dinner table came over here and shot myself, no one being in the house at the time. I only hope God will forgive me and the holy and pure inhabitants of the American Colony for the disgrace I have brought upon them."

(Signed) "F. O. Baldwin."

I was also shown a letter written in pencil by Mr Baldwin to his brother and I was asked to read it. I did so, then I showed it to him and asked him if it was his writing and his signature; he declared that it was his writing and his signature and asked me to witness the same which I did signing my name as Interpreter of the United States Consulate.

Mr Baldwin shot himself in the head on the right side above the ear with a revolver.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant
A. Thos. Selat
Interpreter U. S. Consulate

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria July 25, 1901

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Rec'd Aug. 5. 1876

Office Report

Department Circular April 19, 1901.

Palestine, a Pashalik of Turkey, with capital Jerusalem, governed by a Pasha directly under the Government at Constantinople.

Post office address, - Jerusalem, Syria.

My last report was made January 3, 1899 and the general conditions of this district continue the same as then. The population of the City is about 50,000 divided into three groups, namely, 8,000 Christians, 12,000 Moslems, and 30,000 Jews. There are no statistics of population but there is no reason for putting the number of inhabitants above 50,000. - It is commonly reported, not here but in England and America that the Jews are flocking back to Palestine, but that is not true. We have no rain from April to November. At midday during this period it is hot, but the nights are cool.

The winters are not severe, snow seldom falls, and when it does the mercury does not go down to freezing. In the coldest winter weather the mercury in the 40's. The rain storms of winter are sometimes so severe that camel drivers and muleteers perish being simply chilled

chilled to death.

The Governor at the time of my last report was Tewfik Bey. In May last he was promoted to Salonica, and Djawad Bey came early in June as his successor and is now Governor.

During the winter of 1900 and 1901 there was a long and severe drought and the "Latter Rain" failed entirely, consequently there is much suffering among the poorer classes because of the scarcity of water. All building operations are practically suspended because houses are always constructed of stone and mortar and a great deal of water is needed for making the latter even for a small house. Stone workers of whom there are many hundreds are also affected. Crops are short and there is little sustenance for cattle. This applies specially to Palestine for further north I understand that the rain fall was greater than here.

The number of Americans, naturalized, is something upwards of 900 not counting the 100 or more at Jaffa. Both here and at Jaffa it is difficult to give exact numbers because there is a considerable percentage who are not registered and who do not choose to register.

The native born Americans, naturalized, is something upwards of 900 not counting the 100 or more at Jaffa. Both here and at Jaffa it is difficult to give the exact numbers because there is a considerable percentage who are not registered

The native born Americans number 45 or 50. This does not include the 15 Americans in the Spafford community. It is said that there are

are naturalized Americans in that household but they are not recorded, they have never been to the office, they ignore the Consulate and do business directly with the Turkish Government, they have concealed their nationality for several years consequently we do not recognize them.

The number of American visitors in 1900-1901 was about 800. The season previous, 1899-1900 there were about 1,400. American visitors to Jerusalem always exceed the number of English visitors by one half to one third.

Duties

The chief duties are, both here and at Jaffa, the protection of American citizens, - for the most part our naturalized citizens. These duties are of a peculiar character, - they can neither be recorded nor reported. The Interpreter spends about four afternoons in each week in the Turkish Court looking after the interests of our citizens. Some days as many as forty or fifty persons are in our office demanding assistance (not pecuniary aid) for some purpose or other. Much that is required of us is simply Police duty. The actual legal cases that come before the Consular Court during the year are few. Our people are insulted, assaulted, beaten, robbed; we send out and ascertain what the trouble or injury is; they are too poor to bring an action in due form, so we do the work for them for nothing. If we said, - "We cannot attend to your case unless you pay us", - cases of our people would be robbed and injured and they would have no redress. Rents, debts, assaults, trespass, neighbors, quarrels, disputes, family quarrels, post Office troubles, all sorts and sizes of injuries real or immaginary, keep us constantly occupied. These hundreds of cases involve

involve a great expense of time and worry, and it takes weeks and often months to settle some of them, and we have nothing to show for it. We cannot record these matters for that would involve the services of a clerk and shorthand writer who understood ten languages, and we do not demand or receive pay for this work. Of course any transmission of papers to the local government or to other Consulates must be paid for.

A great deal of work is connected with travellers. Their Turkish Teskereh or passports must be made out, and they require permits and guards for the Mosque of Omar and other places.

About 90 or 100 letters are written each quarter, chiefly answering inquiries from American merchants about a market for their special line of goods. Considerable time is spent in trying to induce local merchants to purchase American goods.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901 we made out 22 invoices.

Our office hours are always from 9 a.m. to one o'clock p.m. - Practically they are all day, or till the necessary work is done.

During the past two years at different times, five American Seamen and soldiers lost their steamers at Port Said on their way to or from Manilla, and succeeded in getting to Jerusalem. They had no money but I provided for them while here and paid their passages back to Port Said from my own funds, making no report and no charge to the Government.

Office

Office

The office is the same as in my last report, same building, location, and conditions. At Moharram 1900, the Mohammedan new year when all rents are paid in advance, - this was about the 1st of May, the Armenian Convent to whom the premises belong, insisted upon an increase of rent. This we declined to pay, and carried our point. At Moharram this year, near the 20th of April, the demand was made again without success. We have now been notified, however, that the next year the rent must be increased to $70 a quarter, making $280 per annum instead of $260 as heretofore. The location 200 yards from the Grand New Hotel where the large majority of American travellers stop, is so desirable that the building should be retained, it having been used for thirty years as the United States Consulate.

It is not easy to account for the fact that rents here are one third to one half higher than they are in Beirut. This is the testimony of my British colleague who was stationed in Beirut for a number of years, and likewise of the present acting Italian consul who has lived in Beirut; this testimony is confirmed by many others.

Total office expenses during the year ending June 30, 1901, $515.15.

Since my last report no new furniture has been bought. What is greatly needed is a safe where money and the most important documents can be kept, and

and also the valuables which American travellers frequently entrust to our care.

Officers

The officers are the same as in my last report.

By instructions from the State Department the same men who have heretofore been known as "Guard" are hereafter to be returned as "Messengers". See Despatch No. 44. April 17. 1901 to this office, and Instructions May 21, 1901.

Selah Merrill, Consul	$	2,500.
Herbert E. Clark, Vice Consul,		without salary
Antoine Thos. Gelat, Interpreter,	$	1,000.
David Feinstein, Dragoman,	"	100.
Assad Kassas, Messenger,	"	200.
Francis Tarsha, Messenger,	"	200

Photographs:—

Consul:- Second Interpreter or Dragoman at his desk:— One alcove in Interpreter's room showing files; there are 4 such alcoves in the room:— Consulate on July 4th:— Consulate from top of Grand New Hotel:— A few others of surroundings.

(Signed) Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul

Jerusalem July 25, 1901

No. 42

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria
August 6, 1901

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir,

I am leaving my post to-day for a few days absence in Mount Lebanon. I may return in ten days or I may extend my absence for three or four weeks. Our Vice Consul Mr. Herbert E. Clark is placed in charge of the Office during my absence.

Respectfully
Your obedient Servant
(Signed) Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul

No. 43

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria
September 3rd 1901

Hon. Thos. W. Cridler
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir,

I returned this day from my leave of absence as reported in my despatch No. 42 August 6, 1901, having been absent 27 days.

Vice Consul Clark's certificate of non-absence during this time is inclosed, also his waiver as to any claim for salary while he acted for me.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant
(Signed) Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul

Inclosure.
2 papers as above.