

# CURRENT TOPICS

**MR. BRYAN'S AMENDMENT** to the model arbitration treaty was, after being revised in language, unanimously adopted by the Inter-parliamentary Union in session at London. Newspaper dispatches say that Mr. Bryan's speech in support of his amendment aroused great enthusiasm. The sessions of the union came to a close July 25. Before adjourning, the union adopted resolutions suggesting that the next Hague conference define contraband of war as restricted to arms, munitions of war and explosives. The Hague conference was also asked to reassert and confirm the principle that neither a ship carrying contraband of war nor other goods aboard such ship not being contraband of war may be destroyed; also to confirm the principle that even between belligerents, private property should be as immune on sea as it is on land.

**A LONDON CABLEGRAM** to the St. Louis Republic, referring to the luncheon given by Lord Loreburn, says that the host proposed a toast to the Inter-parliamentary Union, saying that it is his belief that there is a universal craving among the nations, and that this craving is very pronounced in England. The Republic cablegram says: "Lord Loreburn then turned his attention to Mr. Bryan and complimented the Nebraskan on his excellent speech of yesterday, at the time expressing his sympathy with Mr. Bryan's utterances and his hearty approval of the amendment introduced by him. The lord high chancellor's remarks evoked prolonged applause from the other delegates. The Republic correspondent adds: "There was a constant stream of visitors to Mr. Bryan's rooms, all wishing to meet personally the man who yesterday delivered an address which the English papers concede to have been the best in years. Nearly all the British journals published Mr. Bryan's speech in full this morning, and the Nebraskan, whose door is open to all visitors, was besieged all day by callers, in addition to which he has received numerous congratulatory telegrams and letters applauding his utterances, bearing out the statement of Lord Loreburn that the craving for peace in England is more pronounced now than ever. Mr. Bryan was the guest of Mr. James Brice, secretary of state for Ireland, at dinner tonight."

**RANDALL CREMER, M. P.**, the organizer of the Inter-parliamentary Union, and winner of the Nobel peace prize, is quoted by the London correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald as saying: "Mr. Bryan's speech today in the inter-parliamentary conference, was one of the most expressive and striking pleas for international arbitration, applied to all subjects of international disagreement, that I have ever heard. It roused the conference to great enthusiasm, and the fact that so representative an American publicist, on his own motion, should have obtained the assent of the conference to arbitration of all issues is an event which we regard as of enormous significance. Mr. Bryan, though not otherwise qualified, according to standing orders, for admission to the conference, was invited by the committee under power given it to secure the presence of a small number of distinguished men. Congressman Burton also made a telling speech, but Mr. Bryan may carry back with him to America the proud consciousness that his powerful and moving utterance has rendered solid and enduring service to international peace."

**JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER** was able to avoid a subpoena and the warrant issued for his arrest will not be served upon him. A Findlay, Ohio, dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald explains: "No attempt will be made to arrest John D. Rockefeller when he lands in New York next Saturday. Attorney Troup of Bowling Green, Ohio, representing Mr. Rockefeller, was here today and secured the permission of Prosecutor David and Probate Judge Banker to enter Rockefeller's appearance in the latter's court and this accordingly was done. Sheriff Groves still has the warrant, but on account of the turn of events will not attempt to serve it. The warrant was

issued recently upon an information filed by Prosecutor David, charging Mr. Rockefeller and the Standard Oil company with alleged violation of the Valentine anti-trust law."

**IT WAS ANNOUNCED** on the New York stock exchange July 23, that a forged certificate for fifty shares of Union Pacific common stock, which is now quoted at \$147.25 per share, had been discovered. A New York dispatch says: "It is not known whether or not there are any more of the bogus certificates in circulation. According to Secretary Ely of the exchange, the certificate is dated September 14, 1905, and bears the number 9,658. It is in the name of Marvin J. Hannah and purports to bear the signatures of E. H. Harriman and Alexander Millar, with the seal of the Union Pacific Railroad company. Alexander Millar, secretary of the Union Pacific Railroad company, said: 'I do not believe it is a New York forgery. It appears to be a bungling western job. About ten days ago a western bank informed us that a man had appeared at the bank with a certificate for fifty shares of Union Pacific common and desired a loan on it. The bank officials were not satisfied as to the regularity of the certificate, and inquired from us about it. They sent us a description of it, which convinced us that it was spurious. We so notified the bank. However, while we were in correspondence with the western people the man who wanted the loan withdrew the certificate.'"

