Shareholders of the Quebec Central Railway meeting in London on Wednesday, and confirmed the agreement with the Canadian Pacific Railway for the leasing of the Quebec Central's lines.

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British Trusts, Limited, has been incorporated at Edmonton with a capital of $500,000. Mr. Egerton W. Day, of Edmonton, is president and acting manager.

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A branch of the Bank of Montreal nas been opened at Lachine, P.Q., with Mr. G. S. A. Oliver in charge as acting sub-agent. The office is in temporary premises at the corner of 10th Avenue and Notre Dame Street, Lachine.

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The period fixed in the Order-in-Council lowering the cement duties expires at the end of October. There seems to be no disposition, says an Ottawa advice, to extend the time pending the delivery of the Budget speech. Little cement is coming in now, and it is thought that the slackening of building operations during the winter will preclude any strong demand for the lower duty in the meantime.

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The Dominion Coal Company, with a view of providing sufficient coal for next season, and also with the object of keeping all the men at the Glace Bay mines employed throughout the winter months, will this winter bank the largest amount of coal in the history of the company. The company in this way will be able to follow up the record it is making in 1912 by providing for a still larger production in the year 1913.

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The Canadian Bank of Commerce, after a comprehensive and systematic examination of crop conditions in Western Canada, estimates the wheat yield at 196,-000,000 bushels; oats 234,500,000 bushels, barley 49,000,000 bushels, flax 12,900,000. The total value of the grain crops to the producers is estimated by the bank at $203,0000,000.

"In preparing this estimate," the report says, "Northwest Grain Dealers' Association figures of acreage are accepted. These differ appreciably from the government figures, but are probably more nearly correct. The average yield, however, has been calculated upon reports furnished by our own branch managers and managers of other banks, and these reports cover every district in each of the three provinces."

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The Department of Labour's index number of Wholesale Prices continued to decline during September, standing at 132.5 as compared with 133.4 in August and 128 in September of last year. These numbers show a comparison of prices prevailing at the present time with the average prices during the ten years, 1890-1899, some 255 articles being considered in the estimate. The downward movement during September was due chiefly to declines in the price of fresh vegetables, especially potatoes; while there were slight increases in several commodities, notably dairy products, fish, iron, hides, boots and shoes, anthracite coal and miscellaneous building materials. In regard to retail prices, the chief feature of the month was a rise in price of anthracite coal in many cities of Eastern Canada.

Shareholders of the Farmers Bank have been notified that they will be required under the bank act to pay the double liability on their shares. The official referee, upon application of Mr. James W. Bain, K.C., who is acting for the liquidator, has issued an order to the shareholders to pay the amount unpaid upon their shares, the amount of all dividends wrongfully paid to them by the bank, and one hundred per cent. of the amount due by them as shareholders. Many of the shareholders will fight the order. One group, represented by Mr. William Laidlaw, K.C., of Toronto, and Mr. J .W. Elliott, of Milton, and consisting chiefly of Halton county farmers, have retained Mr. Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., as their counsel. The general defence is that the bank act was not complied with when the concern was organized, and that the certificate was not legally issued. The Halton county contributories have started an agitation to have the double liability section of the bank act repealed.

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The Canadian iron market is reported to have a healthier tone. At Midland, Ont., the two furnaces of the Canada Iron Corporation are now in full blast. This is the first time that they have both been operated simultaneously, and it is understood that the corporation has received orders for a large tonnage of pig iron for immediate shipment. The iron mines at Torbrook, N.S., have been re-opened, as the corporation has orders from the United States for a large tonnage of ore to be shipped from Port Wade during next year. It has also orders for considerable tonnage of ore from England and Germany.

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An improvement is shown in labour conditions in regard to disturbances through industrial disputes during September. The Department of Labour records the fact that there were 21 disputes in existence during the month, a decrease of 21 as compared with the previous month, though an increase is still maintained over the corresponding month of last year. Ten disputes in all commenced during September the most important of which were those of coal miners on Vancouver Island, and carpenters at Moosejaw. The former involved a cessation of work on the part of about 3,000 miners employed in the Cumberland and Ladysmith coal mines and was not terminated at the end of September; that of carpenters at Moosejaw affected 450 workers, but was not of long duration. About 5,000 employees were thrown out of work by disputes in existence during September.