

EDITORIAL NOTES.

LAST year the Ontario Government established a binder twine factory in connection with the Central Prison at Toronto, but it does not appear to have been a very profitable venture. The prison authorities have admitted that they made a loss the first year of \$10,000 and they have further admitted that they cannot compete with the regular factories in the manufacture of twine. That is, that with prison labor and no wages to pay, they cannot make twine any cheaper than the regular manufacturers, who are giving profitable employment to a large number of citizens. We wish to call the attention of the farmers of the west to this fact. There has been a considerable demand for free binder twine in the West. Binder twine is one of the things regarding which there has been a popular demand for the removal of the duty. From these facts it would appear that there has not been a great margin upon twine, and evidently manufacturers have not taken advantage of the duty to increase the price. When the regular manufacturers have been selling twine cheaper than the government could manufacture it with prison labor and no wages to pay, it seems conclusive evidence that the farmers have been getting twine at very low prices, in proportion to cost. This then being the case, would indicate further that the duty does not increase the price of twine, and therefore the duty is not a drawback to the farmer. The more manufacturing we can have done at home, the better it is for the farmers. A duty which keeps out foreign goods and leads to the manufacture of the goods at home, without increasing their cost, is a direct gain to the farmers, as the employment of an industrial population provides a market for the farmers' produce. Why then agitate for the removal of this duty? After all, there is no market of so much value to the farmer as the home market. Export markets are necessary for surplus produce, but the home market is always the more profitable, and the portion of the farmers' produce sold at home brings a greater proportionate return than what has to be sent abroad. This can be illustrated in the case of wheat. Manitoba hard wheat has been selling during the past winter and spring for milling purposes both here and in Eastern Canada at from ten to twenty cents per bushel above export values. In other words, the Manitoba farmer has obtained ten to twenty cents more for his wheat for home consumption than he could have got for it in England. This shows the value of the home market to the farmer, and what is true of wheat is true of about everything else the farmer has to sell. In fact, some classes of produce cannot be exported at all, and would be valueless except for the home market. It is sometimes asserted by unthinking persons that the factories of Eastern Canada are of no benefit to the western farmers. This is, of course, a very unreasonable assertion. These factories give employment to a large number of men, who make up the home market for the farmers' produce. As we have already shown, Manitoba farmers get a much better price for their wheat in Eastern Canada than they can get for it in any foreign country. These factories, which it has been said are of no benefit, are the principal factors in producing this market for Manitoba wheat. When the farmer buys Canadian-made binder twine, or farm implements, or any other article of home manufacture, he has the satisfaction of knowing that he is indirectly paying for these articles in trade. What amounts to the same thing, he sells bread and meat and vegetables to the home industrial population from whom he buys his implements, clothing and other requirements. This is a fair exchange, and is a good reason why the farmer, above all others, is interested in having a large industrial population at home. It also shows why the farmer should buy home-manufactured, in preference to foreign-made, goods. The farmer, as we have

shown, feeds the man who makes the home goods. On the other hand, he receives no such benefit from goods made abroad. To carry out this reasoning to its proper conclusion, it is evident that those who give a preference to foreign goods are doing what they can to destroy their own market and build up a market for the benefit of the farmers of some other country. As the home market is by far the more profitable market for the farmer to sell in, it is in his interest to encourage the building up of the home market by every means in his power, and this home market depends mainly upon manufacturing.

THE saying that figures won't lie, must have been invented before political partizanship became the institution that it is to-day. The way figures can be manipulated to serve party purposes, is something astonishing. There is nothing which can be made to lie to better advantage than figures, for they have the semblance of truth, and therefore make the lie appear more real. The more truthful a false assertion may appear, the greater is the lie contained therein. When figures are so manipulated

as to present a case in a false light, they are the most deceptive of any deception which can be practiced. Unprincipled politicians understand well the art of manipulating figures and making them lie to the best advantage to suit their own ends, knowing, as they do, that there is no lie so readily absorbed as the statistical lie. This has been exemplified in the trade returns. The other day we picked up a paper and noticed an article headed as follows: "Canada's Declining Trade, Gradual Falling off of the Commerce of the Country." The article went on to show by the aid of figures, deftly manipulated, that the country was going to wreck as fast as the iniquitous policy of the government could drive it. The very next paper taken up—which happened to be on the opposite side of politics, contained an article headed thus: "Wonderful Expansion of our Trade. Returns Show a Most Gratifying and Prosperous Condition." The article which followed showed the country to be enjoying a veritable wave of prosperity. Striking upon these two articles one just after perusing the other, each showing exactly the opposite condition, though based on the same facts, was enough to provoke a smile, were it not for the serious nature of the business. There is a

