

INTER-STATE COMMERCE. It looks as if there would be some amendments to the inter-state commerce act. This is as it should be. The law should be repealed altogether, or so amended that it can be enforced. There should be no discrimination between individuals or localities. Rates should be reasonable and unfluctuating. Big shippers should pay the same rates as small ones. Any system of rate-making that builds up one individual as against another, or one community as against another, is contrary to democratic ideas and ought not to exist.

The railways of the country should be permitted to make enforceable contracts with each other, and the rates under such arrangements might be subject to the review of the commission whose duty it should be to see that rates covered by pooling arrangements are reasonable.

This is President Roosevelt's idea, and as usual, he is sound.

WAGES IN MEXICO. The track laborers on the Mexican railways are now receiving sixty (60) cents per day in Mexican money, which at the present rate of exchange means about 27 cents in American money. This is the rate paid south of El Paso on the Mexican Central railroad, while north of the same town on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe—just across the Rio Grande—the rate of wages for the same work, for the same class of men, is one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per day. Nearly five times as much.

This is an object lesson in the finance of Bryanarchy calculated to impress the most loyal advocate of the double standard with the superior advantages of the silver standard to laborers. It was to bring about such a day wage in the United States that the mongrel politics and fanatical vaporings of 1896 and 1900 were urged upon a credulous people by peerless gabsters.

TO SUPPRESS ANARCHY. The judiciary committee of the house has reported a bill "for the protection of the President of the United States, the suppression of crime, and for other purposes." This bill, which is the siftings of the many wild ideas of nervous legislators, expressed immediately after the sad tragedy at Buffalo, and drafted into bills as soon thereafter as the agitated congressmen could control themselves sufficiently to safely grasp a pen, is really a more conservative document than the committee had been expected to garner from that chaos of proposed

laws dumped into its hands for consideration.

Still the bill will probably fail to touch the key-note of popular approval, as it is not nearly so drastic as the general public had hoped for. No deportations to barren islands; no stringing up of speakers; no electrocution of writers; no boiling oil for the guilty; merely a proposed examination of immigrants, and a return to the land whence they came, of all foreigners of anarchistic proclivities. The committee kindly and considerately leaves the "details" of the matter of sorting the prospective citizens in the hands of the Secretary of the Treasury; but just how he is to separate the wheat from the chaff has not been made plain.

The entire bill is more punitive than corrective, which is unfortunate; but, as no one has come forward with a feasible plan for suppressing seditious speech and literature, defining the anarchistic and distinguishing it from the foolish, hot-headed utterances and ill-considered writings of irresponsible, but comparatively harmless, fanatics—some of whom are loudest in their lamentations when their works bear fruit—the bill is perhaps as effective as the country could in reason expect.

IRISH DISCONTENT. In the eighth century of her rule over Ireland, either through her own inability or unwillingness to give to that impoverished country a just and liberal government, or through the Celt's stubborn purpose to neither appreciate nor accept such a government, England now finds that there is still no affinity between the two peoples, the Emerald Isle persistently refusing to shine as a bright jewel in the British crown.

Lord Salisbury, in the course of a pessimistic speech, says: "The existence of a hostile feeling in Ireland is a signal that the efforts upon which depend in no light degree the glory and the continuance of the empire, must not be relaxed. The maintenance of our position in Ireland is the most vital object the empire has, and it can only be attained by strenuous exertions. An Irish government with the power to accumulate arms and ammunition, would constitute a far more serious threat than has the Boers."

English perturbation is in no manner decreased by the sound waves which reach them from across the Atlantic. The visits of Dillon and Redmond; their enthusiastic reception and success in soliciting funds, indicate strongly that in case the tenantry should abandon pleas and memorials, for bullets and bayonets, generous contributions of men and means will reach them from this side.

Squarely facing these conditions, England's only consolation is found in the undisputable fact that it will be no easy

matter for the peasant to exchange the black-thorn shillalah for the modern implements of war, no matter how eager he may be to do so.

VISITING ROYALTY. The approaching visit of Prince Henry and the official and social functions in connection therewith, have been the cause of considerable comment pro and con, and the propriety of the President's conduct has been seriously questioned upon the floor of the house. Glancing backward we find that there have been few really royal visitors who have visited this country, and each of them has been accorded a warm reception, both at Washington and in New York.

Louis Phillipe D'Orleans, later king of France, came across in 1796. Being afterwards joined by his brothers, the royal refugee toured the country, President Washington obligingly arranging the itinerary, and it was upon this trip that the royal guest lost his heart to a yankee girl, who, however failed to reciprocate. Later on the son of this exile also visited this country, and in 1861 his grandsons, the Comte De Paris and Duc De Chartres received a cordial welcome from the government at Washington, the two brothers being made members of General McClellan's staff, and remaining in this country until June, 1862.

Joseph Bonaparte, ex-king of Spain and Naples, was received rather coldly in 1815, and nowhere in this country received the social recognition which he expected. The same is true of the other members of this family who visited our shores later.

When the present king of England paid us a visit in 1860, he was balled, wined and dined at Washington, New York and Philadelphia, and was the guest of President Buchanan for some time. He was accompanied by a group of noblemen who were not overlooked in the social events. The ball given in his honor in the Academy of Music was attended by 3,000 guests, and over a million New Yorkers escorted him through the streets of the metropolis upon one occasion.

The Grand Duke Alexis, of Russia, was escorted across by an imposing squadron in 1871, receiving an elaborate and magnificent reception, being presented to the president immediately upon his arrival, and later being the guest of honor at a ball and banquet given in New York, but being participated in by society from all of the principal cities.

George, the sailor prince of Greece, and present governor of Crete, has also visited this country, and was warmly welcomed, though his entertainment was entirely spontaneous, no set program being followed.

Thus we see that there is ample precedent to justify President Roosevelt's conduct in extending welcome to a brother of the great ruler of a friendly nation, notwithstanding the toy balloons sent up by irate editors or members of congress.