

enacted for the protection of the fish and fishing grounds.

ARTICLE XII.

It is further agreed that the provisions and stipulations of this Treaty shall extend to the Colony of Newfoundland so far as they are applicable. But if the Imperial Parliament, the Legislature of Newfoundland or the Congress of the United States shall not embrace the Colony of Newfoundland in their laws enacted for carrying the foregoing articles into effect; then this article shall be of no effect; but the omission to make provisions by law to give it effect by either of the legislative bodies aforesaid shall not in any way impair any other articles of this Treaty.

ARTICLE XIII.

This treaty shall take effect as soon as the laws required to carry it into operation shall have been passed by the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and by the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada on the one hand and by the Congress of the United States on the other. If such legislative assent shall not have been given within—months from the date hereof, then this treaty shall be null and void. But such legislative assent having been given, this treaty shall remain in force for the period of 21 years from the date at which it shall come into operation, and, further, until the expiration of three years after either of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other of its wish to terminate the same, each of the high contracting parties being at liberty to give such notice to the other at the end of said period of 21 years or at any time afterward.

ARTICLE XIV.

When the ratifications of this treaty shall have been exchanged, and the laws required to carry it into operation shall have been passed by the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and by the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada on the one hand, and by the Congress of the United States on the other, then Articles XXII, XXIII, XXIV and XXV of the treaty of May, 8, 1871, between Great Britain and the United States, shall become null and void.

ARTICLE XV.

This treaty shall be duly ratified by Her Britannic Majesty and by the President of the United States, and the ratifications shall be exchanged either at Washington or at London within—months from the date hereof, or earlier, if possible.

The *London Builder* says:—"We have built in England and Wales, in the way of dwelling houses alone, upward of £1,000,000,000 sterling worth of property roughly speaking, since the year 1801; and within ten years only, between 1861 and 1871, we have built dwelling-houses to the value of more than £230,000,000 sterling."

The Cheque Bank.

(From Chambers' Journal.)

THE distinguishing feature of British banking has been, and is still, the system of cheques. By this system gold is economised, which is an essential to the prosperity of the country, owing to a growing scarcity of the precious metal. Cheques, however, are almost exclusively used for large payments; in Scotland this is obviated, to a certain extent, by the extensive use of pound-notes of the value of twenty shillings: but in England the trouble arising from all small payments having to be made in coin is great. A scheme has been, however, devised and brought into active operation, which will altogether do away with the difficulty in England, and which threatens, to a certain extent, to eclipse the Scotch small notes. This scheme is the Cheque Bank, and the careful thought and foresight which must have been bestowed upon it, reflects great credit upon those who have got it up. Its principles are so novel, and so important to the British commercial world, that—albeit with its financial position or success we have nothing to do—a glance at its advantages and peculiarities will be both interesting and instructive.

One of its most striking peculiarities, and what must needs be a great assistance to it, in this its infancy, is that it acts in co-operation with already existing banks, instead of in antagonism to them, so that other metropolitan banks are made, as it were, branches of the Cheque Bank. Thus no one need go farther than a few yards to pay in or draw out his money. When money is deposited, the only receipt given is a cheque-book containing cheques for the amount lodged. The largest amount for which any cheque can be drawn is ten pounds. If we deposit a £100 we receive a cheque-book containing ten cheques for ten pounds; we may, however, have twenty cheques for five pounds, or one hundred cheques for one pound. Now, we can draw only to the amount of our deposit and no farther, for in the corner of each cheque, its value is perforated in words—thus being indelibly fixed. In this way it is a sheer impossibility for us to overdraw our account, for though we may make out a cheque for any less amount than that specified on it, we cannot for a greater. This is a great advantage, as there can never be any cheque returned to the payee with "No funds" inscribed on it, as too often is the case with the old system. If, then, we make out some cheques for a less amount than that specified, there must be a balance standing at our credit when the cheque-book is finished. This we may have carried on towards a new book, or, if we like, may draw it, on surrendering the counterfoils of the old cheque-

book. All cheques are made payable to order, and are crossed besides; so that before receiving payment, the cheque must have been endorsed. This puts such an effectual barrier to unfair dealing, that the risk run by the Cheque-Bank is comparatively insignificant. Each book of cheques contains ten, for which the uniform price is one shilling—ten pence being for government stamps, and the odd twopence being divided between the expense of the paper and bank commission. The way in which the book is kept is peculiar, and saves an enormous amount of time and trouble. Instead of each cheque being entered in the books some half-dozen times, the total amount only of all the cheques paid out is placed in the books. And to avoid all risk, the cheques are so carefully indexed and put past, that ten years hence a cheque cashed now will be found quite readily; also, their cheques are cleared daily, thus avoiding the necessity of passing through the bankers' clearing house.

Let us now enumerate some of the leading peculiarities of the system: (1.) No interest is allowed on deposits. (2.) It does not keep its own cash. (3.) It transacts no financial business whatever. (4.) Being intended only for small accounts (as no interest is given), it is essentially a bank for the million. (5.) It discounts no bills.

In considering the first of these, the question naturally arises—What are the great advantages gained which counterbalance the want of interest? We will briefly detail some of these, as this question is of primary importance.

As we mentioned at first, if an extended use of cheques could be brought about, an incalculable boon would be conferred upon British commercial interests, owing to the scarcity of gold. The Cheque Bank was established for this very purpose, and as a large quantity of the gold used in England is for payments below five pounds, the utility of the Cheque Bank in this respect is obvious. Unlike the other existing banks, this one encourages by every means in its power small accounts. To the artisan or retail dealer constantly making small payments, and to whom the interest on deposits is of little moment, the Cheque Bank holds out great inducements, for by holding one of its cheque-books no end of trouble is saved. Now, anything that encourages the lower ten thousand to keep an account with the bank, and thus avoid the temptations to which they, with their pockets full of money, are exposed, it seems to us, is a national benefit.

Then the system is advantageous from its being a costless and simple method of remitting money—being, in short, an introduction of circular notes into the home-field. The superiority of their cheques over Scotch