

May 16, 1917.—Lunched with Lord and Lady Kilmarnock.... After luncheon we went to Churchill's, British consul's, and then Churchill took us to see Mme. Trouvée, boulevard Strasbourg; she owns the country place that pleased us so the other day. It is indeed a charming spot; but the question of fuel and provisions worries us—one would have to go to Montivilliers, or to Osteville—the first four kilometres and the second three away—or else to Havre, about ten kilometres. Then, an automobile is necessary. Kilmarnock thinks the Belgian Government would give us a motor if I were to ask it, but I have no favours to ask of that institution. If after all that has happened they can't offer one—so be it.¹

Mme. Trouvée proved to be a black-eyed, dark-skinned Norman woman, who at once adopted the tone common to most women when they talk business, namely that they are doing you a great favour, meanwhile demanding four prices for that which they are

¹ The Belgian Government did give Mr. Whitlock the use of a motor car.

wild to sell. Much talk, then, about the beauty and desirability of the place; my husband loved it, had spent his summers there; my husband went out there even on Sundays when they were in town; my husband loved the open country, and so on and so on—my husband—dead these many years. There are many memories attached to the spot. I would not let the house to everybody—a great many would like to have it. *Enfin*—for all this she wants six hundred francs a month, no term less than three months, she reserving right of visit, and all the vegetables and so forth in the garden—we were not even to have the right of purchase. The souvenirs of my husband were, I presume, thrown in. We came away in disgust.

Tea at the hotel, and a call from the Osbornes, and then the worst dinner ever served on this planet. This hotel will drive me to some horrid crime yet! Such a thieving rascal as its proprietor was never seen.

The de Houcks in after dinner. They have been ordered to Washington. She is ill, and very sad, having just had word that her brother was killed in the Russian revolution. What a world we live in!