

Sunday, March 4, 1917.—Everybody laughing at the frightful blunder the Germans made in proposing to Mexico to become an ally; to give them, the Mexicans, Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico, and asking them to seduce Japan.¹ The annals of diplomacy, I suppose, contain no filthier offer; but it is not without its compensations, since it must reveal the Germans to Americans and to all the world—if there is any one stupid enough not to know them by this time—in their true light, that of a people without morals, or honour, or even common politeness, barbarians through and through, pariahs among the nations, to be treated as such!

German papers publish news of decree to make two governments in Belgium; one is Flemish with Ghent for capital, and the other Walloon with Namur for capital.

Kellogg arrived at five, here to dine, and all evening we had the pleasure of this charming friend in the little salon. Came across from Harwich to the Hook in a dispatch boat, convoyed by three destroyers. Talked of an infinite number of things, the German-Mexican-Japan business, and its effect on American sentiment. He thinks war inevitable; says that many are anxious for it, among them Page, whom he describes as sitting in a very cold room in the London Embassy, suffering always with a cold in his head. He brought me many telegrams from The Hague, paraphrased, telling me to get Americans out, to send Heingartner to Rotterdam, thence to America, and so on. Another, most silly of all, evidently inspired by Hoover, who must be losing his head, saying that the C.R.B. must not retire voluntarily from Belgium. I presume that I am to conduct a rear-guard action alone. New scheme of reorganization: C.R.B. to quit, to be succeeded by Inter-Allied Commission (how the Germans would like that!). I urged Kellogg to get the C.R.B. men out, but they see only the C.R.B. outside of Belgium.

The English will not agree to let the C.R.B. ships in England, with their 85,000 tons, come out; but on the contrary *have begun to unload the cargoes*, which is a clear breach of the guarantees. The Admiralty now in control over there. But then, English breaches of guarantees are not considered as wicked as German breaches. Every leper likes his own sores best, as I forget who said. The ships can come by the northern route, stopping at Halifax.

As to the submarine war, the English have as yet no way of dealing with it, but hope to have some day; count too on America's coming in and helping to finish the submarines.... Not ready for offensive yet, because Russia is unprepared; Japan hasn't kept her word, hasn't supplied enough munitions, and so on, has been flirting with Germany, same old story of muddling through.

¹ The Zimmermann note offering Mexico her "lost provinces" of Texas and New Mexico was made public by the British Intelligence Service on February 28th, and caused a wave of anger in the United States. Meanwhile the German submarine campaign had briskly begun. During February about 200 vessels were sunk, of which about three fourths were neutral, and two were American.