

overcome by the promulgation of a rule founded upon the agreement of nations that no contraband shall be carried on mail steamers. There ought to be no difficulty in enforcing such a rule by means of the Customs at the port of departure, and this being achieved both vessel and mails should be held immune from seizure.

Another matter demanding amelioration is the unrestricted right to use floating mines, to the great hazard of neutral shipping in much frequented waters. The use of floating mines is in the same category with the practice of poisoning wells, and has no countenance on the higher plane of international law. At the first Conference of the Hague it was agreed that for five years it would not be permissible to throw explosives from a balloon upon a hostile force; it is necessary that some permanent agreement be arrived at in this matter also.

A further point of great interest to commerce has been emphasized during the war. It is a rule of international law that neutral merchandize in a neutral bottom, although bound for a belligerent port, is exempt from capture; but this rule is rendered of no effect by the paramount right of a belligerent to sink vessels carrying contraband, be the amount never so small. A number of instances arose during the war where neutral bottoms were seized by the Russians and sunk on the charge of carrying contraband, although there was no judicial determination upon the charge. This license to destroy property without a proper judicial enquiry is not only unfair, but a barbaric survival unbecoming to our civilization. Such matters must be referred to the arbitrament of a Prize Court, and no confiscation allowed until the issue of contraband is first found by the Court in favour of the captor.

These and other matters arising during the war will go far to justify the expediency of calling a second Conference of the Hague to settle them. The dream, however, that peace among the nations can be maintained by means of conferences or even by national contracts to that end has been rudely dispelled. And in reference to this we notice that a writer in the *Spectator* in speaking of Mr. Carnegie's expectation of the total abolition of war calls attention to the manifest necessity of an appeal to arms for the preservation of the Union at the time of the Civil War in