

engaged in this traffic have openly made the statement that they have no trouble in obtaining from the Bahamas customs officials one set of clearance papers for a cargo of liquor declared to be destined for Halifax, Tampico or St. Pierre, and other clearance papers issued "in ballast" for an American port. This procedure is adopted by the liquor smugglers so that the ship may come within unloading distance of American shores, and if caught with a cargo of liquor on board the master can exhibit the clearance to Mexico or Canada; if the ship has succeeded in unloading the cargo on the shore without being captured, it proceeds into an American port with the second clearance papers.

* * *

While existing nefarious practices might be largely stopped by appropriate precautionary measures with respect to the issuance of British registries to vessels engaged in smuggling and with respect to the issuance of clearance papers to such vessels, the situation with which the authorities of this Government are confronted has become so serious that this Government feels prompted to inquire whether your Government would be disposed to enter into a treaty for the purpose of checking the illegal practices in question. Such a treaty might contain reciprocal provisions authorizing the authorities of each Government to exercise a right of search of vessels of the other beyond the three-mile limit of territorial waters to the extent of twelve miles from the shore. It would appear that no inconvenience would be experienced as a result of the exercise of such a right by vessels engaged in legitimate trade between Nassau and Halifax. It is evidently natural for such vessels to take a direct route to Hatteras and then a direct course to Diamond Shoal Lighthouse and from thence to Halifax. Apparently this course brings vessels at no point within four leagues of the American shore. I shall be glad if you will bring the contents of this communication to the attention of your Government, which I have no doubt will appreciate the serious considerations which prompt the request that the matters therein presented receive earnest consideration at the earliest convenient time.

Accept etc.

CHARLES E. HUGHES

947.

L'ambassadeur aux États-Unis au Foreign Office
Ambassador in United States to Foreign Office

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM 61

Washington, September 19, 1922

SECRET. Referring to my despatch No. 1000 and my despatch No. 15. Several fast armed vessels have reinforced prohibition flotilla which has resulted in the increased seizure of British and Canadian liquor boats. Undoubtedly there are some cases which never even get into the papers but fifteen cases in all have been reported to Embassy. Cases of seizures are also now being effected at much greater distance from the shore, and in the latest