

*December 13, 1916.*—The Chancellor's speech, stating the readiness of the Germans to discuss terms of peace, published this morning. It is a very adroit move.<sup>1</sup> . . .

The papers even here published our protest about the unemployed, with the German reply.

Janssen came to see me at seven, very much excited over an interview he had with Villalobar this morning. Villalobar very difficult and refused to have anything to do with a joint bureau. Janssen wishes me to induce Villalobar to accept. Too tired.

<sup>1</sup> On December 12, 1916, the German Government, after a year of general success in the field, joined with its allies in drawing up notes which were sent by neutral channels to the Allied Governments. In these the Central Powers indicated their willingness to enter upon peace negotiations. No hint was given as to the terms expected. It was supposed, however, that Germany would propose the evacuation of Belgium and northern France, the return of the German colonies, the recognition of Polish and Lithuanian independence, the annexation of much of Serbia to Austria-Hungary, and the settlement of Balkan questions by a special conference.