all. It is stated that correspondence between the United States Treasury Department and Mr. Goschen, Chancellor of the Exchequer of England, has resulted in a favorable response from him with regard to an international monetary conference, having special reference to the silver question. The other leading Governments of Europe, it is understood, are more than willing to join in the movement.

A movement has been in progress for some time past in commercial and financial circles, to secure the enactment of a general insolvency law which shall be applicable to the whole Dominion. The need of a better law than the existing one, which is faulty in construction and cumbersome in execution, is generally admitted. We notice that a conference was held last week at Toronto by representatives of the Boards of Trade of Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and London, to formulate a measure for submission to Parliament at an early day, to which we shall have occasion hereafter to refer.

Some interesting statistics have been furnished Congress by Superintendent Porter of the United States Census Bureau, concerning farm debts in ten representative counties in each of the States of Ohio and Kansas. In Ohio it is found that in the ten counties 62.90 per cent. of the farm families own their farms and 37.10 hire them. Of the farms owned, 79.68 per cent. have no incumbrances on them, and the other 20.32 per cent. of the owners owe 36.07 per cent. of the value of their farms, on which debt they pay an average of 6.85 per cent. interest, or $97 to each family. The average value of encumbered farms is $3,848 each, and the average incumbrance $1,422. In Kansas, in the ten counties considered, 66.75 per cent. of the farm families own and 33.25 hire their farms. Of the farms owned, 35.62 per cent. have no incumbrance, while the other 64.38 per cent. carry incumbrances representing 37.96 per cent. of their value, which averages $3,694 per farm. The average incumbrance is $1,402 per farm. The average rate of interest paid is 8.12 per cent., which makes an annual average to each farm of $114.

Money, of London, has the following observations on the new Banking Bill of Italy:—"The Bill establishes a uniform note, issued by a syndicate of the banks, and makes the acceptance of the notes of each bank in the association so formed obligatory by the others. The metallic reserve is raised to 40 per cent of the circulation, and the excess is met by a reserve in specie of an equal amount. There is one provision however, to which exception may be taken, and that is the reserve may be, instead of gold and silver, in part composed of securities in the possession of banks of credit, of paper exchange, payable in gold, and bearing the names of three or more firms, of which one must be of the first order, or of securities issued or guaranteed by the State in countries with a metallic circulation. This seems a rather dangerous class of security and it would be a much wiser course were the 40 per cent. of the reserves to consist entirely of gold."

The bank returns in London show the following results for the week ending April 6th :—

Government securities	£11,250,001
Other securities	29,331,48[illegible]
Notes unemployed	14,173,935
Total reserve	15,438,95[illegible]
Bullion	25,088,11[illegible]
PER CONTRA.	
Active circulation	26,080,16[illegible]
Public deposits	7,720,05[illegible]
Other deposits	30,469,0[illegible]
Rest	3,005,83[illegible]

The Great Western Railway of England will exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair the famous old locomotive "The Lord of the Isles," which was built at the Company's works in Swindon in 1851, from designs by the late Sir Daniel Gooch. This locomotive was a notable exhibit at the first World's Fair in London in 1851. From that time until July, 1881, it was continually in service, and ran during that period a distance of 789,300 miles without being fitted with a new boiler. As a pioneer of early railroading and as a contrast to the powerful modern "Mogul," this old locomotive will attract much attention.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE CHARTERED BANKS IN CANADA.

Comparison of Principal Items.

Assets.	31st March, 1892.	29th Feb., 1892.	31st March, 1891.	Increase and Decrease for *month.*		Increase and Decrease *for year.*	
Specie and Dominion Notes	$16,658,745	$16,535,881	$17,207,553	Inc.	$122,864	Dec.	$ 548,808
Notes of and cheques on other Banks	6,335,141	7,182,447	8,126,319	Dec.	847,306	Dec.	1,791,178
Due from American Banks and Branches	18,165,638	17,612,793	13,316,554	Inc	552,845	Inc.	4,849,084
Due from British Banks and Branches	2,358,549	4,692,633	2,825,078	Dec.	2,334,084	Dec.	466,52[illegible]
Canadian Municipal Securities and Brit., Prov or For'gn.or Col. Pub. Securities other than Dominion	6,580,869	6,449,879		Inc.	130,990		
Railway Securities	5,918,759	5,842,569		Inc.	76,190		
Loans on Stocks and Bonds on call	14,905,269	14,720,222		Inc.	185,047		
Current Loans to the Public	190,647,185	186,116,911		Inc.	4,530,274		
Overdue debts	2,666,707	2,658,891	3,336,639	Inc.	7,816	Dec.	669,93[illegible]
Total Assets	281,640,935	279,547,605	263,476,151	Inc.	2,093,330	Inc.	18,164,78[illegible]
Liabilities.							
Bank notes in circulation	32,483,965	32,711,015	33,020,661	Dec.	227,050	Dec	536,69[illegible]
Due Dominion Government	2,806,472	2,647,602	3,134,048	Inc.	158,870	Dec	327,57[illegible]
Due Provincial Governments	2,965,245	3,363,016	2,963,392	Dec	397,771	Inc	1,85[illegible]
Deposits made by the public	154,176,957	153,424,150	136,059,370	Inc.	752,807	Inc	18,117,58[illegible]
Do. payable on demand, or after notice between Bks.	2,754,556	2,842,871	3,041,577	Dec	88,315	Dec	287,02[illegible]
Due to American Banks and Branches	140,634	209,246	153,858	Dec.	68,612	Dec	13,22[illegible]
Due to British Banks and Branches	2,852,992	1,685,761	2,866,107	Inc.	1,167,231	Dec	14,11[illegible]
Total Liabilities	198,583,968	197,489,682	181,502,475	Inc	1,094,286	Inc	17,081,49[illegible]
Capital.							
Capital paid up	61,516,842	61,500,966	60,248,198	Inc.	15,876	Inc.	1,268,64[illegible]
Reserve Fund	23,964,849	23,947,508	22,193,026	Inc.	17,341	Inc.	1,771,82[illegible]
Directors' Liabilities	6,506,307	6,194,604	7,544,420	Inc.	311,703	Dec.	1,038,11[illegible]

Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note circulation, $816,927.

NOTE.—Loans on call or Current Loans for year cannot be accurately compared owing to changes in the form of returns under the new Banking Act.