

**Huerta Promises
Action to Assure
Oil for U. S. Ships**

**Phelan Quotes the Mexican
President as Saying Con-
stitution Will Be Modi-
fied if Legislation Fails**

Special Cable to The Tribune
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MEXICO CITY, Sept. 18.—Joseph A. Phelan, oil examiner for the United States Shipping Board, who conferred yesterday with Provisional President de la Huerta, found that the President recognized the necessity of the board securing for itself a supply of fuel for the future and that he was willing to cooperate, not only with the board, but also with the producers' selling organizations in order to achieve the desired results.

Phelan came to Mexico primarily to investigate the supply of oil in this country with a view to providing for the Shipping Board's need at reasonable rates, but incidentally he discussed the diplomatic features of the question with the Mexican President.

Phelan to-day quoted President de la Huerta as saying that he was prepared to reach an amicable solution of the oil controversy even if interpretive legislation proved unsuccessful and it was necessary to modify Article 27 of the Constitution.

Phelan said the President expressed willingness to confer with a representative of the American oil interests in this city if they should request such a conference. De la Huerta told Phelan that Mexico intended to insist upon her

right to grant concessions in the Federal zone, as this was national property.

The President told Phelan that Mexico had wonderful oil possibilities and that, in developing them the Mexican government was willing to cooperate with the American government and its citizens.

Phelan said that if the Mexican government carried out its program, as outlined to him by de la Huerta, an agreement could be reached with American producers that would be satisfactory to both sides.

Phelan estimated that Mexico could produce 147,000,000 barrels of oil this year. About half of this the United States government would consume. Phelan recalled that the United States last year consumed half of Mexico's oil production and transported more than half of the oil shipped out of Mexico.

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