"Every person entering the Ottoman Empire must, without delay, exhibit his passport to the Officers at the frontier if he comes by land or to the officers of Government residing at the port if he comes by sea.

(2) Sojourners in Palestine are not in any way subject to legal interference. In certain cases the local authorities have sought to limit the sojourn of jews bearing American passports, but without success. In travelling through the land visitors are requested by the local authorities to have "Teskeres" translations in Turkish of the American passport. These are procured through this Consulate.

(3) There are no laws or regulations concerning the departure of foreigners from Palestine.

I am, Sir
Your Obedient Servant
(Signed) Edwin S. Wallace
Consul

No 70

Consulate of the United States
Jerusalem, Syria Oct. 5th 1896

Hon. W. W. Rockhill
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to call the attention of the Department to the lamentable condition of the Turkish mail service in Palestine. No mail matter however private, is safe in the hands of the Turkish officials. Letters are opened and if there are any contents of value these are filched and the empty envelope handed to the person to whom it is addressed. Complaint has been made through

the Consulate to the local Post Master but no satisfaction received. The uniform answer is that if the letter has been opened this was done before it reached the Jerusalem Office, or if mail has never been received by the one to whom it was sent that it was lost before Palestine was reached.

A few days ago while visiting a flouring mill in Jerusalem I saw a new U. S. Mail sack plainly marked, standing full of wheat. On inquiry from the Miller I learned that the sack had been brought that morning from the house of an employé of the Turkish post office containing wheat to be ground. I took the sack and now have it in my possession, at the same time reporting the fact to the post master. No satisfactory answer was given. I have since learned that it is not an uncommon thing for U. S. Mail sacks to be used by post office employés in this way. As most of the American mail comes through the Turkish post the matter deserves inspection by some one competent to act.

The condition of all branches of the Turkish Government is so deplorable that any reform in local administration may be difficult.

There is an Office of the Austrian Post in Jerusalem. Mail matters arriving by this is secure and I hear of no losses. All English mail comes via the Austrian. Any mail matters addressed to Palestine and bearing on the envelope or wrapper "Via by London and Brindisi" is handled by the Austrian Offices and is much more certain of reaching its destination.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
Edwin S. Wallace
Consul.