GLAD HE SPOKE IN MEETING.

If the efforts of revivalists always resulted as did these of a man in a western town, merchants could afford to contribute liberally to secure their services. It is stated that this revivalist preached a powerful discourse upon personal integ rity, and urged upon all Christians the duty of debt paying. Delinquents were handled without gloves, and to clinch matters at the close of the discourse, he asked all who paid their debts to stand up. The congregation almost to a man rose. After they were seated, the preacher invited all those who did not pay their debts to stand, and up rose one solitary, folorn individual. Hesitatingly he got upon his feet, and in faltering tones explained that he found himself in the ranks of the poor-pay class, but unwillingly. He could not help himself, as he was the owner of a local grocery and could not pay up, as every member of the congregation owed him for groceries. It is said that money poured into the grocery store next morning in a lively manner, and the grocer is glad he went to church and spoke in meeting.

A CASE OF HARDSHIP.

A peculiar incident of the visit of smallpox to Manitoba is to be found in the case of the late S. Sills, a storekeeper at Morden, Manitoba, who recently died from the dreaded disease. A most interesting (to business men) question has arisen—one which may incidentally find its way into the courts for settlement. The Provincial Government immediately stepped in, and declaring that his whole stock was infected, ordered it to be burnt, which was done. Now, says an exchange the question has arisen, who pays for the burnt goods? The unfortunate man was quite solvent, and even prosperous, his stock being worth $9,000, and good book debts another $3,000 making total assets of $12,000, while his liabilities were only $1,500. Not only has the stock itself been entirely destroyed, but his business books were also burnt; thus the record of his outstanding debts is lost, and it will be difficult, if not impossible, to recover them. The creditors naturally object to seeing the assets, which would have more than satisfied their claims, swept away, and in such a way that they bear the whole taxation of a public good. But even more sad and deserving of sympathy is the case of the man's widow, who, in addition to being suddenly deprived of the breadwinner, sees her little property swept ruthlessly away, while she herself has to pay for a public benefit. The case has been laid, so it is stated, before the Provincial Government, but they decline to recoup the widow or the creditors for the destroyed goods, claiming that as the goods were infected, they were unsalable, and therefore valueless. But this is not correct with a good proportion of the stock, as both dry goods and books could have been effectively fumigated and disinfected, at a comparatively small cost. If the action of the Government rests on grounds of public welfare, then the public ought to pay the costs. It almost seems as if the action of the Government was illegal, as all that is generally permitted is the right to insist upon street fumigation. Of course such a high-handed proceeding may do in a sparsely peopled district, but it would hardly be tolerated in a large city. The Manitoba Government will probably find it wise to act generously in such a case, and assume the cost of an action which may be defensible on the ground of public safety, but which has left a widow in poverty, and wiped out the claims of creditors far away from the deceased's abode.

DANGEROUS CHAMPAGNE.

The well known epicurean taste of the French people seems to have driven some of them to their wits' end in order to satisfy the appetite in an inexpensive manner. In 1862 a Frenchman invented and obtained a patent on a process for making sparkling wine or champagne at a price within the reach of all. His process is to take a bottle of ordinary still wine and pour into it a certain quantity of "Dutch bronze powder." The waiter then is instructed to shake the bottle violently before serving it to the customer. This, the inventor says, "will disturb the brilliant particles of powder, causing them to circulate through the wine, giving it the appearance of a high grade sparkling wine." Dutch bronze is chemically known as bimuriate of stannan, and is poisonous. It is that substance in mauve ink which so quickly eats away a steel pen.

TRADE WITH JAMAICA.

The Montreal *Trade Bulletin* says: It would seem that a permanent trade between Montreal and Jamaica has been established, notwithstanding the many drawbacks encountered by the promoters of this venture. The steamer "America" which arrived here last week from Kingston, Jamaica, had a mixed cargo of fruit and sugar, the former comprising 9,000 bunches of bananas, 500 bags of cocoanuts, 150 bushels and 200 boxes oranges, and the latter 600 barrels. The steamer returns to Kingston with a full cargo, freight having been refused which shows that the trade between the two ports has been established upon a reciprocal basis. The "Ameri a" will make one more trip to this port, after which she will run between Kingston and Boston, reshipping the goods at the latter port for Montreal. Next season it is expected that one or more extra steamers will be put on this line, as one of the promoters is now in England making arrangements for the building of a new steamer for this special trade, which will be one of the fastest boats engaged in the West India carrying business. A large direct business is expected in Jamaica oranges and cocoanuts which hitherto have been done through American agents, and the outlook for this new trade is quite encouraging. The "America" takes out to Jamaica on her present trip a large quantity of flour and deals and will take on 2,000 lbs. of fish at Halifax.

The Minnesota World's Fair auxiliary has voted to have the fair kept open on Sunday.

TEN YEARS OF ELECTRICITY.

Just ten years ago—August, 1882—says *Electricity*, the first central station for commercial incandescent lighting was established, and arc lighting was beginning to assume its present form, yet a single decade has seen the use of electric light and power advance from the experimental stages to the very front ranks of industrial enterprises. The most recent estimate of the capital invested in the electrical industries in the United States is $700,000,000, and of this amount $350,000,000 represents the proportion which electric lighting and power have attained; $100,000,000 is also the estimated investment in electrical supplies, of which the electric lighting and railway appliances constitute a large proportion. The influence which the Edison and Thomson-Houston Companies exerted in the development of the electrical industry will be further appreciated if we consider the slow progress made in this branch of science previous to the time of their organization. The telegraph was at that time almost the only important application to which electricity had been adapted, and although electric lighting by means of the voltaic arc had been accomplished by Sir Humphry Davy as early as 1810, by means of a battery of 3,000 cells, it was not until 1868, when Dr. Siemens announced his invention of the self-exciting dynamo, that any material progress toward the science of electric lighting was made. At the Paris exhibition of 1878, the system of electric lighting invented by Jablochoff, by means of which several of the streets of Paris were lighted by electricity, proved an incentive to inventors, which resulted in the production of the modern type of arc lamp, which was in a comporatively experimental stage at the time of the organization of the American Electric Company of New Britain. The incandescent lamp had received less attention at the hands of scientists than the arc lamp when Edison announced his invention. The division of the electric current into small units had been a longstanding problem before the scientists of that day, but all the experiments previous to Edison's invention had been in the direction of a filament of low resistance, which obviously required a prohibitive amount of copper to conduct the current for a few lamps, even over short distances. The invention of a high resistance filament marked the turning point in the history of incandescent electric lighting. Thus we see the whole of this great industry has practically come into existence within a single decade. The men who have been making history at such a rapid rate have been so engrossed with the present and the immediate future that they have paid little attention to the preservation of records, etc., that would not only be of interest, but of great practical value to the great army of young men who have taken up the science of electrics as a field for their life work. In the work on the Richmond road, experiments were made with, perhaps, 75 different designs for a trolley. No memoranda or photographs were preserved, and not even Mr. Sprague himself can tell to day just what a half-dozen of them were. This is only one instance out of many where data have been irrecoverably lost.