

The "LET YOUR HAIR DOWN" Column

A BUSINESS man who was a close friend of the late President Manuel Roxas, told us after the President's death that the latter had asked him on three different occasions to check, unofficially, on statements made editorially in this *Journal*, and that each time he has reported to the President that the statements made were correct.

A letter from a new subscriber, Goh Hock Siew, of the Ban Hin Lee Bank, Ltd., Penang, Straits Settlements, who has now ordered that his copies of the *Journal* be sent by air-mail, read in part as follows:

"I have perused your January and February issues and these are expertly compiled to cover all trades and industries and I have scarcely come across such a comprehensive *Journal* relating to commerce. With my compliments..."

We thank Banker Goh for his appreciative words, though we must say that we do not, alas, cover all trades and industries, even those of the Philippines. We haven't been able to get column editors for a number of important industries and trades, and we hereby invite any interested person who would consider editing a column which he sees is missing, to get into touch with the editor.

The Krivenko case is arousing considerable question in the United States, as is indicated in the following letter received from the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (New York):

"I have read in the Manila *Bulletin* at various times articles concerning the ruling of the Supreme Court of the Philippines in the Krivenko case which bars aliens from acquiring residential lands in the Philippines.

"I have been asked by one of our Directors to place this item on our agenda for discussion at the next Directors Meeting, and I have no information on which to base a report.

"Would you mind informing me by air-mail whether or not this ruling applies to Americans, both individuals and corporations, and specifically state whether American nationals can purchase lands, for residential and/or commercial purposes. If Americans are prohibited from doing so, a copy of the ruling would be appreciated, but may be forwarded at your convenience.

"Yours very truly,
"J. F. Daye
Secretary."

THE editor sometime ago received a brief letter from Mrs. Mark L. Ireland, wife of Colonel Ireland, U. S. Army. When in the Philippines some years before the war, Mrs. Ireland wrote a very interesting series of articles for the *Philippine Magazine* on the history of the old Spanish fortifications of the Walled City of Manila, illustrated with numerous maps and photographs. Now she asks: "Has anyone taken any photographs of the destruction of the Walled City? Who could write the last chapter?" It would be very much worthwhile if someone who takes an interest in the general subject would undertake to write a description of just what parts of the fine old walls, gates, bastions, and ravelins have been destroyed and what parts remain standing. Mrs. Ireland wrote also:

"Since Colonel Ireland retired from his War Production service with General Motors, — in Flint, Michigan, we have been dividing our time between Michigan and Virginia. . . The past summer I made a grand tour of museums and art galleries in a determined search for material to use for a writing project on the subject of Moro decorative art. I now have the necessary data,

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with photographs and drawings, to do a fairly good job of tracing origins. I have made a serious study of it and feel that I really have blazed a trail in art research. Will tell you more when I have gotten further along. I have used the articles and illustrations you gave me and have found much more besides. Could you find out if the album of student art compiled by Prof. Gilbert Perez for the Treasure-Island Fair in San Francisco, 19 9, was salvaged? If so, is it in the United States or Manila? If it is available for study, whom could I write to obtain photographs or copies of designs? My address is 108 Villa Road, Hilton Village, Virginia, U.S.A."

At the risk of boring the readers of this sprightly column, we reproduce another missive from the editor's calumnious "Admirer":*

"Wha-sa-matter, pal? Have you run foul of your board of directors? Don't you agree with them any more, or they with you? Must make it hard for you. Such a pity! I draw this happy conclusion because of that article of yours on the Krivenko case, which I saw in the *Manila Chronicle*. I would have thought you would have had that in the *Journal* which you so nobly edit. But no. Your devoted readers who did not happen to see that article in the *Chronicle*, missed it. But what's the difference? For once, I find myself agreeing with a board of directors, probably not for the same reasons. Not that I think so much of the Constitution or of our Supreme Court, but I do have a feeling about the land, though like millions of others I don't own a square inch of it. If I had my way, I would dispossess not only all foreigners but all the present possessors. I would have the land owned in common, everything owned in common. My own contribution, you might suppose, would be negligible, and that would be true, I am proud to say. I have nothing but my brains which I employ most pleasantly in reading everything I can get hold of and in writing anonymous letters, like this one. My muscle I employ in pounding a typewriter for a capitalist. I admit I am chained. Why don't you try to find out who I am so you can get me fired? Instead, you only print some of the stuff I send you, trying to get under that thick hide of yours. May be you think I am a fool, eh,—ridiculous, will convict myself? Maybe I am half-baked, as you have more than once intimated. Maybe I am crazy, or on the way. I do get awful headaches, trying to understand, and hating everything and everyone. I'm guying you. Yeah, I'm crazy like a fox. Wait until I get to be a columnist, or an editor even. You have said that I can write 'after a fashion'. When I am in an editorial 'chair', I will tell 'em! I will tell people the truth,— that is, as I see it, because who can be certain of the truth? Now I am unknown. I'd bet you aren't even sure I am a Filipino. I may have been lying about that job of mine. And I may have been associating with G.I.s and picking up some of their slang. How do you know?"

"Your faithful Admirer."

