

The Journal of Commerce

MONTREAL, CANADA

VOL. XLVIII, No. 22

GARDENVALE, P. Que., Tuesday, June 1, 1920

Price 10 CENTS

The Journal of Commerce

Devoted to

CANADIAN INDUSTRY, COMMERCE
AND FINANCE

Published every Tuesday morning by the
Journal of Commerce Publishing
Company, Limited.

Editorial and Advertising Offices, Room 205,
Drummond Building, St. Catherine and Peel
Streets, Montreal. Telephone: Uptown 7773.
Toronto Office: 1402 C.P.R. Bldg., Toronto. Tele-
phone: Adelaide 3310.

Vancouver Office: 507 Board of Trade Bldg., Van-
couver.

Printed at the Garden City Press, Ste. Anne de
Bellevue, Que. Telephone: 165 St. Anne's.

HON. W. S. FIELDING,
President and Editor-in-Chief.

B. K. SANDWELL,
Managing Editor.

Subscription price, \$3.00 a year
Advertising rates on application.

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Ireland and the Philippines

Mr. Horatio Bottomley, M.P., in his London journal, continues to rail at the United States, making the mistake of holding the whole nation responsible for the folly of a comparatively few people. Referring to the receptions accorded in some quarters to Mr. de Valera, the alleged President of the alleged Irish Republic, Mr. Bottomley in a very angry article says:

"I wonder what would be said if some ardent Royalist in England inaugurated a campaign for the abolition of the American Republic or started a national subscription for the purpose of financing the Filipinos to throw off the American yoke. What a note Mr. Wilson would send us and how indignantly the United States Senate would declare it an 'unfriendly act.' "

What would be said by most sensible people in America would be that the Royalist mentioned was doing a very silly thing; but there is no good reason for concluding that President Wilson or the United States Senate would complain, or indeed take any notice of the folly. There is nothing in the English law to prevent anybody doing the foolish thing suggested, just as there is nothing in the law of the United States to prevent Valera's friends doing it. If the Filipinos see fit to send a delegation to London to advocate the independence of their country they will find some cranks to welcome them. The freedom of Hyde Park soap boxes will be extended to them. It is even conceivable that some town council, moved to sympathy by pathetic tales of Filipino sufferings under American rule, might be induced to give the delegates the municipal glad hand. To treat such manifestations as evidence that the English people are hostile to the American Republic would be quite as foolish as to suppose that the Valera receptions in the States represent the opinion of the American nation. It is probable that neither the President nor any other responsible American authority would treat the matter seriously. Some excitable member of the Bottomley stamp in the American Senate might grow angry and denounce the proceedings as evidence of America's desire to play an unfriendly part. But responsible Americans would laugh at

the matter, just as responsible British citizens now laugh at the de Valera folly in the States.

The freedom of which both England and America boast includes liberty to every citizen to speak his mind on nearly every subject. All liberty should be exercised with moderation and discretion. The British public seem to appreciate this rather more than the American public. A foolish attack in England on America is promptly condemned by nearly the whole British press. A similar attack in America on England is usually condemned by the most respectable American journals, but it is tolerated if not endorsed by many newspapers and by many public men.

The restraint manifested in England in such matters certainly is more general and more emphatic than in America, and much to the credit of the English. But are the conditions in the two countries the same? Are there not temptations to folly in the United States that are not found in England? If there were a large anti-American vote in England—a large vote of men and women who inherited a feeling of hostility to American institutions as the Irish in the United States have inherited hostility to British institutions—would not the English politicians of the meaner kind be found catering to that vote, just as some of the American politicians are now striving to catch the Irish vote in the States by expressing sympathy with the Sinn Fein section of Irishmen?

Immediate Taxation

La Presse raises a question as to the legality of the action of the Government at Ottawa in putting the new taxes into immediate effect. It points out, correctly enough, that the taxes have so far had the approval of the Government only and claims that until they have been authorized by Parliament they cannot lawfully be imposed. Technically our French contemporary is right. The taxes are not lawful at this moment. If it were possible to raise the issue in court as the matter now stands the court would have to decide in favor of the objecting citizen. But his victory would be