COPY.

American Consulate,

Jerusalem, January 8, 1908.

To the Honorable

Assistant Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith the Accounts and Returns of this office with the necessary vouchers for the quarter ended Dec. 31, 1907 and to advise my drafts Nos. 9,10,11, for $275, $100, $157.50 respectively in favor of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

I beg to call your attention to the fact that on Oct. 23 last an application for a pension was authenticated before me by a Mrs. Brown of this place who is old and poor and who is cared for and supported by the American Colony upon Mrs.Brown has no claim whatever except their benevolence and charity. I told the clerk at the time that no fee for authentication would be charged and I notice that No. 6 of the Record of Notarial Service covering this matter is marked "gratis" with no fee entered and I learn no stamp was affixed to the paper.

I have heard nothing from the Pension Department with regard to the application and suppose it has been accepted as legally authenticated.

I would therefore ask if it will be necessary to send a stamp to cover the matter of this omission as ordinarily required and I would further ask that the fee for administering the oath in this pension application of Mrs. Brown be remitted.

I have explained the omission of the charge to the Auditor for the State etc, as well, to avoid needless correspondence.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(signed) Thomas R. Wallace,

American Consul.

No 7.

American Consulate.
Jerusalem, January 6th 1908

Subject:
Protest by American Citizens in Jerusalem against the new Mail service.

The Honorable
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington. D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit to you herewith several communications received from American Citizens residing here, presenting their complaints and objections to the present Postal service as conducted under the French authorities at this place.

The change recently made by the American Postal authorities from the Austrian to the French postal service for the American mail created a great deal of dissatisfaction among the resident Americans. The former service through the Austrian Post was generally satisfactory, but after the change was made, complaints against the new service for its incompetence in handling the mail and its general inefficiency in its service was continually being presented.

The French upon their part say they were not informed of the change in the service and were unprepared to handle the large additional amount of mail thus unexpectedly coming to them. They have promised to remedy the conditions complained of as soon

soon.

as possible and to thoroughly organize their business to meet the new demands upon them and to give as good service as was formerly maintained when the Austrian officials.

The Post master says that no time within his knowledge has parties with Post office orders been compelled to receive stamps in part payment, and asks that all parties making such charges be referred to him he says further that the mail is not carried on to Beirut destined for Jerusalem but is set off at Jaffa from the steamers passing to Beirut.

In justice to all the parties I would say there has been good cause for complaint since the change in the service was made, and the protests submitted are from the leading American Citizens of the place, all of whom have been well satisfied with the service given them through the Austrian Post.

The French officials, on their part promise to improve the conditions as heretofore stated, they have done so in part of their own initiative and they say further that they have presented the matter to their government asking that the necessary ~~government~~ authority be granted them to put the office in an efficient condition.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Thomas R. Wallace
American Consul

Enclosures:

3.

Enclosures.

No 1. Complaints against the French Postal curves

2 " " " " "

3 " " " " "

4 " " " " "

5 Petition seeking signature and statements in complaint No 4

6. Protest against complaints.