they have the figures with which to prove this confidence, it is only fair, considering the men connected with the company, to accept their assurances. The point the Monetary Times desires to make is that the public should have been afforded more technical knowledge than was offered them.—(Ed. M. T.).

ONTARIO CEMENT COMPANY IN NEITHER MERGER.

Mr. S. H. J. Reed, of the Ontario Portand Cement Company, tells The Monetary Times that his company is not, as was reported, interested in either the Canada Cement Company or the Independent Cement Company. He claims to be operating one of the most successful cement plants in Canada, and one which has paid a large sum in dividends.

LAKE OF WOODS POSITION

Montreal, September, 23.

Lake of the Woods stock is again exciting some attention, particularly in view of the approaching annual general meeting. At intervals throughout the past year, items have appeared in the newspapers relative to the good things which the directors were likely to give the common stock holders in the near future. Mr. Robert Meighen, the president of the company, at the last annual meeting, made a statement which temporarily silenced these rumors. He said that after the surplus had reached the amount of the bonds, namely $1,000,000, the directors would let the common stockholders know what they would do in the matter of increasing dividends or giving bonuses. At different times since, the rumor that something was going to be given, has been sent around so that it looks like an effort on the part of some interests to goad the directors from their position. Some months since, the price of the stock was suddenly driven up to 130 on the strength of a circular letter from certain interests purporting to be desirous of obtaining control. A reply came from the company directors in the shape of an issue of more stock which was purchased to interests friendly to the directors, so that, if the effort to obtain control was a serious one, it came to naught. At the same time, those participating in it must have made big profits on the rise. Throughout, Mr. Meighen has never altered his attitude as outlined at the last meeting. It is now again reported that the common stockholders are likely to hear something good at the meeting on October 6th. There is little doubt, that unless the surplus is one million or more they will get nothing but disappointment. As to the likelihood of the surplus reaching this amount, it may be said that in 1907 the surplus amounted to $837,000 and that one year ago it was $935,000, according to the Financial Review, although an official of the company recently stated the surplus was $860,000 one year ago. The official may have been under a misapprehension at the time of making the statement, as records referred to are probably correct. The point is rather important, as the company would seem to be able to add $100,000 to surplus each year, in which case there is good reason to expect that it will show a surplus of over $1,000,000 at the coming meeting. Even then, however, it does not absolutely follow that there will be any distribution of the nature referred to, although it would seem likely that one could not long thereafter be witheld.

MONEY MARKET NOTES

The presidents and general managers of the large banking institutions are visiting the West, where much money is employed in financing the movement of the crop. The Western banks are exceedingly busy, sending out large amounts of money to country points.

Last week was the first heavy week of the season, and grain transactions made a heavy mark upon the clearings. Each week, for some time now, will show an increase over corresponding period of previous years.

The wholesale houses of Winnipeg are active. August was the best month they have had for some time. The summer has been a satisfactory one from the standpoint of payment, and this season their customers will be in a better position than ever. The increased trade will stimulate industrial production in eastern Canada. No reason has existed for complaints in this respect; but the purchasing power of the West will be of such a character as a result of this crop as to create a greater demand than ever on the eastern factories.

As anticipated, the rate of discount of the Imperial Bank of Germany has been raised from 3½ to 4 per cent. This change is the first since January 16 last, when the rate was reduced from 4 per cent.

BIG CROP AND GOOD PRICES.

Some Farmers to Hold Wheat Till Spring—Prices on Grain Exchange May Soar.

Monetary Times Office,
Winnipeg, September 21st, 1909.

The crop of Western Canada is being marketed at the rate of about 500 cars a day. Many farmers are holding their grain for higher prices. A report from one district was received by the Monetary Times stating that the farmers in very few cases were marketing their grain now. They were in a prosperous condition, and would hold their wheat until spring. The crop, on the whole, is turning out well, most of it grading No. 1 and 2 Northern. Excellent weather has prevailed for threshing, and better progress has been made this fall than for several years.

No Congestion in Transportation.

The railroads will not experience the congestion in handling the crop that has been the case in the past. The farmers who have had good crops for years in succession, and who have accommodation for storing their grain do not need to be in a hurry to market it. This state of affairs shows the degree of prosperity that many parts of the West have now reached.

The commercial conditions were never better than at present. The conversation last week with the general-manager of a local life insurance company, who has just completed a tour of the West, the Monetary Times was told that the conditions this fall were the best the country had ever experienced, and the insurance company referred to above, who have large amounts loaned on farm mortgages, expect that practically every dollar of interest will be readily paid when due.

Wheat Markets Active.

There has been a decided change in sentiment in the wheat markets during the past week, activity and interest having succeeded a comparative indifference. The result has been a steady advance in prices during the last seven days, in the American and Canadian markets. European markets are also somewhat higher, though not to the same extent as on this side of the water. The causes leading to the change are various and the strength has arisen in the face of the beginning of a large spring wheat movement, of which for weeks previous it had been predicted that it would injure the market. We have expressed the opinion that more than likely prices would advance when the actual liberal movement of the spring wheat began. We based this opinion on the conclusions that practically the whole trade in Europe and America had exhausted their reserve stocks in the endeavor to clean out everything they held in the shape of wheat and flour at the high prices prevailing during the summer up to the first advent of new wheat. and that probably they would hold off from replenishing and work on bare boards long enough to see the new spring wheat begin to move, and then the demand for wheat and flour would begin. That is just what has happened, for the trade, miller, flour dealer and baker continued to deal only in a hand to mouth way. And now it is being recognized that the fall is passing and winter not so far away, and the daily consumptive requirements have been using up about all the wheat that has passed out of farmers' hands since the first of the new crops began to move.

Europe Dependent on America and Russia.

The European demand is not yet manifesting itself, being stayed by the hand-to-mouth way of working, the largeness of Russian exports, and the expectation of big supplies from North America. The Russian exports will continue on the large scale of the last few weeks, and the situation in Central Europe is such that the Danube surplus will be needed by Austria-Hungary. India, Australia, and Argentina have practically shipped all of their surplus, so that for the next four to five months importing Europe must depend on Russia and America, including Canada.

Our Winnipeg market has been active during the week. There has been an excellent demand for cash wheat past Winnipeg at stiff prices, and a large increase in trading in futures. Prices of futures show advances of 3c. to 3½c.; but cash 1 Northern is only 1½c. higher than a week ago. On the other hand No. 2 Northern is only 1½c. under, and No. 3 Northern, 3½c. under No. 1 Northern, showing keen demand for these lower grades as compared with the No. 1 Northern. The movement from the country is large and had averaged over 500 cars per day for the past week. The quality is high, about 85 per cent. being 1 and 2 Northern.

The Island Investment Company, of Victoria, has opened a branch in Vancouver, B.C.