

MODUS VIVENDI IN CABLE CASE

Temporary Agreement is Reached at Washington

British Delegates Given the Credit for Using Best Efforts to Act as Mediators—Position of the Powers.

Washington, Dec. 16.—(Canadian Press) The conference here as to the disposal of the former German cables which yesterday arrived at a Modus vivendi until arch 15 next in order that the British, French and Japanese delegates might suit their governments has but taken first steps in what may be a serious fight for international negotiations for some time to come.

Great Britain, the United States, Italy, Japan and France the two last named only after much persuasion agreed to the modus vivendi. It is believed here to be unlikely that if the special delegates were unable to arrive at any understanding the ambassadors who are to continue the work will be any more successful.

The conference has throughout been marked with a series of difficulties and disputes which on many occasions reached a deadlock. Great credit is given the British delegates, who endeavored to the best of their ability to act as mediators. The British interests in the discussion was confined to the Halifax cable and the British attitude thereon quite early in the conference was recognized by the U. S. Government as fair and reasonable. Had the other powers been willing the British delegates could have settled their share in the dispute early last month and retired from the proceedings.

So far as the Pacific cables were concerned Japan remained throughout unshakably opposed to intervention on the part of any other power in the island of Yap and no solution could be found to compromise her determined attitude. France also refused to change her original attitude, although the United States expressed willingness that she maintain her share of the former German New York-Azores-Brest cable if she would permit its extension to the

United States to Central and Northern Europe with a proposed landing in Denmark. France did not object to this but refused the United States demand that messages intended for such destinations should be handled there by American rather than French operators.

The Italian demands were far less complicated, they requesting extension of the Azores cable to some landing in Italy, possibly Genoa, but in view of the difficulties over points raised by other powers there was no agreement on the Italian question there.

The modus vivendi provides: "After Jan. 1, the German cables seized by Great Britain, France and Japan, during the war, shall be operated as at present but for the financial account of the five powers (Great Britain, France, Japan, Italy and United States) provided, however, that in accounting for such operation, the income after deducting operating expenses, shall be apportioned in accordance with the final disposition to be made of such cables."

"That should a final agreement as to disposition of the cables not be reached by next February 15, the conference shall immediately arrange for a new modus vivendi to become effective on or before next March 15."

OBJECT TO ANY INTERFERENCE BY GREAT BRITAIN

Curt Notes Exchanged With Costa Rica Regarding Rescinding of Oil Concessions.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Nov. 27.—(Associated Press Correspondence)—Some curt and not very cordial notes have been exchanged between representatives of the British and Costa Rican governments over a law recently passed annulling all international transactions by the previous administration of President Tinoco.

This law rescinds an oil concession given to British interests, affects certain arrangements between the Tinoco government and the Costa Rican branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, and affects some American interests, including the Sinclair syndicate which had obtained certain oil rights under the Tinoco administration.

The British government filed a strong protest with the government of Costa Rica, refusing to abide by the law. To this Costa Rica replied that it would not allow a foreign power to interfere with its internal legislation. Great Britain then sent its minister from Panama to Costa Rica, personally, to settle the dispute.

As a consequence, the Costa Rican press is bitter against the British claims and much anxiety exists there at the probable outcome.

TRY FOR LOCAL OPTION FOR THE NETHERLANDS

The Hague, Nov. 26.—(Associated Press by mail)—Dutch "day" leaders have announced they will make a determined effort to secure adoption of a local option bill by the Netherlands parliament.

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FRENCH PROFITEER REALIZED FORTUNE

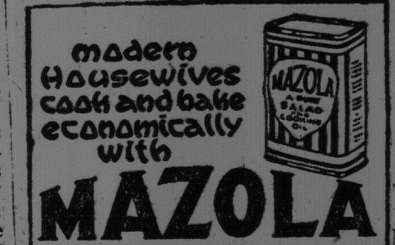
Coal Speculations Enabled Him to Keep Four Houses and Racing Stable.

Paris, Dec. 15.—The life history of a French war profiteer was told recently in the Chamber of Deputies by a former minister who was interpellating the government on the failure to deal with his species. This man, said the deputy, was at the beginning of the war an employee of a coal mine company with a salary of 250 francs a month. With borrowed money he began at the outset of the war to speculate on coal prices and by the time the war was finished he had realized a fortune which enabled him to keep four houses, three private automobiles and a racing stable.

When profiteer hunting began he was among those whom officers of justice began to inquire about. Prosecution was begun, and the profiteer with some of his assistants was arrested. His offices and all books and accounts were the same day burned to the ground, and

also the same day one of his race horses won a race.

After a few days in prison the profiteer was set at liberty with a caution. The deputy complained that legal ac-



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tion was taken only against small profiters and the big ones escaped, always with the caution.

In reply, M. L'Hopiteau, the minister of justice, said that more than 14,000 speculators and profiteers had been haled into court and in most cases punished with fines and imprisonment. Several deputies interrupted that all those punished were small shopkeepers and that the big men had escaped, but a vote of confidence that the government would continue the good work of hunting out the profiteers was carried.

WILL AID THE UNEMPLOYED

Toronto, Dec. 15.—At a meeting of the Parkdale branch of the G. W. V. A., President Armstrong read a telegram from Dominion Secretary McNeil, announcing that the dominion government was prepared to furnish one-third of the relief funds, necessary this winter, provided the provinces and municipalities each furnish one-third.

A resolution was passed asking the Ontario government to appoint advisory councils immediately to deal with the unemployment situation.

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