

*December 11, 1916.*—Went to see Van Vollenhoven this morning at Janssen's request—since Villalobar's high nobility will not permit him to make a request of Van Vollenhoven—to join in the central bureau for the organization of the requests for the return of the unemployed. Van Vollenhoven very loath to do so; said he wished to have nothing to do with Villalobar, and so on. Came away in disgust; told Ruddock to rent a house and organize a bureau of our own, and to let Villalobar and Van Vollenhoven and all the other touchy diplomats go to the devil, where they belong. They are not trying, either of them, to alleviate the dire suffering of the land, but to obtain decorations, and what they call credit; they tell every one, or the friends and sorrowing family of anybody who has been taken and borne off in the slave-gangs, to make a written application for his return endorsed by the Burgomaster; and since every one taken thinks, and his friends think—and any civilized man thinks and knows that he was improperly taken—and since a Burgomaster will certify to anything for a constituent, a request is made for every one taken and as a result not one will be returned.