has been operated quite successfully since that time. The engine came from Germany, is for oil, and is of 20 horse power. This is more power than is needed for making the ice, but the engine does other work also. The daily demand is for 600 to 800 kilos, but by working day and night they can produce 2,000 kilos. The occasion for such an amount has occurred but once when a visiting Russian steamer with sickness on board required a large quantity of ice. The larger demand for ice is only recent, for three years ago 300 kilos was all that was needed daily and in emergencies 500 kilos in one day. The price is the same as in Jerusalem, 2 pennies or one kilo for 5 cents. Formerly the price was just double this amount. The agent for freezing is Etter.

The water in Joppa comes from wells and because of its proximity to the sea it is brackish. When the ice is melted it leaves considerable sediment and the ice itself is not clear; while the water used in Jerusalem is rain water preserved in cisterns and the ice is like crystal.

No natural ice is brought to this country.

The demand for ice was initiated by the hospitals, following which the hotels began to use it. Now nearly all the foreign residents use it and many of the well-to-do native families, while the bulk of the common people still drink warm water.

Jerusalem. Sept. 22. 1903

(signed) Selah Merrill

U.S. Consul.

No 73

United States Consulate. Jerusalem Syria Sept. 24/903

Hon Herbert D. Pierce

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 outgoing letters. The Austrian carries the bulk of the outgoing 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 conditions 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

(signed) Selah Merrill

U.S. Consul