The formation of the Independent Portland Cement Company, Ltd., with a capital stock of $10,000,000 and head office at Toronto, was announced.

Announcement was made of an amalgamation of carriage factories to be known as the Carriage Factories, Ltd.

The subscription list of the Canada Cement Company, a $30,000,000 combine of Canadian cement companies, was opened.

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company called in all their ordinary and consolidated bonds.

Fire and Marine Insurance.

The annual report of the Dominion Insurance Department was published, showing the total premiums received in 1908 by Canadian fire insurance companies to be $3,819,372; by British companies $9,919,403; by United States companies $3,288,500; a grand total of $17,027,275.

The Alliance Assurance Company, of London, England, was licensed to transact fire, marine, accident and life insurance in British Columbia.

The Hudson Bay Insurance Company, incorporated in Saskatchewan, applied for a Dominion charter.

The North Empire Fire Insurance Company was granted a Dominion license.

The London & Lancashire Plate Glass and Indemnity Company of Canada commenced business in Canada, with head office in Toronto.

The Western Union Fire Insurance Co. was organized in British Columbia, with provisional offices at 321 Homer Street, Vancouver.

A delegation of the fire insurance agents of the Maritime Provinces toured the country to confer with similar interests regarding the clause in the Dominion legislation permitting, under certain conditions, unlicensed companies to transact business in Canada.

SEPTEMBER ANNUAL MEETINGS.

Among the companies and institutions which held their annual meetings in Canada during September, were:—Kootenay Central Railway, Ottawa and New York Railway, Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, Chatham, Wallaceburg & Lake Erie Railway, Elgin and Havelock Railway, Rutland and Noyan Railway, St. Lawrence and Adirondack Railway, Burk's Falls and French River Railway, Central Counties Railway, Hull Electric Company, Indian River Railway, Salisbury and Albert Railway, Miles, Canon & Lewis River Tramway, Central Railway Company of Canada, Klondike Mines Railway, Huron & Ontario Railway, Hereford Railway, Miles, Canon & Whith'se Tramway, Maganetawan River Railway, Red Mountain Railway, Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway, Grand Valley Railway, Montreal and Province Line Railway, Oshawa Railway, Bay of Quinte Railway, Thousand Islands Railway, Quebec Railway L. & P. Company, Peterborough Cereal Company, Pacific Northern and Omineca Railway, Vancouver, Westminster & Yukon, Can. & Gulf Terminal Railway, Manitoulin & North Shore Railway, Algoma Central & Hudson, Man. and Keewatin Railway, Ont., Hudson's Bay and West Railway, G.T.P. Branch Lines, Temiscouta Railway, Canada Atlantic Railway, Ottawa Terminals Railway, Canada Atlantic Transit Compny, Van., Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation, Mont. and Southern Counties Railway.

DIVIDEND CHANGES.

In September, the Cobalt Central Mining Company passed its quarterly dividend. The previous quarterly dividend was halved, the dividend paid on February 1st being 2 per cent., and on May 15th, 1 per cent.

The Nipissing quarterly dividend was increased to 5 per cent. and the bonus changed to 2½ per cent., thus placing the stock on a 30 per cent. basis.

The Dominion Iron and Steel directors declared a dividend of 7 per cent. on the preferred stock, which pays dividends number eight and nine in arrears.

The common stock of the Wm. A. Rogers, Ltd., was placed on a 10 per cent. basis on September 8th.

The International Coal Company, on September 1st, paid a dividend of 3 per cent. for the half year. The previous dividend was 4 per cent. for the six months' period.

NEW LISTINGS.

The stock of the Black Mines Consolidated, Limited, was listed on the Montreal Mining Exchange in September.

BANK BRANCHES OPENED AND CLOSED.