Well, the editor can assure this well-wisher that he hasn't had the slightest

*The editor — mistakenly, we think — insists that these letters are of use. He is apparently coming to view the squit who writes them as one of his leading contributors! We ask you.

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misunderstanding with the members of the board of the Chamber. He did write the article on the Krivenko case for the *Journal*, but several board members thought that it might arouse some resentment and judged it better not to publish it in the *Journal*. The final decision was entirely up to the responsible members of the board, the editor felt, because the *Journal* is the organ of the Chamber and its policies and contents are rightly determined by them. It is not the editor's personal organ. The directors had no objection to the editor seeking publication of the article in another medium. Naturally, they do not control his personal opinions. As a matter of fact, it was not that anyone differed with the editor as to his statements, but only as to the advisability of publication in the *Journal*.

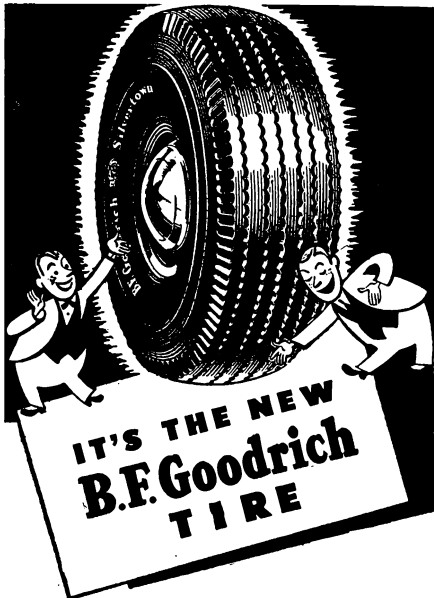
As for the other ideas of "Admirer", we are already doing all we can, through the columns of the *Journal*, to set such "thinkers" as he is right. "Admirer" is interesting as a specimen of a much-confused young man. More "common sense" and a better integrated course of reading might help him. Meanwhile, he may rest assured that the editor has the slightest desire to further identify him or to seek a closer acquaintance.

Here's a letter from an ambitious office boy who wants to start a business of his own, and how!

"Dear Mr. Editor,

"I don't see why you print that Admirer's letters. He seems to hate you and I don't know why. What can you have done to him? My boss takes the *Journal* and I read it after he gets through with it. I ask his permission, of course, and he permits. He sees I earnestly want to improve myself. I have to put them back in the file, though, so I can't keep them. I'd like to ask you whether you could not send me a copy free every month, but I won't because then I would have to give my name and address and I want to ask you to answer a question for me without anyone (except me) knowing who asked it.

"I — the unknown — ask this: Why does our government allow all sorts of new shops, kiosks, and so forth to be built in some of the public plazas in the walled city near where I work? The papers and government officials are talking all the time about squatters, but here are some very fancy squatters and no one apparently has said them neigh [sic]. What I want to know is, — if they can, why shouldn't I pick out a nice lot for myself and start up some sort of business of my own? If I only had a little money, dear Mr. Editor. Couldn't you ask Mr. Hall and Mr. Ewing to be a little more plain in their columns and tell their readers just what stock to buy? Then, maybe, I and my friends could buy some stock between us and get money enough to become entrepreneurs. We could take a piece of land, near Malacañan, where plenty of important people go and put up a nice stall to sell sandwiches and soft-drinks. My sister is willing to be the sales-girl. We could put all our money in the building and in the stock-in-trade. The land would be



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free. I know, Mr. Editor, that you are always ready to do what you can to help a young man get along. So please talk to Mr. Hall & Mr. Ewing, and also advise, in your next column, whether it would be all right for us to pick out a site for a small business near one of the Malacañan Gates. I am not letting anyone know the exact spot we have in mind. Could they do anything to us? There are plenty of very poor huts right on Aviles Street within a block of the Malacañan grounds.

"X"

We regret to say that we can't advise young "X" and his sister to put up a refreshment stand near a Malacañan gate without permission and we are pretty sure that permission would not be granted if they asked it. There isn't much use in asking Messrs. Hall and Ewing to do what "X" asks because we are sure those two gentlemen are doing the best they can as it is. We have a practical suggestion for "X", however. Let him do a little "field work" and try to find out from the squatters he mentions, themselves, how they came to settle where they did. The *Journal* might pay "X" a little something if he would pass the information on to us.

We take the liberty to commend the *Evening News* on its trenchant editorial, "Arbitrary and Immoral", in its May 10 issue, on the subject of government control over the sale of streptomycin, "the wonder medicine for tuberculosis", from which the Department of Health made a reputed profit of P400,000.

The editorial stated in part:

"The streptomycin incident gives cause for disillusionment with the Government. The people have reason to doubt the good sense of the Government when it makes a huge profit in a business operation involving a medicine much in demand but beyond the buying power of many, if not most, of the needy. . . A revision of the Government's policy with regard to the control of prime necessities, including drugs and medicines, should be effected with a view to keeping any official or semi-official entity from seizing on a public need as a means of raking in money."

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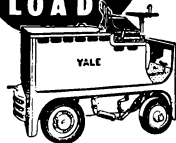
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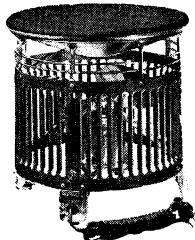
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