

# SOVIET REPARATION FOR OIL FORECAST

American Companies Informed.  
Russian Government Will  
Discuss Compensation.

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## MEETING IN PARIS POSSIBLE

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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 reaching 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 differences that grew out of the former's purchase of Russian oil, had an understanding that the question of compensation would be pressed for settlement soon. The attitude of the Soviet Government is not known, but it has been intimated several times that that Government would be willing to discuss the matter.

The Standard of New York and the Vacuum Oil Company, which have large contracts for the purchase of Russian oil, have never opposed the Royal Dutch and other companies in this matter of compensation, but they have insisted that they were privileged to buy Russian oil regardless of what might be done in respect to compensation of former owners for properties seized by the Soviets.

Wall Street considered highly significant the remarks of Viscount Bearsted, Managing Director of the Shell Transport and Trading Company, at the annual meeting in London. "The Russian question," he said, "has given rise to many heated arguments which led to further misunderstandings. We have every reason to believe that discussions will convince all responsible parties, including the most important of those who before held a different view, that the principle of compensating owners of confiscated properties should be upheld by all and that it is therefore best to leave this vexed question of Russian purchases."

The Royal Dutch was one of the largest foreign owners of Russian oil properties before the Soviet Government put its "nationalization" program into effect. The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey now has a large claim against the Russian Government through its ownership of 51 per cent. of the Nobel Company, a Russian enterprise. The Standard of New Jersey bought its interest in this company after the properties were confiscated, so that 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.