During September 29 new branches of Canadian chartered banks were opened, and 1 closed. During August, 34 new branches were opened, and 5 closed; during July, 19 opened and 3 closed; during June, 34 opened, and 2 closed; during May, 22 opened and 3 closed; during April, 15 opened and 2 closed; during March, 24 opened and 9 closed; during February, 13 opened and 5 closed; during January, 13 opened and 3 closed. Houston's Bank Directory gives the following details for September:—

Branches Opened.

Bethune, Sask.	Royal Bank of Canada
Chapleau, Ont.	Traders Bank of Can.
Courtney, B.C.	Royal Bank of Canada
Didsbury, Alta.	Traders Bank of Can.
East Broughton, Que.	Eastern Towns'ps Bk.
Estevan, Sask.	Bank of Hamilton
Kindersly, Sask.	Union Bank of Canada
Macklin, Sask.	Union Bank of Canada
Moncton, N.B.	La Banque Provinciale du Canada
Montreal, Que., St. Edouard Boulevard St. Denis	Banque d'Hochelaga
Olds, Alta.	Can. Bk. of Commerce
St. Pie, Que.	Eastern Towns'ps Bk.
Salmo, B.C.	Royal Bank of Canada
Spring Coulee, Alta.	Bank of Montreal
Strathmore, Alta.	Can. Bk. of Commerce
Tessier, Sask.	Union Bk. of Canada
Toronto, Ont., Arthur & Bathurst Sts	Bank of Hamilton
Toronto, Ont., Bathurst Street	Bank of Montreal
Toronto, Ont., Bloor Street	Royal Bank of Canada
Toronto, Ont., Gerrard & Pape Ave.	Can. Bk. of Commerce
Toronto, Ont., Jones Avenue and Gerrard Street	Traders Bank of Can.
Toronto, Ont., Roncesvalles Avenue	Standard Bk. of Can.
Toronto, Ont., Roncesvalles and Dundas Street	Bank of Toronto
Treherne, Man.	Bank of Hamilton
Union Wharf, B.C.	Royal Bank of Canada
Vancouver, B.C.	Bank of Ottawa
Vancouver, B.C., South Vancouver Branch	Bank of Hamilton
Victoria, B.C.	Dominion Bank
Winnipeg, Man.	Standard Bk. of Can

Branches Closed.

Jasper, Ont.	Bank of Ottawa

Correction.

Merchants Bank of Canada have not closed their branch at Castor (Williston), Alta., as reported in our August Review of the Month.

FIRE AND MARINE NOTES.

A Vancouver man, while smoking in bed, set fire to the mattress.

Mrs. Frank Grover, with her two children, lost their lives in a prairie fire near Stettler, Alta.

Mr. F. J. L. Harrison has been appointed secretary of the Western Canada Fire Underwriters' Association, succeeding Mr. W. H. Birch.

Nine fires, causing a loss of $1,820, occurred in Calgary last month. The insurance on the burned buildings was $10,000, and on contents, $4,050.

Mr. Robert Howe, C.E., Toronto, chief municipal inspector for the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, inspected the Brockville fire department this week.

The Timber Commission which sat at New Westminster, B.C., agreed that the C.P.R. did all in their power to prevent fires, but the Great Northern had taken little precaution.

The Mainland Board of Fire Underwriters is considering a reduction in rates in Vancouver's business section. Appraising is now being done, and an effort will be made to bring the revised rates into force at the beginning of next year.

The inquiry into the cause of the collision between the City of Erie and the Canadian schooner "Van Straubenzie" brought out the fact that the green light of the latter was not burning.

O. Dubois, of Wakefield, Que., who was found guilty in Hull, of setting fire to a woodpile near the home of a citizen was sentenced to three years' imprisonment. Twelve years ago he set fire to a home and was sentenced to five years. Good conduct reduced this by two years and at the expiration of his present sentence these two will have to be served.

A satisfactory test was made last week of the horseless brigade at No. 8 fire hall, Vancouver. The fire chief there says that auto machines cost far less to maintain than horses. They can get to a fire in half the time and are more easily handled. Vancouver hopes to install self-propelling apparatus in all its fire stations. Some of the others are now partially equipped.