

BLOCKADE AND BUSINESS.

Great Britain and other Allied and Associated lands may have lifted the blockade against Germany following on the signing of peace, but should a German ship wander into the port of Montreal it would be liable for internment. At least, a warning to this effect has been issued by the local registrar of alien enemies. The whole crew of such a visiting vessel would immediately be arrested and clapped into prison. The reason given is that the Parliament of Canada has yet to ratify peace, and until that act is duly recorded and royally acknowledged and warranted, relations between Canada and Germany stand as they were before Ebert as President signed the new Germanic Republic into a state of peace. Great Britain resumes trade with the former enemy, which is in the interests of both, but Canada does not. So runs the argument.

The Parliament of Canada is to have a special session this autumn, at a cost of a million and a half dollars or thereabouts, for this very ratification. Meanwhile, according to the stickler, the country is yet at war, even if there is no actual fighting. It is an awful prospect. The Germans should be warned to keep away with their trade and barter. A load of enemy toys or dyes or canned sausages might easily provoke a clash which would necessitate the first call on the services of the League of Nations. A cargo could only come with the approval of the British authorities, in the circumstances, but, with that permission or without, it could not be landed. Canadian soldiers and Montreal police would pounce upon the German sailor men, and, if they were not too proud to fight, would hale them all to the summary court of the official beak and there have them railroaded to prison camp or dungeon. If the illegal visitors, in the belief that they had British authority behind them, put up a battle, then there would be a cause for war, and the Dominion and German Republic would be on the verge of military hostilities. We are yet in a state of war with Germany, anyway, so what would be the odds? Merely a few more hundreds of millions of dollars added to the national debt and higher prices still for the necessities of life. And that is nothing to worry about. Red tape must be maintained at all costs in a democratic and autonomous state such as this Dominion.

Despite delay in ratification, it is to be believed that wideawake Canadian interests will be on the alert for trade opportunities in every part of Europe. They are hardly expected to remain out in the cold for mere formality, while the Americans, the French, and, of course, the British, are legitimately and aggressively reaching for the trade that awaits the traders. Canada needs her full share of world commerce to help pay her debts and assure continued progress and prosperity. She cannot afford to lag behind the United Kingdom, the other parts of the Empire, the United States, or any other land. Delay on her part but benefits competitors. As for ships from former enemy lands, if they come up the St. Lawrence it will be with authority so to do. And that is the sum of the whole matter.