

ford, Dever, Duchesnay, Dumonchel, Ferrer, Guevremont, Hamilton, Holmes, Kenny, Lacoste, Leslie, McLellan, McCrea, McCully, Malhirst, Miller, Mitchell, Olivier, Price, Ryan, Shaw, Skead, Wark and Wilnot—31.

BULLION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGES.—Mr. Ernest Seyd has written a book on this subject. He is contented with the £15,000,000 excess of the Bank of England's paper circulation over its reserve of bullion which was authorized by the Bank Charter Act. He acknowledges that this excess does not cause the smallest depreciation in the value of the English bank note; but he fears that any greater excess would have a risk of causing our notes, like those of Austria and the United States, to be no longer "as good as gold." He boldly contradicts the almost universally accepted axiom, that a nation's wealth in bullion varies steadily with its rate of exchange, basing his argument on the experience of 1866, when, in spite of an almost unprecedented high rate of discount, the Bank's supply of bullion was persistently decreased each week. Ten per cent. could not keep in the Bank of England the bullion that found its way into the Bank of France, where only three or four per cent. was offered. Mr. Seyd attributes this violation of all preconceived theories, not, as is often urged, to the great distrust which English overtrading is said to have caused on the continent, but to the prudent practice adopted by the Bank of France of buying bullion at a trifle more than the standard price:—

"Shortly after the accession of the present ruler of that country a premium on gold bullion was offered by the Bank of France, and the payment of this premium on the article was continued for several years. Large quantities of Bullion were brought to the country, and upwards of 150 millions sterling in Gold have since been coined in France, whilst the mass of gold in circulation among all classes of society proves that, by some means or other, the nation has very quickly grown wealthier. It may be argued that the improvement in the political, social, and industrial condition of the country has had a share in producing this change, and that due allowance should be made also for the gold required to replace the silver coinage exported to India. Still these causes combined are insufficient to account for the marvellous change which has taken place, and which has made France at this time the principal storehouse of gold bullion in Europe.

"At this present time (March 1868) the Bank of France holds an amount of bullion nearly double that held by the Bank of England. Is this to be attributed solely to the improved condition of France? If so, then all that can be said upon the point is that there is no known instance of a national progress equalling this in rapidity; and England must acknowledge that France has overtaken and outstripped her in the successful practical application of the principles of social and political economy.

"There can be no doubt but that the wise offer of a premium on gold had the covert effect of turning the Exchanges in favor of France. Small as the inducement offered may seem to the ordinary reader, it was large enough to determine English and other bankers to export bullion to France. It was certainly by the offer of this premium that Paris secured the influx of a large quantity of gold, although—and this is a point which must not be overlooked in considering the matter in all its bearings—this extra influx of the precious metal into France might, in a certain sense, be regarded rather in the light of borrowed capital than as national property actually acquired; for France could not immediately make an equivalent return for the gold in other commodities of her own production. The Bank of France paid this premium on gold; and for a number of years the weekly statements of that institution showed considerable debits to the account of the premium so paid. The direct loss thus sustained by the operation was amply counterbalanced, however, by the influx of bullion to a large amount, which enabled the bank to encourage commerce and industry, at remunerative but not oppressive rates of interest, and the increased business thus done by the bank supplied the means to liquidate the debit

originally resulting from the operation. The benefit bestowed upon the nation by the increase in the solid medium of exchange can scarcely be estimated in figures, but it is made strikingly apparent in the improved condition of the people at large.

"There is no longer any need now for the Bank of France to offer a premium for gold, for the desired result has been fully attained, and France rejoices at present in the possession of a sufficient stock of gold. Another important point is discussed at length in Mr. Seyd's concluding chapters. He is bold enough to differ from the grand principle laid down at the Paris Conference of 1867, respecting a universal coinage. That principle, first prominently advanced by M. Michel Chevalier, was in favor of basing that universal coinage—of which he of course approves—upon a single gold valuation. Mr. Seyd argues in favor of a double valuation, based on the standard of both gold and silver. He urges that the alteration of the English standard from silver to gold, effected in 1816, has already produced much mischief, although the mischief is very much less than it would be if the silver standard were universally abolished. It is still retained in nearly half of Europe, and thereby some 550 millions of silver currency is maintained throughout the world. If silver were everywhere else only used as a legal coin for payment of small amounts, as is the case with us, Mr. Seyd considers that its use as money would in course of time be very much reduced, and that so large a quantity of metal, nearly 500 millions, would be thrown into the market for manufacturing purposes alone, that its market value would be very much deteriorated, and that thus the commercial world would be proportionately impoverished. His arguments in this direction are well put and worth thinking over. But, says a critic, we do believe that the steady growth of population in modern times, and the much more rapid growth of commerce necessitate as large a growth of currency as it is possible to produce. If paper currency, for which there is no substantial equivalent in bullion, is unwise, then we are doubly bound to run no risk of lessening our stock of bullion.

