

**English
Electric
Railways.**

John Bull has a habit of looking on at his neighbours' doings as though he were an idle spectator, hence his reputation for being "slow." He weighs well the merits or otherwise of new movements and is apt to let others do the experimenting. When his judgment decides that it is time for England to take a hand, the more is made suddenly and with energy. Electric railways are now being built and projected in Great Britain on an enormous scale. This summer there will be over 1,000 miles of electric roads in Great Britain. An electric line is to be built between Liverpool and Manchester, a distance of 40 miles which, it is said, will be so operated as for passengers to make that trip in 35 minutes. The lighting of country mansions by electricity is becoming fashionable, especially in those near water power. John Bull just now is as active as a dynamo in electrical development.

**The Globe
in the
Race Question.**

Some weeks ago THE CHRONICLE spoke of the classification of a certain section of the native born population of Canada as being of a certain "race" as "nonsense." We did so because no such race is recognised by ethnologists, as the people of the nation in question are divisible into three races, at least. The "Toronto Globe" in a recent issue endorses this verdict. It says: "A race classification such as would satisfy a scientific mind is an impossibility," and it condemns the attempt made to classify Canadians into races in the census schedule as "pedantic nonsense." Nothing of the kind was done in taking the British Census. Outsiders who get hold of our Census returns will imagine that Canada is made up of a mosaic hodge-podge of a number of races, so called, and that there are no people recognised even by the government of Canada as Canadians.

**Experience
with Hall.**

The "Underwriter" relates the following as told by a New York lawyer. It shows how experience teaches more than other tutors, however clever they be. "I was trying a case for a fire insurance company. The plaintiff was a Jewish lady whose premises had been burned to the ground—total loss. They were insured with my client, and he was called upon to pay the policy. The more he studied that fire, the more convinced he was that it began by the aid of a match and kerosene oil, yet there was no legal evidence of arson; but he felt so sure of it that he decided to stand a suit at law rather than pay the

policy. The suit was brought, and the plaintiff took the stand. She told a clever story, clearly establishing an *alibi*, and for the life of me I could not break her down. At last I gave up and sat down. Then a juror rose. He was of her own race, and a most peculiar expression was on his face—a look of real, deep anxiety, curiosity and interest. 'Off te court, blease,' he said, 'may I osk der witness somedings? Idt vas fery imbortant.' 'Certainly,' answered the judge. The juror cocked up his eye in the most curious way, and said, 'Vat did you do mit the can? Now there had been no mention of any can in the case; nobody had suggested a can; and yet that question caused the witness to turn red, hesitate and stumble. Finally, she said she didn't know what he meant. 'Oh, yah,' he answered, 'you know vat I means, vat did you do mit der can?' That question saved us. She gave no answer, and the jury found a verdict for my client without leaving their seats. After the trial, I thanked the juror, and asked him how he came to think of the question. 'Vy, easy enough,' he said, shrugging his shoulders; 'I vonted ter know. Ve always haf great troubles mit der cans. She had done dot pisness so vell dxt I was fery anxious der know myself vat she did mit der can.'

THE APRIL BANK STATEMENT.

The Bank returns for April continue to reflect fair prosperity for the season. Compared with the March figures they make a creditable showing, and compared with the figures of April of last year the present year is greatly in advance. A slight decline is shown in specie and Dominion notes for the month, but the increase over last year is \$4,749,757. Notes of and cheques between banks show an increase over March of \$2,823,420 and over April of last year \$3,213,492. Balances due from banks and agencies in United Kingdom were reduced during the year \$1,066,971, but increased over March figures by \$1,005,052. Balances due from banks and agencies elsewhere than Canada and United Kingdom increased \$1,132,557 for the month with a decrease during the year of \$8,655,315. Call Loans on stocks and bonds in Canada show a reduction for the month, but an increase over the amount held last year in the same month. These loans, elsewhere than in Canada, increased in April over March by \$591,796. Current Loans in Canada show a considerable development for the month of April, viz., \$3,119,431, and are above what they were a year ago by \$1,545,014. Under the same heading elsewhere than in Canada the April increase is shown to be \$794,305. The total assets