

THE ENGLISH MARKET

"If this country is to make the most of its opportunities it must get hold of that very large market across Channel, and the only way of doing that is by remaining within the Commonwealth."

This is the opinion expressed by Mr. Tom Flanagan who, accompanied by his wife, has been spending the past few days in Cork prior to returning to Toronto, when interviewed by our reporter.

Mr. Flanagan, a native of Kilbreedy, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, and a member of a well-known athletic family, has gathered many interesting impressions as a result of his latest visit to his native land. During his stay he had interviews with President de Valera, Mr. Cosgrave, T.D., and many other prominent men in the business, political and sporting life of the country.

In the course of the interview Mr. Flanagan said that forty-two years have elapsed since he first left Ireland and during that time he has paid ten trips home. "He had," he said, "found many improvements in the homeland, especially in regard to roads and housing conditions. There had been a very great improvement in Cork City, which he considered a very fine centre for the tourist. Limerick, too, had made a good improvement, but he thought it could have done better." Speaking generally, and as one who had a full knowledge of the requirements of the countryside, having been born and reared on the land, Mr. Flanagan observed that he thought the towns had received attention and assistance out of proportion and at the expense of the country districts.

He pointed out that if happy and prosperous conditions prevailed on the land the towns would soon be able to take care of themselves. If the people on the land fail to make a living out of the agricultural industry—and nowhere can one find better land and climatic conditions more favourable to such an industry—then no matter how many industries may be started in the towns these industries cannot succeed, for the handicap is too great. In other words, he wished to emphasise that agriculture is and must remain the primary industry of this country because of its natural resources. This brought him to the question of a market and on looking for this market he found they had one practically at their door. Mr. Flanagan then expressed the opinion given above, and added that he thought that anything the Canadian people and their Government could do to help the Irish people in this matter they would gladly do.

Mr. Flanagan is a man of shrewd judgment, and noted for his business ability. He was responsible for bringing many well-known athletes to the front, including Jack Johnson, the world's heavy-weight champion boxer, and Tom Longboat, a famous marathon runner in his day.