Information is wanted as to the citizenship of Selig S. Rothschild.

This man claims protection as an American citizen. He is about 43 years of age: claims that he was born in America: that he came to Jerusalem when he was 8 or 10 years old: and that he was 31 years old when his father came to Jerusalem. He claims that his father was Moses Rothschild. A passport of Moses Rothschild is on file in this office but he was never recorded in the books of this Consulate. Said passport is No 9860 Department of State, October 1st, 1889. At that time said Moses is said to have been 64 years old. Said Moses is alleged to have died 4 or 5 years ago. Of this alleged fact this Consulate knows nothing.

Selig S. was recorded in our books in 1890 on the strength of his alleged fathers passport, and since that time he has received protection and been assisted in various ways. Previous to that date he was known as the keeper of a public house, and was not known as an American citizen.

Selig S. cannot prove that he is the son of said Moses.

When was Moses Rothschild naturalized

If on sufficient evidence was there any record of his family or children?

Selig S. cannot prove that he was in America and under age when his father was naturalized

He cannot prove that he was born in America.

If he came to Jerusalem when he was 8 or 10 years old and his father came 20 years later or when Selig was about 31 years old, his father may have been naturalized during that interval, so that he could not have been in America at the date of his alleged fathers naturalization.

This Selig is a quiet man, but we have always had a suspicion that he has no good claim to be regarded as an American citizen. We wish to do him no injustice, on the other hand we wish to protect the Government from imposition.

Many cases of American naturalized Jewish citizens are very puzzling. Notaries I find are careless, some of them worse than that. They are not compelled to make a thorough investigation as to the claims of applicants for citizen papers, whether or not they have a perfect right to receive them. Wife, children, ages, place of birth, residence at time of application for final citizens papers, — a thorough examination should be made and a record kept and placed on file at Washington. This is not done and the Consuls in Jerusalem certainly have to protect as full American citizens persons who it is morally certain have no right to such protection.

I have before this written very strongly on this matter but I presume there is no redress so long as our naturalization laws remain as they are and so long as citizenship is granted as readily, apparently, to almost every applicant.

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

No 49
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United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, March 13 1902

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

Sir

I wish to lay before the Department certain facts relative to the abuse of our national flag and my efforts from time to time as Consul to correct the same. These statements apply to this consular district of Jerusalem and Palestine.

The matter is not of recent origin but has come up occasionally since 1882 when I first entered the consular service at this post.

Americans residing here, and naturalized citizens who have been in America are slow to realize that they cannot use the national Flag everywhere and on all occasions as freely as they would do in the United States. They do not understand, until they are told, that the hoisting of our National Flag in this country "is not a matter of right" but of "permission". That the flag is only an "official emblem" and cannot be used to promote one's private business interests. (Cons Reg § 704 & 73.)

If our Flag were allowed to be floated over a butchers shop, a coffee shop, a store of miscellaneous oriental goods and trinkets, and twenty or forty other similar places, its character as an "official emblem" would cease.

This has been my position in the past and in correspondence to which I need not refer the Department has sustained me in it.

Some time in the 80's I had a long controversy with Rolla Floyd who was a tourist agent and who persisted in using the American Flag on his boats at Jaffa to promote his private business interests. This I would not allow; and he was at last compelled to cover his flag with his own name so that it would be far more conspicuous than the stars and stripes and nobody be deceived by it.

Since my return in 1898 a native of this country, a Turkish subject, became agent for a time of some tourist company and began to use the American Flag as a drawing card to induce travellers coming on the steamers to patronize him. Complaint was made and very soon the Turkish authorities themselves caused the abuse to cease.

When the "Celtic" arrived on March 6 I went to Jaffa to meet her as a compliment to Mr. Frank C. Clark who was formerly our Vice Consul here, and also as a compliment to the many distinguished Americans on board. When I reached the steamer there were a dozen other boats flying the American Flag and no one could distinguish between the official boat of the United States

tent and that of some Arab boatman. A few of these flags had on them in very small letters "Frank C. Clark's Tours," but these words could not be seen thirty feet away. Later I called Mr. Clark's attention to the matter and he assured me that he would have it corrected at once. I shall see that he covers his flag with his own name so that the stars and stripes will not be conspicuous and a person will recognize at a distance that it is the flag of a private American concern and not the Official Flag of the United States.

There is a certain shop in this city which has recently been using our National Flag to attract customers. The shop is German, with a German sign over the door, and a German subject managing it. On the arrival of the Celtic people this shop floated conspicuously the American Flag. I called on the German Consul who said at once that it was not right to have our flag thus used; that if the case were reversed he would not allow it; and that he would take steps to have the flags removed. This was accordingly done; and I thanked him heartily for his friendly service. The proprietor's excuse was that he "had one or more Americans in his employ and they wanted to attract American customers". When the flags were removed the proprietor asked his consul to ask me to allow him to use the flag with his name printed on it. I replied that I could not allow it since he was a German subject. The German Consul said I was quite right.

These are sample cases of the efforts I have made to prevent the abuse of the American Flag.

When American travellers pass through the country I consider it perfectly proper for them to place the flag over their tents where they stop for the night. Also on our national feast days, or when special honor is to be shown publicly to some distinguished visitor, I make no objection to American citizens displaying the flag. What I have not allowed and will not allow is the using of the national Flag solely to promote private business interests. - I make no distinction as to persons; for if allowed to one it must be allowed to all, and the Flag loses at once its official character.

Suppose the use of the flag were allowed to everybody; a street row occurs in which American citizens are involved; some one in a rage seizes the American flag and tramples it in the mud; that would be a national disgrace. Our national honor demands that in this country, where there are so many nationalities and classes of people, so many diverse and conflicting interests, and where our relations with the Turkish government require to be delicately handled, our national honor demands that the most stringent rules be enacted regarding the use and abuse of our flag.

I do not know that I need special authorization for this, but I will ask the Departments permission to print and send to every American resident here, and to every naturalized American as well, a notice like the following:-

" In this country the American flag is an official symbol and
" only such. Its use on national feast days, or to indicate to strangers
" their camp or lodging place, is allowed by common consent. But
" it is not allowed to use the flag in a commercial way or for
" the purpose of promoting one's private business interests.

When I receive the Departments consent which it seems to me our national honor demands should be given, I will cause such a declaration to be prepared and circulated among our American citizens residing in Jerusalem and Palestine.

I remain respectfully,

Your obedient servant

(Signed) Selah Merrill

U.S. Consul

No. 50

United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, March 17, 1902

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce

Assistant Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir

The steamer "Celtic" with upward than eight hundred American tourists on board, arrived at Jaffa on the 6th of this month and left to-day for Egypt. All this company among whom were many persons of distinction visited Jerusalem. They came in two sections, the first numbering about six hundred and the second upwards than two hundred. The difficult and frequently dangerous landing and embarkation at Jaffa were accomplished without accident of any kind. This city can accomodate three hundred and perhaps four hundred tourists fairly well, but when the number rises above four hundred at one time many persons have to put up with poor with poor accomodations and with guides that are noted only for cheek and deplorable ignorance. Such a crowd is unwieldy at best, but I trust that most of them enjoyed their brief visit to the Holy City.

This Consulate did all that was in its power to do for their comfort and convenience. We waited upon the Governor and obtained a detail of special policeman with special officers to serve for the occasion. We