absence.

The Honorable

Assistant Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

File



Sir.

I have this day received telegram signed Willson, -"leave granted may ask British Consul act if Clark absent".

1. My leave proper dated April 28 was received May 23 d, and I intended to go at once to London to consult a specialist with reference to my throat. The physicians whom I consulted all urged this, -during the winter and spring, but it did not seem possible for me to get away.

2. When my leave arrived the Vc Consul said he must be away during July, August and September. He "must attend his brother's business". I wrote a special letter, "urgent", and sent direct as this was a matter of detail, the original request having passed through Constantinople, and our quick mail was leaving that night. This was on the 25 th of May.

3. I waited for a reply till the 25 th of June when I telegraphed to the Department, -"awaiting telegram instructions absence".

4. As no reply was received I telegraphed again on July 4th, -"no reply to telegram or letter. Physicians urge immediate absence consult specialist London. Is permission granted". Reply came as mentioned in first paragraph above.

5. When I applied for leave March 22nd I did not state the trouble I had with my throat. Although I am strong and in perfect health otherwise I have been troubled with laryngitis for months. Of four able physicians consulted one knows as much the others about it, and all advise special treatment. Please see Inclosures One and Two. The necessity for a leave was very great, but the difficulties that I have encountered since May 23 d seemed insurmountable and discouraging. I did not feel like going without the fullest permission. The delay was wholly out of consideration for the Vc Consul and has cost me (for I intend to repay the Department the telegram received on the 7th) not far from twenty three dollars.

6. My colleague Mr Rafael de Casares, Spanish Consul here, has consented to act for me during my absence. He a fine lawyer, an ardent admirer of America, and a personal friend. Signature Inclosed Inclosure Three. He is also a master of English.

7. Had I received no telegram I intended to take advantage of the emergency paragraph of the Regulations 466 and go to London for the purpose named, -leaving the Consulate in good hands.

8. I would like the Department to know that it is customary here, in cases of emergency, for the Consul to put the charge of their office into the hands of the Interpreter or Dragoman, temporarily. The Governor always gives consent willingly.

9. It will be noticed that the Spanish Consul is named instead of the English Consul as I proposed in my letter. I have the sad news to report that since I applied for my leave my colleague, friend, and co-worker in an advisory way of many years, John Dickson Esquire, H.B.M. Consul for Jerusalem and Palestine, has died. His death is a great loss to this city.

I remain respectfully
Your obedient servant

Delah Merrill
American Consul

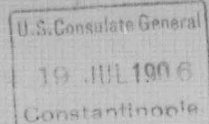
-As soon as I reach London and receive the specialist's report I shall notify the Department.

3 Inclosures

Percy D. Erf Wheeler M.D. May 30 '06
July 4 '06

Rafael De Casares Signator

Inclosure One



English Mission Hospital

Jerusalem
May 30, 1906.

Dear Dr. Merrill.

It was very good of you to come to the station to welcome me back from England; but I was very sorry to find you looking depressed and specially noticed that your voice was no better, and if anything worse. Only a strong constitution like yours would stand what you have done. But you certainly must not overtax your strength and health, and this you will surely do if you continue to overwork yourself as you have done.

As your physician and friend I have warned you about this, especially with regard to your throat. You have change at once and for a time absolute rest and quiet. It is imperative also that you should see a London specialist and that without delay. One cannot trifle with such symptoms. I earnestly hope that your Government will grant you leave at once, -you must not delay any longer.

While in London I saw Dr. Greville Mac Donald who is a celebrated throat specialist and presented your case to him, and I strongly recommend you to see him as soon as possible. He is eminent in his department and a thorough gentleman.

You may make use of this letter as you please.

With every sincere wish for your speedy recovery and return to Jerusalem

Believe me Yours sincerely

Percy D. Erf Wheeler M.D.

Physician in charge of the English Hospital.

Inclosure Two

English Mission Hospital
Jerusalem

Dear Dr Merrill

I have received word from the eminent throat specialist in London, Dr Greville MacDonald, to whom I have referred your case, and he will remain in London during July. You must not delay but must see him as soon as possible and for this purpose you should go to London at once. I regret that you have felt obliged on account of the duties of your office to delay your visit to Dr MacDonald so long.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Frederick E. Wheeler

MD. F.R.C.S.

MD. Surg. English Hospital

July: 4. 1906.

Inclusive Three

Bapaet de Casares.

*The foregoing signature is
truly authenticated
and legalized*



*Delah Merrill
American Consul*

Jerusalem, July 7, 1906

CONSUL
AUG
30
1906
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

File under Jerusalem

London, England. August 20. 1906.

INDEX BUREAU
AUG
30
1906
DEPT. OF STATE

To the Honorable
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

File.

Sir

My husband, Selah Merrill, Consul at Jerusalem, wishes me to write you with regard to his movements. His leave of absence granted early in the summer, allowed him to visit the United States. Complications prevented him from leaving Jerusalem until the 9th of July, all of which he duly reported. He thinks he reported that on the way, he wished to visit London to consult a throat specialist as to some trouble which he had. He did so; but the trouble proved to be more serious than was anticipated and he was obliged to undergo an operation and to remain in the Dorsetford Hospital (private) for four weeks and must still remain under the Doctor's care with a

Trained nurse for two weeks longer.
This outside the Hospital, however. After
he is released from the Doctor's care, he
may or may not visit the United States;
but will keep you informed. Otherwise
than this trouble Mr Merrill is strong and
well.

The Consulate in Jerusalem is well
concl for.

Mr Merrill's permanent address in
America is, as you know, ~~in~~ Andover
Massachusetts, and in London. c/o Thomas
Cork & Son, Ludgate Circus, London, E.C.

Yours very respectfully

Adelaide B. Merrill

for. Selah Merrill

MICROCOPY

453

ROLL

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