American Companies Informed Russian Government Will Discuss Compensation.

MEETING IN PARIS POSSIBLE

Wall Street understands Standard of New York and Royal Dutch Shell Have Agreement.

The question of compensating former owners for oil properties that were confiscated in Russia under the Soviet Government's "nationalization-of-industry program" will be taken up within a short time, according to information from American oil companies. It is understood that representatives of the Soviet Government and of the oil companies affected will meet in Paris or some other neutral point to begin negotiations within the next few weeks.

Wall Street understands that the Standard Oil Company of New York and the Royal Dutch Shell Company of Europe, in agreeing to bury the question that grew out of the former's purchase of Russian oil, reached an understanding that the question of compensation would be pressed for settlement soon. The attitude of the Soviet Government is not known, but it is hoped that they will be willing at least to consider the matter.

The Standard of New York and the Vacuum Oil Company, which have large contracts for purchase of Russian oil, have never opposed the Royal Dutch and other companies in this matter, but they have insisted that they were privé to any agreement to buy oil from Russia. They have said they were not interested in Russian oil and would prefer to buy oil from other sources, but they did not want to buy oil from Russia because it was captured oil or oil that was in Russian hands.

Wall Street considered highly significant the remarks of Viscount Birstedt, Managing Director of the Shell Transport and Trading Company, at the annual meeting in London. He said, "I think it is time that we all forget about the Russian question. The question of compensation for former owners of properties confiscated in Russia should be left to the Russian people."

The Royal Dutch was one of the largest of the Russian oil properties before the Soviet Government put its "nationalization" program into effect. The Standard of New York now has a large claim against the Russian Government through its ownership of 51 per cent. of the Nobel Company, a Russian oil company. The Standard of New York bought its interest in this company after the properties were confiscated and it now appears as one of the principal claimants.

The Standard of New York and the Vacuum had comparatively small interests in Russia before the Soviets took over the oil industry of Russia.