HUERTA BACKS DOWN AGREES TO FIRE SALUTE TO U.S. FLAG

AMERICAN BATTLESHIPS IN FIGHTING LINE

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ASKS FOR A RETURN SALUTE; RIGHT TO THIS QUESTIONED

Senator Shively, Acting Head of Foreign Relations Board, Says Return Would Not Be Recognition of the Mexican Federal Government and Considers It Satisfactory.

President Huerta is willing to fire a salute to the American flag if the United States agrees to return that salute.

Senator Shively, acting chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, admitted this afternoon that he had been 'officially advised' that this was the answer to American demands transmitted today by Charge O'Shaughnessy from New York City.

In commenting upon Huerta's proposition, Senator Shively declared that a return salute on the part of American warships would not amount to a recognition of the de jure government, and indicated that he looked upon it as a satisfactory settlement.

Senator Lodge, ranking Republican member of the Foreign Relations Committee, has an entirely different view. He looked upon consent by our Government to a return salute under all the circumstances as a backdown on our part.

So far as can be learned, the Administration has not yet accepted the proposal of Huerta. The fact that negotiations under way is regarded as an encouraging symptom.

"Huerta's stipulation that our ships must return the salute is given the American flag by the Mexicans, is merely a request that the usual forms be complied with," said Senator Shively, who is acting chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, this afternoon.

"Of course, if he men salute the American flag, our men will salute back. That does not, however, constitute a recognition of Huerta as the head of a de jure government in Mexico. It is a recognition of the de facto government, just as our original demand was a recognition of the de facto government. There is no de jure government in Mexico which we recognize.

"I suppose that the compliance on the part of Huerta with the demands of the Government will end the present situation, and leave things as they were before. In fact, I can think of no other way in which the situation can work out, if Huerta does what he today seemingly indicates he will.

"My information came from the State Department," said Shively, discussing the new situation presented in Huerta's counter proposal. "I think there surely must be some other matter involved, however, as it is perfectly obvious that the United States would be bound, by ordinary rules of courtesy to return a salute given them."

Shively said he had not been advised how the Administration regarded the proposed from Huerta—he had merely been told of the facts of the case.

The State Department and the White House were not as generous with information as Senator Shively.

Mr. Bryan and the White House admitted receiving a dispatch from Charge O'Shaughnessy, but refused to say more than that it was "encouraging."

Mr. Bryan would not discuss the statement of what Huerta had agreed to do, as given out by Shively.