under the general government. They have not the privilege of exclusive banking—even of exclusive Bank note issue. The various States are empowered to, and do, charter banks, but the general government has placed a prohibitory tax (10 per cent) on all issues except those of National Banks.

Every National Bank must invest at least one-third of its capital, and not less than $30,000, in U. S. bonds, to be deposited with the Secretary of the Treasury.

They are entitled to receive from the Treasurer circulating notes up to 90 per cent of the face value of the bonds deposited. The total amount of notes is not to exceed 75 to 90 per cent of the capital of the bank, the proportion varying inversely to the amount of capital.

These notes are simply the promissory notes of the banks, payable on demand; but in addition they bear a certificate, that they are secured by a deposit of bonds in the hands of the Government.

They are legal tender in all payments to or by the United States (except interest on the public debt and duties on imports), and all National Banks are bound to receive them at par in payment of debts. They therefore pass freely from one end of the country to the other, often continuing to circulate after the issuing bank has gone out of business.

They must be redeemed by the issuing banks, in lawful money, at their respective offices, on demand. Besides this obligation to pay at their own offices when the holders require it, banks keep a "Redemption Fund," equal to 5 per cent on their circulation, in the Treasury at Washington, where notes are redeemed on presentation and returned to the issuing bank.

Summary provision is made for the sale of bonds, for payment by the treasurer of the bills of suspended banks, etc. In the remote contingency of the bonds being insufficient to cover the notes outstanding, the Government has a first lien on the assets of the bank for the deficiency.

It will be seen that the Government practically undertakes to redeem all national bank notes as they are presented, that the bills are at all times convertible, and that an over-issue is impossible. The banks enjoy the interest on their bonds, and the use of the circulation based thereon as well.

Such are the principal points of the system. The circulation has firmly established itself in the good will of the people, and all the difficulties in working it are from the bank point of view; but these are not pertinent to this article.

Most of the provisions mentioned are worthy of adaptation for Canada. Others that make the circulation unprofitable to banks should be avoided; they will, it is generally believed, be shortly abolished in the United States.

It cannot be too clearly stated that under the system proposed the issues would be BANK NOTES and nothing else; and that the banks whose promise to pay they bear would be bound to pay them no demand, regardless of the fact that they had deposited bonds at Ottawa to cover them.

Consideration of the advantages of the system must be postponed till another communication.

## MINERAL PRODUCTS.

We are indebted to Mr. Albert Williams, jr., chief of the division of mining statistics and technology, United States Gelogical Survey, for advance sheets of his second report on the mineral products of that country, being for the year 1884.

The values attached to the various totals will have special interest for Canadians, and those of our readers who from time to time inquire concerning the value of certain mineral deposits as yet but little developed in the Dominion will find herein the information they require:

### METALLIC PRODUCTS.

| | Quantity. | Value. | Approx. Av. val |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pig iron, long tons, spot value | 4,097,868 | $73,761,624 | $18 00 |
| Silver, troy oz., coining val | 37,744,605 | 48,800,000 | 1 30 |
| Gold, troy oz., coining val | 1,489,949 | 30,800,000 | 20 00 |
| Copper, lbs., val. at N.Y. city | 145,221,934 | 17,739,687 | 0 12 |
| Lead, short tons, val. at N.Y city | 139,897 | 10,537,042 | 75 00 |
| Zinc, short tons, val. at N.Y city | 38,544 | 3,422,707 | 94 00 |
| Quicksilver, flasks, val. at San Francisco | 31,913 | 936,327 | 30 00 |
| Nickel, lbs., val. at Philadelphia | 64,550 | 48,412 | 0 75 |
| Aluminum, troy oz., val. at Philadelphia | 1,800 | 1,350 | 0 75 |
| Platinum, troy oz., val. crude N.Y | 150 | 450 | 3 00 |

### NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS (SPOT VALUES)

| | Quantity. | Value. | Approx. Av. val. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bituminous coal, and anthracite mined elsewhere than in Pennsylvania, long tons | 73,730,539 | $77,417,066 | $1 05 |
| Pennsylvania anthracite, do | 33,175,756 | 66,351,512 | 2 00 |
| Petroleum, barrels | 24,089,758 | 20,476,294 | 0 85 |
| Lime, do | 37,000,000 | 18,500,000 | 0 50 |
| Salt, do | 6,514,937 | 4,197,734 | 0 64 |
| Cement, do | 4,000,000 | 3,720,000 | 0 93 |
| Do. Portland artificial, do | 100,000 | 210,000 | 2 10 |
| South Caroline phosphate rock, long tons | 431,779 | 2,374,784 | 5 50 |
| Limestone for iron flux, do | 3,401,930 | 1,700,965 | 0 50 |
| Zinc white, short tons | 13,000 | 910,000 | 70 00 |
| Concentrated borax, pounds | 7,000,000 | 490,000 | 0 07 |
| New Jersey marls, short tons | 875,000 | 437,500 | 0 50 |
| Mica, pounds | 147,410 | 368,525 | 2 48 |
| Pyrites, long tons | 35,000 | 175,000 | 5 00 |
| Manganese ore, do | 10,000 | 120,000 | 12 00 |
| Crude barytes, do | 25,000 | 100,000 | 4 00 |
| Ochre, do | 7,000 | 84,000 | 12 00 |
| Bromine, pounds | 281,000 | 67,464 | 0 24 |
| Feldspar, long tons | 10,900 | 55,112 | 5 05 |
| Chrome iron ore, do | 2,000 | 35,000 | 17 50 |
| Asbestos, short tons | 1,000 | 30,000 | 30 00 |
| Slate ground as a pigment, long tons | 2,000 | 20,000 | 10 00 |
| Sulphur, short tons | 500 | 12,000 | 24 00 |
| Asphaltum, do | 3,000 | 10,500 | 3 50 |
| Cobalt oxide, pounds | 2,000 | 5,100 | 2 55 |
| Lead Carbonate, Short tons | 65,000 | 6,337,500 | 97 50 |