

99
Interesting letter

Gerald Road
Eaton Square
GERALD ROAD
EATON SQUARE

Feb. 3. 99-

ACC. 976

Dear George,

Your interesting
letter, Jan. 23, reached
me yesterday.

My own aims and
wishes are, I need hardly
say, identical with yours,
& I agree with much that
you say. All the same
it seems useless to shut
one's eyes to the facts of the
case. It is not a question
of "wanting" or "consenting"

2, but of being able to
prevent. Did the South
want to be crushed &
ruined. Did Mexico want
to be robbed of half its
territory, or do the Philippines
& Cuba want today to be
enslaved and despoiled
by American trusts?

Unfortunately too there are
other means besides force,
which are often employed
with fatal results. Take e.g.
the union of Ireland with
this country a hundred years
ago, or the inclusion of Nova
Scotia in the Federation.

3, Today as you know
the American Gov^t is
using \$300,000,000, specially voted
for the purpose, to bribe &
buy the Filipino leaders
after which a little lying
about the sentiments of the
people is all that is needed.
Or apart from such direct
means, suppose the American
Gov^t quietly bought up CRR
Stock, & put their own creatures
on the board of directors, as
this country did with the Suez
Canal. What is there to
prevent such things happening?
This country is a broken

their own securities, it remains to be seen what next they will condescend to accept.

Of course this is the pessimist view.

Lord Farrer & other recognized authorities tell us (à la Cobden) that "it is our imports which enrich us".

Probably no one but Lord F., & a few similar faddists now believe this, yet it is upon this not that the country has been living & shaping its com^l-policy for

half a century. Can
one wonder that the
results which we see
today are not altogether
satisfactory - of course English
people as a whole know nothing
of history & care nothing for
explanations of past or predic-
tions of future events. They live
for the day, regard only two
things, - success, & accom-
plished facts.

I trust in your next, ^{or when time allows} you
will be able to show me how
wrong I am in all these
sinister views,

Yours sincerely,
Robertine

P.S.

Can't quite agree
as to popular Gov't's being
so helpless in matters of
defense. Other countries
utilize occasions as they
arise & get efficient results.
At the Venezuela time the Gov't
might have reorganized the
militia. Instead they long
had a dozen guns.

So they might have utilized
the Klondike business
as an excuse for
doubling the police force.

Instead of which they
reduce it.

One can only judge
Gov^{ts} & individuals by
their acts.

It doesn't look as if either
the past or present Gov^{ts}
wanted any apparent
defence.

R.
—