**THE DEATH OF Russell Sage** did not create a ripple on the stock market. His fortune is estimated at \$100,000,000. His two brothers-in-law and Mrs. Sage will be executors. It is said that the Sage fortune consists of more tangible property than that of any other extremely rich man in the country. One newspaper writer says: "A large per cent of the Sage fortune always consisted of coin of the realm, laid aside until such times as call money rose to extremely high figures. Then it was doled out to hard pressed financiers to tide them over periods of stringency, after which it was returned to Sage's strong box, with interest at the rate of from 10 to 125 per cent added. Then there are bonds, bearing good interest, which were bought in times of financial stringency when their former owners needed money in a hurry, and some stocks of the gilt-edged variety which will continue to draw dividends. What the ultimate disposition of this wealth will be is unknown, but it is conceded that immediate control of the vast fortune will pass into the hands of Mrs. Sage. Rumors of large bequests to charity are persistent, however, and some go so far as to predict that bequests for public purposes which will astound the world have been made." But the world was not astounded. There was nothing for charity.

**AMONG ALL THE** editorial estimates of the late Russell Sage that of the New York Evening Post seems to be, all things considered, the most satisfactory. The Post says: "Russell Sage had been, for more than a generation, a target of popular ridicule. If he had any aspirations beyond money-getting, he did not show them to the world; any virtue beyond thrift, he did not practice it before men. He even failed to enlist sympathy by falling into redeeming vices. To most people his name meant nothing but a hand to grasp and a purse to hold. Possibly he did not deserve so much opprobrium; perhaps in some corner of his heart he kept a place for generous dreams and hopes. He may have had visions of splendid charities—schools, museums, libraries, and hospitals, founded by his millions and perpetuating his name for grateful posterity. But though he had it in his power to make the visions realities, he never for an instant loosened his clutch on his dollars. We must form our opinions on the facts as they appear. Every country village has its keen money lender, ready to screw the last cent from his neighbors, on mortgage or note. Russell Sage was this village skin-flint writ large. He operated in the market of the continent; but the magnitude of the enterprises in which he shared did not expand his mind or

quicken his sense of responsibility. From the individual in his grip he relentlessly exacted the pound of flesh; and he never made even a pretence of reparation in the form of public benefactions. He wanted money; he got it; he kept it."

**REPRESENTATIVE JAMES R. MANN**, of Chicago, is being opposed for re-nomination by State Senator Francis W. Parker, and Mr. Parker has brought against his opponent a charge that has created considerable stir. Mr. Mann has sent through the mails franked and free of all postage, forty thousand copies of the following letter: "Mr. Dear Sir—Probably you noticed in the newspapers that the pure food and pure drug bill passed through congress and became a law and that I had charge of the bill in the house of representatives, and had the honor to make the principal speech in its behalf. This just measure, so necessary to the health of the people, met with bitter opposition from the makers of impure and adulterated food products, as well as the manufacturers of those so-called patent medicines containing opium, cocaine and other habit-forming drugs. I have incurred their bitter enmity and expect to receive their active opposition. I have had printed (at my expense) the speeches which I delivered in the house on the pure food bill, and I will send a copy to you in a few days, hoping that you will do me the courtesy to glance through the same. I trust you will find the matter interesting and possibly somewhat instructive, and I beg to remain, yours very sincerely.—James R. Mann, Representative in Congress, Second District of Illinois."

**MR. MANN'S OPPONENT** quotes from the act of June 13, 1898 as follows: "That hereafter the vice president, members and members-elect and delegates and delegates-elect to congress shall have the privilege of sending free through the mails, and under their frank, any mail matter to any government official or to any person, correspondence, not exceeding two ounces in weight, upon official or departmental business." This, Mr. Parker maintains, is the only authority a congressman has for sending any mail free. Mr. Mann admits that he franked these letters, but says that it is not campaign material. He said he simply sent the letters to notify his constituents that his speeches, which he regards as very valuable, would soon be laid before them. The Mann letter was sent out from Chicago, but Mr. Mann says that this is of no importance, as he has the right to send from any place, anything which relates to official proceedings of congress. Mr. Parker says that the letter itself shows that it is not "official or departmental business." He explains: "I have called this matter to the attention of the voters of the Second district and they may judge for themselves whether the letter is official business of the United States or purely a campaign document of Mr. Mann's. I do not know of any legal penalty for Mr. Mann's sending out this letter under his congressional frank, nor do I intend to suggest to the federal authorities that they take up the matter."

**REPRESENTATIVE POLLARD**, of Nebraska, is also having some trouble these days. At the November, 1904 election, E. J. Burkett was elected to congress for the term beginning March 4, 1905. At the session of the Nebraska legislature in January, 1905, Mr. Burkett was elected to the United States senate for the term beginning March 4, 1905. Mr. Burkett filed declination of his election to the lower house and entered upon service in the senate. For a time it was thought that the election of a representative to take Mr. Burkett's place would be held at the regular 1905 election, but a special election was called on July 18, 1905, and Mr. Pollard was elected. The republican congressional convention is soon to meet in Mr. Pollard's district, and it has been generally believed that Mr. Pollard would be renominated, but the Omaha World-Herald charges that Mr. Pollard had drawn pay for services as a representative in congress from March 4 to July 18, which was four months be-