AUSTRALIAN SOVEREIGNS.—By an order in the Imperial Council of last May, the sovereigns and half sovereigns coined at the Sydney mint, and of the same respective weights, fineness and value with the sovereigns and half sovereigns of the London mint, have been declared legal-tenders for payments in Canada, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. An Order in Council in 1866, made these coins legal-tender in thirty outlying colonies of the Empire, including British Columbia and Vancouver.

BANK OF ENGLAND RETURNS.—The Bank Returns for the week ending Saturday, 13th of June, compared with the corresponding periods of 1867, and 1866, are as follows:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.
Bank Bullion ..	£22,204,815	£21,330,466	£14,481,896
Reserve of notes	12,408,153	12,413,925	2,729,330
Notes in circulation ..	23,525,800	22,767,730	25,966,345
Rate of Discount ..	5 per cent.	5 per cent.	5 per cent.
Consols for Money ..	95½	94½	86½

—The annual meeting of the Mechanics' Bank will be held on Monday, the sixth July.

Mining.

ANOTHER NEW EXPLOSIVE COMPOUND.—Explosive agents seem to be receiving a great deal of attention from inventors and experimenters, and the list of claimants for the best compound promises to be very large. The California *Mining and Scientific Press* of May 30th, thus mentions a new process:—Mr. Haffner of San Francisco, has submitted to our inspection a new explosive compound which he has recently invented, and which appears to merit no little consideration. This compound differs from ordinary gunpowder in being made of more powerful and rapid in its action, in both of which respects it very much resembles nitro-

glycerine and the so-called "giant powder;" but unlike either of those compounds it is applicable for use as rifle or gunpowder. In some experiments which were made a few days since in our presence, a block of iron, with a bore in its upper surface, was charged with six grains of Hatenegger's powder and fired, with a small anvil weighing six pounds placed over the bore; the anvil was thrown from its seat, while two ounces of gunpowder did not move the anvil. Sixty grains of the new compound (one-eighth of an ounce) threw the anvil forty feet into the air. A 4-inch shell, with a chamber only one inch in diameter, was charged with half an ounce of the preparation, and burst into numerous fragments. Common gunpowder could not have burst such a shell.

This compound is perfectly safe to handle and transport, and undergoes no chemical change or deterioration by the lapse of time. The preparation is made from dry compounds, and can be prepared of any desirable strength, so as to be used as a detonating powder or for common gunnery. The inventor has also a self-igniting match, which is made upon the spot, by placing a few drops of a liquid preparation upon any combustible substance, such as paper, linen, cotton, etc. The liquid can be so prepared as to ignite spontaneously in from five to fifteen minutes, or longer, if desirable. All the experiments made were accomplished by this self-igniting liquid, no ordinary match being used in firing any of the charges.

GIANT POWDER.—The *Alta*, California, says:—The new giant powder is coming into favor among miners. They agree that in hard quartz it cheapens and quickens work so materially that it is to their interest to pay \$1 50 a pound till the extravagant price shall bring new explosives at a third of the money. At present the manufacturers are encouraged to keep up the price by the demand, which consumes their 500 lbs. daily production. This desiccated nitro glycerine requires different treatment from the first instructions. The cartridge must be well rammed down to the bottom of the hole—not with an iron rammer. The fuse must be attached to a small, separate cartridge, which is let down on the first. No tamping is required. As a rule, small and shallow drills are preferred. Some say three quarters by ten inches; others prefer larger and deeper ones.

—Mr. Henry Pellatt, of the firm of Pellatt & Osler, Toronto, has left for England to float a gold mining scheme on behalf of some interested in the Nova Scotia mines.

INSOLVENTS.—The following insolvents are gazetted:—Joshua Davidson, Blenheim; Henry J. Iler, Windsor; Andrew O. Boyle, St. Thomas; John Drummond, Albion township; Samuel Douglas, Perth; C. J. Clunie, Ottawa; Robert Crozier, Merrickville; Davie, Clark & Clayton, Montreal; James Dunlop, Mornington; Geo. Dempsey, Listowell; James Otter, Millbrook; James C. Wood, Newbury; Charles Drayer, Gaelph; Porteous & Hector, Stratford; Thomas Drysdale, Toronto; Wm. Holman, Port Stanley; Wm. McIntosh, St. Marys; Walter Unwin, St. Marys; John Iver, Adelaide; R. Graham & Co., Montreal; Thomas Haworth & Co., Toronto; John S. Keith, Cornwall; W. Hopkins, Port Colborne.

RAILWAY TO BEAVERTON.—The people of Thorah township have voted a bonus of \$50,000 in favour of the extension of the Port Hope, Lindsay and Beaverton railway as against the narrow gauge from this city by a vote of 140 to 51.

MORE NEW VESSELS.—Mr. Shickluna has sold a large new vessel now on the stocks at his yard in St. Catharines, to Messrs. Bett & Shepard, of Port Stanley, for \$16,000. He has laid the keels of two more large new vessels, which will be finished in season for the late fall trade. He has also just made a contract with Captain Milloy, to build a propeller that will exceed in carrying capacity his latest triumph, the *New Dominion*. The cost of the new boat complete will be about \$25,000; and Mr. Shickluna says he will make her the finest vessel of her class afloat. She is expected to be finished by October.