

WE ARE ON THE MOVE

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A few seasonable articles: Daily Journals, Diaries, Account Books, Letter Presses, Files, Binding Cases, etc. Stationery of all kinds. Books, Pipes, Purses and small-ware.

YOUR VALUED ORDER SOLICITED.

THE CONSOLIDATED STATIONERY CO.

McDermott Avenue, WINNIPEG.

Stimulants Deceive

They add no strength, but only force forward the insufficient strength of a reduced physical or mental system. But

OXOL

freshens up body and mind, and furnishes

STRENGTH FOR FRESH EFFORT.

Stop using stimulants and begin using Oxol, and you will improve your health.

HEADQUARTERS:

Cor. St. Peter and Foundling Streets, MONTREAL

R. J. GALLAGHER, North-Western Agent, Winnipeg.

Holiday Retail Trade.

The holiday season just past brought a decided expansion in the demand for gift goods to the retail merchants of Winnipeg, who deal in such lines and many of them report this as having been the best season's trade in their experience. Compared with last year reports show all the way from 25 to 100 per cent increase in the volume of sales, while in the matter of prices and profits there has also been a much better showing. The stiff advances in prices on some lines, which characterized the year 1899 does not seem to have affected the demand in any way and there has been less disposition than ever before on the part of the customers to haggle over the price of anything that was really wanted. Probably the firm attitude of the merchants and their sales clerks on this subject and the generally known fact that retail prices have not as yet nearly reached the level which manufacturers' advances would justify has had something to do with this.

Several factors have assisted in making the Christmas trade what it was this year. The open fall held back the demand for winter goods to a much later date than usual and practically threw this business into the holiday weeks when many people used these goods for gift purposes. The same factor led to the employment of working people whose occupations generally cease with the advent of cold weather to a much later date than usual. In fact many of them are still regularly employed, and this has largely increased the amount of money in the hands of the people. The reduced consumption of fuel has given almost every household a bonus of the money thus saved which has been spent in

other ways, and lastly the increase of population has added to the number of people having money to spend. The only adverse influence noticed this season was the disagreeable state of the streets on several days of the holiday week, due to the absence of snow which kept many people in their houses who would otherwise have swelled the throng of shoppers and sight-seers. On the Saturday before Christmas a high wind and dust made walking particularly disagreeable and affected business to that extent. One merchant estimates that his sales would have been \$500 larger if Saturday had been a fine day.

The demand this year ran more than ever to the useful and sensible lines. Dry Goods men were particularly favored by the shoppers. Gents' furnishings, books and jewelry were also in good demand. Cheap and inferior goods were distinctly neglected. Quality was considered more than ever before and the price question was for the most part given a second place.

MINING MATTERS.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The British America Consolidated Mining Company has bought the Big Buluth and Alce mines at Salmo.

In the Silverton district of British Columbia over 10,000 feet of underground development work was done during the year 1899.

The Big Chief Mines Limited has been organized in Montreal for the purpose of developing the Big Chief group on Boulder creek. The capital of the new company is \$500,000.

A block of 55,000 shares in the Excelsior Gold Mining Company, Nelson,

valued at \$100,000, were bought a few days ago for an English speculator. The mine of the company is known as the Joker.

The difficulty between the mine owners and miners at Sandon is no nearer settlement than ever apparently. The mine owners express themselves as willing to concede the higher wages and recognition of union, but will not consent to dismiss non-union men already in their employ.

NORTH-W. STERN ONTARIO.

It has been announced that the Foley mine, in the Selkirk River district, will commence operations again at once. This mine has been shut down for over a year. It now has 1,200 or 1,500 feet of development work, a 20-stamp mill, 10-drill air compressor plant and four steam hoists. One of these has a capacity for sinking to a depth of 1,000 feet. There are numerous camp buildings, a steamboat, docks, tramways, shaft houses and even a townsite and a private general store on the location. The new company is capitalized for £600,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Witwatersrand, according to Hammond's report to the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, Limited, produced in 1898 gold to the value of £15,741,376, being about 25.12 per cent of the total product of the world. If there had been no interruption to mining operations during the year 1899, the output would have exceeded £20,000,000. The vast yield has been attained by continuous rapid increase since 1857, in which year gold to the value of £80,397 was produced. The entire yield since the inception of mining has been £76,720,000.