

they immediately returned by rail, without contract, as they had a right to do, and shipped on the vessels for which they were originally engaged. The law was made at the request of the labor element of the United States, which prohibits the immigration into that country of any persons under contract who may be skilled in any trade. But there is no law there prohibiting the immigration of those who are entirely ignorant of any trade. This Yankee cuteness is very much like a boom-erang.

WHEN Mrs. Barry, the lecturer, was in this city a couple of weeks ago, telling the women folks how downtrodden and abused they were, and pointing to "organization" as the panacea for their ills, we respectfully drew her attention to a woman in Hamilton who, with her children, were suffering because of the tyranny of labor organization there. Mrs. Barry became very indignant that we should invite her to investigate the matter; and while vehemently denying the facts in the case, distributed a quantity of "withering contempt" and "bitter sarcasm" towards the writer of the invitation that was supposed to make the atmosphere look blue, and emit a sulphurous odor. During the ebullition of her righteous wrath she appointed a strong committee to still further investigate the matter, and the report of that committee consists chiefly in a tirade of vulgarity, brutal abuse and blackguardism, rounded off with threats of personal violence. We are sorry that Mrs. Barry fell into such company while in Toronto.

THE farmers in the Northwestern States are turning their attention from the cultivation of wheat, and will, this season, many of them, seed to other crops. For several years the wheat crops there have not been abundant, the price of the article has been steadily declining; and the farmers are learning that the land can be put to a more profitable use than in producing a grain which has been brought by the competition of cheap labor in India to a point where no profit exists in the business. They are discovering that the farmers in other parts of the country, particularly in those States that are eminent for their manufacturing industries, are fast becoming rich by producing crops that are in strong and steady demand in manufacturing centres. In other words, they have learned that their salvation lies in the diversity of their crops and their proximity to consuming markets. In Canada the exportation of farm products does not keep pace with the growth of the country, which is accounted for by the fact that manufacturing establishments are springing up in about every town and village in the land, and that the neighboring farmers find ready and remunerative sale at home for nearly all they can raise.

OUR esteemed contemporary, the *Trader*, speaking of the anti-bonus law, says:—"If two-thirds of the ratepayers in any municipality think it a good stroke of business to pay a factory to locate in their town, why should they be barred from doing so? It may be a good speculation or it may not, but however the venture turns out, they should certainly have the right to pronounce upon it themselves." The *Trader* does not distinguish between municipal rights and personal rights. If two-thirds of the ratepayers, or any other number of them, or

of any other citizens, think it a good stroke of business to bonus a factory, they most assuredly have the "right" to do so, regardless of any anti-bonus law; for they have the privilege of spending their own money as they please. But they possess no inherent right to vote away the money of the entire municipality, raised by taxes, for any such purpose; and to do so is the grossest communism. The paving of a street or the building of a highway bridge is for the public good, and the whole body of citizens have equal use of and benefit from them; but they have not such benefit from a bonused factory. The public benefit from such factory is only incidental and remote; the direct benefit is to those who own it.

MESSRS. THEO. H. EATON & SON, Detroit, Mich., have sent us a souvenir which contains beautifully executed photographic views of many of the most prominent and interesting buildings and places in that city. Accompanying the souvenir was a letter from Messrs. Eaton in which they say:—"We know of no better way of beginning our fiftieth year of consecutive business than by sending a cheque in payment in advance for one year for our advertisement in the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER. As this is the thirty-ninth year without removal in our present location, we have mailed you, with our compliments, 'A Souvenir of Detroit,' which contains a photo lithograph of the 'Old Dye Works Warehouse, established in 1838.' To find a business house who have carried on for thirty-nine years an active, prosperous business in one particular building, without fire accident, in this era of active, intelligent and unscrupulous competition, is, we imagine, unusual even in Canada, where you seem to have inherited so many good old English ideas and customs." The circumstance is indeed remarkable, and we offer our warmest congratulations. Messrs. Eaton are among the oldest patrons of this journal, and their kind words and act concerning us are exceedingly pleasant and refreshing.

THE recent decision in the United States Circuit Courts in Iowa, affecting the validity of what are known as the Washburn & Moen barb-wire patents, has had the effect of starting up quite a large number of barb-wire factories which decline to pay any royalty to the monopoly. Appeal has been taken to the Supreme Court of the United States, but the life of these patents has nearly run out, and it is likely that they will have expired by limitation before an opinion regarding them will be handed down. In view of this situation, the Washburn & Moen monopoly have reduced the royalty to licensees from fifteen cents per hundred pounds—\$3 a ton—to five cents per hundred, or \$1 a ton, on all wire made. At the time the Iowa decision was made there were but very few "moonshine," or unlicensed factories in existence, but there were a large number which were operating under license; and to prevent trouble with these, the monopoly granted the reduction of 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. alluded to. This concession, however, did not prevent some of the licensees from making wire, selling out their factories ostensibly to new companies, who are now manufacturing without license. Meanwhile the price of barb wire in the United States is very close to—sometimes less than—the cost of production. Canadian manufacturers of barb wire should study the situation.