chairman of the First Commission, devoted to the consideration of questions of peaceable settlement, and he was very desirous of securing a general treaty of arbitration, and to have it inserted in the revision of the Pacific Settlement Convention of the First Conference, which the second was to undertake. The German delegation was opposed to a general treaty of arbitration; it was even more opposed to its insertion in the Pacific Settlement Convention, as, if this were done, Germany would refuse to sign it. The victory lay with the Germans in both instances, but it was a negative victory, whereas, M. Bourgeois' defeat made him the accredited advocate of peaceful settlement throughout the world. He was, appropriately, appointed by France a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague.

During the World War, M. Bourgeois became a member of the French cabinet, without portfolio; and in and out of office his advice was both sought and followed. He was a technical delegate of France to the Peace Conference of Paris (1919), representing the attitude of his government, or, rather, formulating it, toward the League of Nations. He was its mouthpiece in the commission appointed for its consideration, headed by no less a person than Woodrow Wilson, then President of the United States. There were differences of opinion between these two great advocates of the League of Nations, as to its advisability, but the Nobel Prize Committee recognized their services by awarding the peace prize to Mr. Wilson, in 1919, and to M. Bourgeois, in 1920; and the League, itself, recognizing in him, as has been said, its "spiritual father," chose him, by a unanimous vote, the first president of the Council.

In addition to those posts of distinction occupied by M. Bourgeois mentioned in this imperfect account of his labors, he was, on one occasion, president of the Chamber of Deputies, and later, after the conclusion of peace, president of the Senate. On various occasions the presidency of France was within his grasp—indeed, it was offered him, but he refused the highest post, in order that he might be freer to advance the causes which he had at heart. It was, therefore, eminently proper on the part of the Government of France to accord him a public funeral, because of his services to his country; and it was no less appropriate on the part of the Interparliamentary Union, at its opening session, in the City of Washington, on the first of October, 1925, to adopt a resolution of appreciation of his services, to rise, and to adjourn the session in his honor.

JAMES BROWN SCOTT.

EDGAR A. BANCROFT

Mr. Edgar A. Bancroft, who had been a member of the American Society of International Law since April 27, 1909, died on July 28th at Karuizawa, Japan, to which country he had been serving as American Ambassador

since September 23, 1924. In making the announcement, Secretary of State Kellogg stated that Mr. Bancroft's death is a great loss to the Government of the United States, because of the high esteem in which he was held by the Japanese officials and people. The regard in which Mr. Bancroft was held in Japan is amply shown by the official report from the American *Chargé d'Affaires ad interim*, who stated that Mr. Bancroft's funeral in Tokyo was marked by every evidence of affection, esteem, and respect in the power of the Japanese Government. The Emperor, the Empress, the Prince Regent and the Imperial Princes were represented and the entire cabinet was present. Tributes were paid by persons of all walks of life and unprecedented honors were accorded. The body of Ambassador Bancroft was brought to the United States on the Japanese cruiser *Tama*, and after its arrival, President Coolidge on August 27th received a cablegram from the Emperor of Japan in which he stated "I desire to pay my renewed tribute of condolence to his memory and to assure that his endeavors in promoting the friendship between our two nations will never be effaced from my remembrance."

THE INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH CONFERENCE

Although the United States is not a signatory to the International Telegraph Convention, it accepted the invitation of the French Government to send representatives to participate in the International Telegraph Conference at Paris which began on September 1, 1925, and is expected to last for a month or six weeks. The present meeting at Paris is the eleventh periodic conference of the kind to be held. The convention in force is that concluded at St. Petersburg in 1875. In addition to the convention, which may be said to form the constitution of the Telegraphic Union, there are regulations covering the details of the administration of the telegraphic services. These regulations are subject to modification from time to time to meet actual conditions, and periodic conferences of the telegraphic administrations of the governments parties to the convention are held for that purpose. The regulations at present in force, and which are the subject of the conference at Paris, are contained in the revision made at Lisbon in 1908. Representatives of private telegraph companies are admitted as advisory members of the conference.

The United States is not a party to the International Telegraph Convention because its regulations are applicable principally to government-owned and operated systems, and in the United States telegraphs, telephones and cables are owned and operated by private companies. The regulations in force under the convention, however, are of direct interest to the American business public, as users of international telegraphic service must comply with their requirements in nearly every foreign country. The present conference at Paris will consider such important subjects as the languages to be employed in telegrams, rules for code messages, and the revision of the