

*December 26, 1916.*—Another holiday; everything in town closed up, no newspapers, nothing, the Belgians having a practical method of observing the day after a holiday as well as the holiday itself, thus making two holidays in all, one for the celebration, and one to recover from the celebration.

Much gossip about Villalobar; many say he went to Berlin with von der Lancken to get Germany's peace terms to carry them to Madrid. He told me he didn't know why he was sent for to go to Madrid; he told Lambert it was on account of the unemployed. No one knows, of course. Villalobar wades in the water.

A curious incident at Liége. The Germans posted a placard saying that England had stopped the revictualing, and then followed long and detailed instructions to communal authorities as to what they were to do, imposing a difficult régime. Ruddock asked Harrach about it. Harrach telephoned Liége; all a mistake—but the Germans had shown their hand, and incidentally, how they are prepared for every emergency.