

Francisco I. Madero (vol. xiii, pp. 613, 1114), the candidate for President, declared the provisional government would not "undertake any negotiations of peace except under the condition that the delegates shall be legally and fully authorized with written powers." He added that it was further desired by the revolutionists that the arrangement for peace negotiations "should be published and recognized by the federal government officially." These steps, he explained, were necessary because of the repudiation by the federal government of connection with the peace conference arranged by Governor Sanchez last November.

+ +

Canadian Reciprocity.

In the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa on the 22nd, an amendment to the act approving the reciprocity agreement with the United States (pp. 170, 181), made by F. D. Monk, the leading "French nationalist," accepted by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the premier, and adopted without dissent, declared that with a view to dispelling the feeling of unrest created in Canada by comments made in the United States and Canada as to the political consequences of the agreement, the House wished to affirm emphatically its determination to preserve intact the bonds which unite Canada to the British Empire, and the full liberty of Canada to control her fiscal policy and internal autonomy. In speaking on the subject the mover of the resolution explained that in Canada, the United States and Great Britain, some public men and a part of the press had stated that annexation was bound to follow reciprocity; but he believed there was no genuine annexation sentiment in Canada, and that a statement to that effect should be formally made. The Premier said that there was not one man on his side in the House who has ever thought of any such thing as annexation. "But," he added, "if it is necessary in order to strengthen the wavering faith of the honorable gentleman opposite I have no objection to accepting the motion."

+

The agreement was reported out of the finance committee of the United States Senate (p. 181) on the 24th without recommendation. The vote in committee was 7 to 6 against a favorable report and 7 to 6 against an unfavorable one. So the measure comes back to the Senate without recommendation. The following members of the committee voted for the measure: Lodge, Penrose, Cullom and Flint, Republicans, and Money and Stone, Democrats; those who voted the other way were Burrows, Hale, McCumber and Smoot, Republicans, and Bailey, Taliaferro and Simmons, Democrats. On a motion to make an adverse report Senator Smoot saved the measure.

The British Parliament.

The measure for the abrogation of the Lords' veto, which Mr. Asquith introduced in the British House of Commons on the 21st with an uncompromising speech (p. 181), provides in substance, as to money bills, that—

if having been passed by the House of Commons, and sent up to the House of Lords at least one month before the end of the session, the bill is not passed by the House of Lords without amendment within one month after it is so sent up, it shall, unless the House of Commons direct to the contrary, be presented to His Majesty and become an act of Parliament on the Royal assent being signified, notwithstanding that the House of Lords has not consented to the bill.

A money bill is described as one which—

in the opinion of the Speaker of the House of Commons, contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following subjects, namely: the imposition, repeal, remission, alteration or regulation of taxation; charges on the consolidated fund or the provision of money by Parliament; supply; the appropriation, control or regulation of public money; the raising or guarantee of any loan or the repayment thereof; or matters incidental to those subjects or any of them. No amendment to a money bill which, in the opinion of the Speaker of the House of Commons, prevents the bill retaining such a character will be permitted.

As to other than money bills, the measure provides in substance that—

if it is passed by the House of Commons in three successive sessions (whether of the same Parliament or not) and, having been sent up to the House of Lords at least one month before the end of the session, is rejected by the House of Lords in each of those sessions, that bill shall, on its rejection for the third time by the House of Lords, unless the House of Commons direct to the contrary, be presented to His Majesty and become an act of Parliament on the Royal assent being signified thereto notwithstanding that the House of Lords has not consented to the bill. Two years must elapse, however, between the date of the first introduction of the bill in the Commons and the date on which it passes the House of Commons for the third time. Provision also is made for the amendment of measures during the time they may be pending, and the bill also describes what may be regarded as the rejection of bills by the Lords.

Other clauses of the act provide that—

"nothing in this act shall diminish or qualify the existing rights and privileges of the House of Commons," and that "five years shall be substituted for seven years as the time fixed for the maximum duration of Parliament under the septennial act of 1715."

+

After debate the measure passed its first reading in the Commons on the 22nd, by 351 to 227—a majority of 124.