

Roosevelt Chooses Messersmith For Ambassador's Post in Mexico

*Career Diplomat, Now in Cuba,
Is Experienced in Problems of
Latin Nations and Europe—
His Confirmation Expected*

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27—President Roosevelt sent to the Senate today the nomination of George S. Messersmith to be Ambassador to Mexico. The career diplomat will succeed Josephus Daniels, who has asked to be relieved.

The appointment of Mr. Messersmith, now Ambassador to Cuba, is expected to be confirmed by the Senate within a few days. Mr. Daniels is on leave from his post.

Mr. Messersmith, who is 58 years of age, is familiar with the aims of the United States in its Western Hemisphere policy. He also has a European background, having been Consul General in Berlin when Adolf Hitler assumed power in 1933. Other assignments in Central Europe preceded his consulship in Berlin.

The new Ambassador to Mexico will take his post soon after the settlement of claims with the Mexican Government, including the oil expropriations. Born in Fleetwood, Pa., Mr. Messersmith was an educator in the public school systems of Pennsylvania and Delaware until 1914, when he entered the foreign service. His first post was as consul at Fort Erie, Ont.

Duty subsequently took him to the Netherlands West Indies, Antwerp, Buenos Aires, and in 1930, to Berlin. He remained in Berlin until 1934, when he became Minister to Uruguay and then to Austria. From 1937 to 1940, when he went to Cuba, he was Assistant Secretary of State.

Mexico Sees Important Role

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 27—George S. Messersmith, nominated today as Ambassador to Mexico, is hardly known in this country and con-



George S. Messersmith
The New York Times, 1937

sequently few comments were forthcoming except the formal ones usual upon the appointment of a new Ambassador.

But observers here pointed out that he would arrive about the same time as the new British Ambassador, Charles Bateman, who is expected in mid-December. For the first time in many years both the United States Embassy and the British Legation—officially non-existent during the suspension of diplomatic relations for the last three years—will be in charge of career diplomats, and it is with these two countries that Mexico has her most important and troublesome foreign relations.

At the moment it is accepted here that the policies of the two countries diverge, the United States having agreed to a formula for the liquidation of the oil debt, which the British—who have a big-

ger debt—apparently have rejected. Mr. Bateman's instructions on this point are not yet known here, but the hope in Mexico is that Britain will be unable to resist the arguments that prevailed with the United States State Department.

New Problems Expected

Despite the assumption in some quarters that everything is fixed up with the United States, Mr. Messersmith is believed likely to

face plenty of problems through the war emergency, notably those growing out of priorities for machinery and raw materials, which Mexico can get only from the United States, and also defense questions, which sooner or later will arise in diplomatic form.

High Mexican officials say these delicate subjects were not discussed during the Washington negotiations, but they indicate that they expect to get the first \$10,000,000 highway loan next week and that the peso will be pegged at 4.85 to the dollar.

Americans here who know of his work in such difficult spots as Germany and Austria welcome Mr. Messersmith as a professional trained in a hard school and therefore well fitted for what some still consider one of the most exacting posts in Latin America.

MRS LEE
FRASER