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CITIZENSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES, EXPATRIATION,
AND PROTECTION ABROAD.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,


SUBMITTING

REPORT ON THE SUBJECT OF CITIZENSHIP, EXPATRIATION,
AND PROTECTION ABROAD.

DECEMBER 20, 1906.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs,
and ordered to be printed.

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AMERICAN LEGATION,
Tangier, August 3, 1906.

SIR:

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There are, strictly speaking, no Moroccan laws relating to citizenship of Moorish subjects in Morocco. The fundamental laws of this non-Christian country are based entirely upon the Islamitic code, no part of which treats of the subject of citizenship.

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There are, however, numerous treaties and conventions between the various Christian countries and the Moorish Empire, by means of which citizenship in this country is defined; but, as I understand, from the above-acknowledged instructions, that it is not the desire of the Department to call for a report upon such lines, I will therefore confine these remarks to general conditions existing, which may possibly be of some use in connection with the information desired.

(1) Citizenship in Morocco may be said to be governed by the laws pertaining to the same in other countries, with the exception that all persons residing in Morocco who can not prove foreign citizenship or protection are considered ipso jure as Moorish subjects.

(2 and 3) Moorish subjects lost their nationality only by becoming naturalized in, or protected by, another country having treaty relations with the Moorish Empire.

It was established by the Convention of Madrid, concluded July 3, 1880, as follows:

ARTICLE XV.

Any subject of Morocco who has been naturalized in a foreign country, and who shall return to Morocco, shall, after having remained for a length of time equal to that which shall have been regularly necessary for him to obtain such naturalization, choose between entire submission to the laws of the Empire and the obligation to quit Morocco, unless it shall be proved that his naturalization in a foreign country was obtained with the consent of the Government of Morocco.

Foreign naturalization heretofore acquired by subjects of Morocco according to the rules established by the laws of each country, shall be continued to them as regards all its effects without any restriction.

The above ruling has never yet been acted upon, and should this at any time be contemplated seriously, a large number of naturalized people, American and others, residing in Morocco, would be affected thereby.

(4 and 5) Residence in foreign parts does not affect the nationality of Moorish subjects, and the Moorish Government has no means of protecting its subjects permanently residing in other countries, with the exception of a so-called Moorish consul at Gibraltar and a Moorish agent at Cairo, Egypt.

I am, etc.,

HOFFMAN PHILIP.