

colonization and all kinds of merchantile pursuits.

We are of the opinion, that in the original contract with the Canada Pacific this monopoly clause was never intended to apply to Manitoba, and that when the Dominion Government find that the people of that Province won't stand it, they will find some plausible way of getting around it, and giving the company something else in its place. In our opinion, the sooner this takes place the better for Canada, and our prospects in the North-west. "We can't check Manitoba," neither should we try.

### Selected Matter.

#### A SIMPLE BAROMETER.

A correspondent of *The English Mechanic* thus describes a simple barometer. Take a glass tube about 7 in. long, and about  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. internal diameter, and draw out one end before the blowpipe to a point, leaving a very small orifice, about  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch diameter. This end of the tube should not be quite sharp, but somewhat rounded. A cork is prepared to fit tightly the wide end of the tube, and if the cork is made of cork, its sides and upper ends should be greased or coated with paraffine, the lower end being left uncoated. A rubber cork would answer better. The tube should now be about half filled with distilled water, although the exact height is of no consequence, and the cork firmly inserted. The tube should be suspended with the point downward near the window, and it should never be shaken. When the barometric pressure is low, indicating rain, a drop of water will appear at the orifice, and hang to the lower end of the tube. When the barometric pressure rises, the drop will disappear, and a bubble of air may sometimes be seen in the act of entering by the narrow opening. If more than one drop is extruded, of course they will fall, but one drop will always remain suspended.

I have had a tube of this description hanging in my laboratory, says the writer, for two years, and I find its indications for rain and dry weather most unerring. The only error arises from extremely sudden rise of temperature, which will sometimes force a drop of water out by expansion, although the barometric pressure is high; but in that

case the drop soon dries up, in the other case it hangs persistently, and will in many instances indicate the approach of rain thirty hours before the appearance of the storm. Before rain the drop does not dry up, because then the atmosphere is saturated with moisture. The sensitiveness of this weather-glass depends upon the difference of tension between the surrounding atmosphere, and the air within the tube, the latter expanding or contracting according as the barometric pressure is low or high.

#### ATTRACTIVE STORES AND KEEPING TRADE.

The first requisite, though by no means the only one to render a store attractive, is to have a good supply of daylight. It is impossible to show goods to an advantage in a dark, dingy place, even were it possible at all times to ascertain if the proper measure of weight is given, or the labels on shelf goods properly deciphered. Nothing will go further, apart from polite and ready attention, to draw new customers, or keep old ones, than a well-lighted, orderly kept store. It is not absolutely necessary that the front windows should contain simply one or two large panes of glass, but they should certainly be as large as possible, irrespective of the number of panes, so as not only to give good and sufficient light, but that articles may be displayed in them to good account. The store fixtures need not be of an expensive nature, but should be of a suitable kind; and the shelves ought to conform in size to the class of goods they are meant to hold. The door, the outside of the counter, and the edges of the shelves should be painted in a uniform, bright, but not gaudy, color.

Windows ought to be kept thoroughly clean at all times, tastily dressed, and the articles displayed therein changed at least once a week, if not oftener, if convenience will allow. If the front of the store is made use of to show certain classes of goods, nothing but the very best should be permitted to appear, and great care should be taken in their arrangement, as many people naturally look upon this as an index to the interior. Every kind of goods should have a special place allotted to keep them, so that they can always be found there when wanted. When serving customers

with goods do not, on any account, allow the remainder of those shown if any, to crowd the counter, but return them immediately thereafter to the drawers or shelves from which they were taken. This practice, if strictly adhered to, will not only prevent confusion, but the occurrence of any unpleasant circumstance. In the evenings the windows and inside of the store should be illuminated as bright as possible. To do otherwise, for sake of economy, is, to say at least parsimonious, and it would be far less damaging to the business to close the store door at an early hour than to keep it open, but dimly lighted.

Stock should never be allowed to run low, especially in staple goods: for, should you happen to run out of a particular kind, the chances are ten to one that that article will be the very one most often and first called for. This may probably result in some good customers finding their way to your neighbor's store, where, if they get their wants supplied on the first visit, they may forget to find their way back.—*New York Review*.

#### BANKRUPTCY LAWS.

Few subjects have been found so difficult of legislative settlement as that of the administration of insolvent estates. This has been the experience not only of England, United States and Canada, but of all civilized countries. What has increased this difficulty has been that nearly all the laws enacted on the subject have had a double object. They aimed at the equitable distribution of the debtor's assets, and at the same time made provision in one form or other for his discharge from his liabilities. There is evidently no absolutely necessary connection between these two matters, and it is believed that a very great deal of the difficulty experienced in the practical working of such laws is due to their being coupled together.

In the United States the General Bankruptcy law was repealed some years ago, and since that time there has been no law for the discharge of bankrupt traders from their debts. As to the administration of their estates each State has been left to enact its own law. The result is the greatest diversity in the rules of law existing in the different States. The evils of this condition of things have long been a