

that there is no law that makes the interception of an aerogram a crime. If a man has apparatus, he may take from the air any message that passes. Only employees of the company transmitting such messages may be prosecuted for divulging them. If the law is the same in other States, there is need for new legislation to protect the privacy of communications. The other item describes a suit for damages brought against the famous Wright brothers by a woman in Wisconsin who was grievously injured at a State fair by being struck by a falling Wright biplane. Whether the managers of the fair, the operator of the biplane, or the manufacturers thereof are responsible is a question that might raise some nice points.



STORED-UP ENERGY In his opening address last week at the eighty-first annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Sir William Ramsay, President of the Association, talked in the most interesting way, among other matters; of the actual facts about possible sources of energy and the world's resources in the way of existing supply. As regards radium, which has tremendous energy in small space, and yet not in a form practically to be utilized, Sir William declared that if the stored-up energy in a ton of radium could be utilized in a space of thirty years instead of the inevitable period of 1,700 years, it would propel a 15,000-ton ship with a force of 15,000 horse-power at the rate of fifteen knots during the entire thirty years. The prospect, however, is dimmed by the apparent fact that the production of radium never exceeds half an ounce a year. Turning to the more directly practical subject of energy from coal, Sir William declared that if the rapid increase in the output of coal mined in the British Isles continued, the supply would be exhausted in a hundred and seventy-five years—a very brief space in a nation's life. He urged that the present reckless waste should be discontinued, and that every possible means of economizing should be adopted. Specific suggestions for economy were the use of turbines, gas engines, creation of power at the pit mouth and

its distribution electrically, the abandonment of wasteful domestic fires in open hearths and the substitution of central heating plants. He even went so far as to recommend legislation to control the expenditure of the nation's fuel supply. Of course the world's supply of coal is enormously larger than that of Great Britain, and Sir William was thinking chiefly of the national commercial danger and loss to Great Britain if in the future it has to obtain its coal supply from other lands. Looking at the matter as a world-problem, it nevertheless remains true that, although new coal supplies have been discovered and doubtless will be brought to the market as they are needed, yet the need of economical treatment of the supplies is real, and should be taken into serious account.



A CITY'S FIGHT AGAINST MOSQUITOES

Not long ago The Outlook called attention to the excellent pamphlet issued by the Department of Agriculture about the pest of mosquitoes, a pamphlet full of information, suggestion, and practical advice. Its circulation has been followed by a discussion in the newspapers as to whether the Government should not undertake the work of destroying the mosquito. That it should at least co-operate with State and local authorities, through the Department, as has been done in the case of the boll-weevil, is beyond question. Since the world learned that yellow fever and malaria are spread only by certain kinds of mosquitoes, under certain conditions, the fight has become one not merely to suppress a nuisance but to protect health and life. What can be done is shown by the history of New Orleans since its yellow fever epidemic of 1905, as set forth in a statement furnished to The Outlook by Dr. O'Reilly, the Health Officer of New Orleans. There has been a campaign of inspection during ten months of the year; seventy-eight inspectors are employed, and they make, daily, twelve hundred inspections of premises; and, as a result, the number of violations of the ordinances has been reduced from 3,013 to 639. The fight has been primarily against the *stegomyia* mosquito, and that dangerous creature has become almost unknown,

while extensive draining in the swamps about the city has surprisingly reduced the *anophele* or swamp mosquito. Just what the scientists predicted has followed: yellow fever has not reappeared, while malaria has been reduced in a really extraordinary degree, and most of the cases come from the outlying country rather than from the city. It is gratifying to record the vigorous steps taken by a city once peculiarly infested by disease of mosquito origin to cleanse itself from the evil, and thus furnish an example to places where stagnant pools, ill-drained spots, and blocked-up gutters are still allowed to threaten health.

THE GENERAL ARBITRATION TREATY

HOW WILL IT WORK?

The Outlook has advised the peace societies, or some one of them, to issue a pamphlet containing the majority and minority reports of the United States Senate on the General Arbitration Treaty, with the ablest arguments they can obtain in support of that treaty. In this spirit we present to our readers the arguments for and against the treaty. Mr. Roosevelt, who disapproves this treaty, in an editorial on another page states the grounds of his disapproval. The Outlook, which approves the treaty, will, in three editorials, of which this is the first, state the grounds of its approval. We shall thus do what we can to promote that general discussion which we believe to be desirable. For if this treaty is adopted by the Senate without public discussion and popular understanding of its provisions, it will be wholly ineffectual. But if the American people understand its provisions, if they consider carefully the objections to it, if, after such consideration, they deliberately adopt it and make it their own, it will stand the test if an hour of trial should come. The way to secure the observance of this treaty in the future is by a full, free, and thorough discussion of its provisions now.

In our discussion we shall confine ourselves mainly to the general principles involved in this treaty. It is only upon such general principles that masses of men can pronounce a wise decision. Details

of method in carrying out the principles decided must, of necessity, be left to a small body of experts. President Taft, Senator Root, and Secretary Knox are experts on questions of international law. If the country approves the principles involved in the General Arbitration Treaty, it may safely leave to these experts the formulation of those principles in an international instrument.

In June, 1908, during the administration of President Roosevelt, a General Arbitration Treaty was negotiated between the United States and Great Britain which is now binding upon both nations. This treaty provides (1) for a general arbitration of differences of a legal nature; (2) it excepts such as affect the vital interest, the independence, or the honor of the two contracting states or the interests of third parties; and (3) it leaves it to special agreement, to be made on the part of the United States by the President, with the advice of the Senate, to define clearly the matter in dispute, and so to determine whether it comes within the excepted cases not to be arbitrated.

The treaty just now negotiated by President Taft also provides for (1) arbitration of all differences between the two contracting parties; (2) it excepts such as are not susceptible of decision by the application of the principles of law or equity; and (3) in cases in which the parties disagree as to whether or not the difference is subject to arbitration under the treaty, it provides for the submission of that question to a Joint High Commission for determination. This Joint High Commission is to consist of three "nationals" from each nation, and at least two of the three Commissioners from each nation must assent to the reference, or the case is not referred.¹

Thus it will be seen that each of these treaties recognizes three fundamental principles: first, that, in the present stage of civilization, most questions arising between civilized nations can be settled by reference to a third disinterested party; second, that questions may arise which cannot be so referred; third, that each

¹ It is possible for the United States to consent to the appointment of foreigners on the Joint High Commission, but it is not conceivable that America would consent that foreigners should constitute America's representatives on a Joint High Commission to determine whether America would refer an American question to the Hague Tribunal.