

The offerings since July 1, 1891, have been quite liberal, being oftentimes double and sometimes treble the amount taken. On the 12th, however, for the first time during the year, there were no tenders. In addition to regular public purchases, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the Mint superintendents have had standing orders to purchase at market rates all small lots offered up to 10,000 ounces in one lot. Between August 13, 1890, and August 1, 1891, these officers took in 5,300,274 ounces. From August 13, 1890, to August 12, 1891, the public awards were 49,776.900 ounces, making with the private purchases 55,076,174 ounces, or 1,000,000 in excess of the law's requirement. The effect of the law in advancing price was discounted in advance of its operation. For the last four months the price has been about the same as before the renewal of agitation in Congress in the winter of 1889.—*American Banker*.

BANK ROBBERY IN LONDON.—The banking world of London has just been startled by an announcement that an important bank robbery has taken place in the city. The police and bank officials are trying to keep the matter as quiet as possible, so that the entire facts in the case are not obtainable at present. It is known, however, that the institution that has suffered is the London and Westminster Bank (Limited), an important establishment having over 15 branch houses in the city. The money stolen consisted of a large parcel of bills remitted from the country banks to the London and Westminster Bank. The thief or thieves must have watched for the proper opportunity to accomplish the robbery and to have gained access to an apartment near the main entrance to the bank. This apartment was easy of access from the street, and the parcel of bills is supposed to have been stolen while the bank officials were engaged in another apartment going over the accounts of last week's settlement. Both William Astle, the town manager of the bank, and H. F. Billinghamurst, the country manager, decline to make any statement for publication as to the actual loss incurred by the London and Westminster Bank, but it is currently reported that the amount stolen is not less than \$750,000, and that it may amount to as much as \$1,250,000. The bank officers, the city police authorities and the criminal investigation department of Scotland yard are putting forth the utmost exertions in order to effect the capture of the thieves. Notice of the robbery has been sent to the police centres throughout the British Isles and on the continent, and the sailing of every passenger vessel is being watched. Notice of the robbery has also been sent to all the banks upon which the bills were drawn, but the police think that no attempt will be made to change the bills in this country but that the thieves will have recourse to the continent, where the presence of so many wealthy travellers from England and the United States make such transactions easier than in this country. This robbery recalls the fact that on February 16 last a similar bank robbery took place in the same neighborhood. Upon that occasion a stylishly dressed man accosted in the National Provincial Bank of England a clerk from the London branch of the Bank of Scotland. The clerk was in the act of making a deposit of nearly \$60,000 at the public counter of the National Provincial