

*February 10, 1917.*—Francqui here, first time this week. He expressed no regret at my departure, but wishes me to stay, and some of the Americans to stay.

Gregory here before I was dressed, says that Brohn told him that the whole C.R.B. could remain, with same privileges. Von der Lancken had said motor-car privileges would be restricted.

Francqui had written a dispatch—he gave me a copy—which Villalobar had asked Gregory to send to Hoover, proposing that ships coal at Rotterdam, Belgian coal, and so on. (Gregory showed it to me.) Villalobar has also sent Hoover a dispatch offering all assistance.

Francqui terribly blue.

Villalobar here this evening after tea. Reith had shown him the summary of the letter that von der Lancken proposes to write Villalobar. It is very vague, much more vague than von der Lancken's own statements; expressing a desire that revictualing continue, that some of the members of the C.R.B. may consider it their duty to leave, but that, as it was a mixed commission, their places could be filled by others, and that they should be pleased to have Monsieur Brand Whitlock continue to assist, and so on. Villalobar made a grimace as he showed it to me, shrugged his shoulders, and said, "It's very German!"

By mistake, Vincent went out this afternoon and distributed a lot of p.p.c. cards that had been prepared! Then Lemonnier came in a hurry, and Lambert, and others. I had to send Vincent out to withdraw them all.