

G. F. & J. GALT.

TEAS, SUGARS. WINES, LIQUORS and GENERAL GROCERIES CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Reciprocity in Minnesota.

"Minneapolis has been the first city to take any active steps towards securing reciprocity with Canada," says the Commercial Bulletin of that city. "The meeting held last week for the purpose of agitating the subject aroused much interest in the matter, and a committee on ways and means was appointed. The first work of this committee will be the raising of a \$500 fund to be used in familiarizing the people with the subject by means of pamphlets, and addresses by competent speakers. Mr. Meagher explained that it was proposed to work in unison with the Canadian reciprocity leagues in order to secure the concerted action of the legislative bodies of the United States and Canada. Manitoba will be with Minnesota in any move for a reasonable trade policy between the two countries. Free trade, pure and simple, or free trade in natural products, would suit Manitoba, but any commercial union compact, which would restrict our trade relationship with other countries, or bring Canada into a tariff combination with the United States would certainly prove obnoxious to this country. If the Minneapolis people are working on the latter lines, we are not with them.

Progressive Portage.

The Review, of Portage la Prairie, Man., tells of the progress of that town during 1890 as follows:

In reviewing the business of the past year and making a general comparison of its items with the year previous we find ourselves in a very satisfactory condition and it may not be altogether uninteresting to give a short synopsis of the details referred to in the different branches of trade represented in this town.

Our local meat dealers report an increase of business for 1890 over 1889 but the receipts have been very small in proportion to the turn over, and they still find that there is a lot of collecting to be done. Mutton has been far scarcer this year than during the previous one, and the demand in some cases has been beyond the supply, as most of the local producers have failed in their interests along that line. The quality of beef has been better

than last year and pork has been sold at higher prices, but our butchers are looking forward to encouragement and feel that their movement has been decidedly on the progressive side of the circle during 1890.

There is a number of interesting facts connected with the telephone and its progress since its management passed into the hands of N. F. Snider. In January 1886 when he first took charge of its interests those were 29 subscribers and during the succeeding twelve months than number was increased to 41; from 87 to 88 another addition of 7 phones was made and again increased to 77. In the year 1889 there were just 99 subscribers and during the following twelve months a wonderful move was made, and the present finds 142 subscribers on the telephone list. The compay's poles if placed in a straight line at their present distances of six miles and upon them is strung over 65 miles of wire. The average amount of calls per day at the central is 950 which keers one person in constant attendance.

The provision dealers speak very satisfactorily of the past year's trade in comparison with the previous trade, and express satisfaction at the decided increase in the turn over of 1890 with that of 1889. Money, they say was more plentiful with them until the fall of the year when farmers saw where they stood and at once curtailed expenses, and then nothing was purchased that could be dispensed with. The Xmas purchases were also very carefully made and the slight tendency to liberal dealing which was an epoch of the Christmas of 1889, was an absentee for 1890, goods were also dearer and the profits of the retail man were smaller but most of the grocers are looking toward a spring revival trade.

The move in boots and shoes has been good and the trade brisker for 1890 than the year previous, some of the merchants teil us that they have done fully one third more trade and all anticipate a boom for 1891.

Drugs have been less in demand for 1890 and the fact is chiefly owing to the absence of sickness in our midst. La Grippe has kept aloof and the measles have not returned with such force so that drugs have not furnished such a return for 1890 as 1889.

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