

March 1, 1917.—Went to see Villalobar. Told him we must begin to get in some understudies for the C.R.B. delegates, that I wished to get them out; that the Germans promise now all consideration, but only because it is to their interest to do so, that when it ceases to be, no one knows what horrors they might commit. He said he could get written assurances. Do so then by all means, said I. I had to be most careful in broaching Hoover's scheme for turning over the whole thing to the Dutch Government; did not do so in so many words, but said we could and should, get in some Dutchmen. He agreed, proposed a doublure, and I agreed. Then he rummaged about among letters and showed me one from Loudon,¹ which referred to an exchange of telegrams between "our august sovereigns," by which the King of Spain and the Queen of Holland had agreed to continue the revictualing, in case America could not, and so on.

Loudon said he had already made his dispositions, selected the men to replace the American delegates, and so on, but he wished the Americans to continue at New York, London and Rotterdam. And so good-bye to Hoover's scheme! I was not altogether sorry; it simplifies the situation here at least. I suggested to Villalobar that it was too bad there was no Dutch minister here. He seized upon the idea, said he would suggest it to Loudon; would go to The Hague himself Sunday. Would see von der Lancken tomorrow, and tell him that I must be recognized as patron. So came home to tea.

Then Gregory came, delighted with my interview with Villalobar.

Had news himself. The question of the shipping was being settled; and Kellogg, now at Rotterdam, will come in Saturday.

¹ As mentioned before, the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs.