

of the people. The population of the world had increased by 50 per cent. during the century; that of Europe increased from 202 millions to 390 millions. Scotland, London, Lancashire and Ireland now each contain about $4\frac{1}{2}$ million inhabitants. Scotland has increased in the century nearly three-fold, London about five fold, and Lancashire not quite seven-fold; while Ireland has decreased by 863,000, and now contains 15,000 fewer inhabitants than Scotland. The 75 towns in England which now contains populations of 50,000 and upward have increased during the century from slightly under two millions to $14\frac{1}{2}$ millions. The rate of mortality in almost every European country has decreased during the century by 50 per cent. He quoted figures from the tables of international vital statistics showing that even in the last 30 years human life had lengthened in every country of Europe to the extent of $6\frac{1}{4}$ years in the lowest (Norway) to $19\frac{1}{4}$ years in the highest (the Netherlands). The prolongation of life in England for the same period is 11 years, 107 days, and in Scotland 10 years, 323 days. In dealing with the increase of the population of Scotland, he showed the decrease which had taken place during the century in the counties of Argyll, Perth and Sutherland; the small increase that had taken place in the other agricultural countries; while the great bulk of the increase took place in the 38 towns which now possess more than 10,000 inhabitants. In 1801 about 20 per cent. of the population were Gaelic speaking. The proportion is now less than 1 per cent. who speak the Gaelic language only, and, including those who speak both Gaelic and English, it is 5.15 per cent. In dealing with Ireland, he pointed out that in 1841 it contained over 30 per cent. of the total population of the United Kingdom, whereas it now contains less than 11 per cent. Particulars of Mr. Beeke's valuation of the wealth of Great Britain made in 1800 was submitted, which made the amount 2,000 millions. He submitted an inventory of the national wealth, excluding Ireland, at the present time, the total of which amounted to 16,000 millions. The wealth of Great Britain has increased during the century at the rate of 140 millions a year. In 1801 the English language was spoken by 23 millions of human beings, of whom six millions were in the United States and Canada. It is now the native tongue of 130 millions. At the close of the meeting a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Paulin for his interesting and instructive address.

DEPOSITS IN LONDON BANKS.

At the close of last December the sixteen principal banks in London, England, had deposits at interest on hand as follows; the number of their branches is also given in the table:

London Banks.	No. of branches.	Deposits on hand Dec. 31, 1901.
Lloyds.....	320	256,705,000
National Provincial.....	263	253,200,000
London city and Midland.....	423	223,650,000
London and County.....	209	222,375,000
Barclay & Co.....	141	165,395,000
London and Westminster.....	35	138,720,000

Parr's and Alliance.....	138	122,550,000
Capital and Counties.....	317	116,548,000
London Joint Stock.....	38	91,285,000
Union.....	23	81,635,000
Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co.....	1	64,980,000
London and South Western.....	134	62,640,000
London and Provincial.....	209	62,485,000
Williams Deacon's.....	77	56,570,000
Prescott Dimsdale.....	3	24,265,000
Martins.....	13	17,735,000
	2,344	\$1,961,038,000

THE DIVERSE LAWS OF AMERICAN STATES RESPECTING NATIONAL ENTERPRISES.

A New York correspondent favours us with a special despatch containing a synopsis of an address delivered at Harvard University, on 10th inst., by Mr. James B. Dill, the well-known corporation lawyer of New York, upon "National Laws to govern Trusts or great industrial combinations." The address attracted a large company of visitors interested in questions growing out of the anti-trust litigation before the U. S. Supreme Court. The conditions which inspired this address only partially exist in Canada, where happily, our Provinces, which answer in many respects to the States in America, have less legislative power than a State. Mr. Dill forcibly points out the anomalies, injustices and confusion arising from corporations or trusts, whose operations extend over a number of States, being subject to diverse laws. He says: "State legislation tended to lack of uniformity to diversity and to direct antagonism," just as our Provincial laws, or lack of them, tends to produce the same evils in regard to insolvency. His picture of New York State and New Jersey, granting powers to corporations to do outside the State "that it will not permit to be exercised within its own territory," is a remarkable exhibit of the unwisdom of the present State system. Such conflicting legislation as is thus originated, not only tends towards "inter-state warfare," as Mr. Dill points out, but tends also to the paralysis of legislative action over the whole country, and to the restraint of commercial enterprises of a national character. It seems hardly credible, but it is the case, that an American railway running across a number of States is subject to a variety of State laws which conflict with each other, so that what is lawful for a railway company to do in certain States is unlawful for it to do in others. To such a conflict of legislative authority the United States owed its Civil War. The truth is, that the constitution of the United States was framed when the country was not fully developed, nor the extension foreseen of its vast industrial enterprises. What was, at least, harmless in early days, has become mischievous under modern conditions, now that all manner of enterprises are organized, which are operated in numerous States, and which consequently, for their harmonious and effective working, require to be subject to uniform laws. It seems axiomatic that a national undertaking should be subject to national