

Sunday, March 14, 1920.—The Kapp counter-revolution in Germany entirely bloodless; the old junkers in power, of course, and the Kaiser doubtless packing his trunks to go back. The dispatches speak of General von Lüttwitz as having taken command of the army. Is it our old von Lüttwitz of Brussels?

This afternoon, walking on the avenue Louise to the Bois, met Francqui and his wife. Francqui lively and amusing as ever; of the revolution at Berlin said, "That will not last." Anxious to know about Hoover's chances for the Presidency; had just been

to London, and seen Davis, who he said didn't like Hoover at all.

Walked to the Bois then; returning, met ———, and turned about, walked back to the Bois with him, and then we came back home together and walked up and down the boulevard until tea-time.

He said that a prominent Socialist, Vandervelde, I presumed, had seen a prominent boche Socialist, who had told him that if elections were held in Germany the Conservatives would carry them, for the left wing was no longer popular. ——— thought the Germans would now create many difficulties for the Allies, but that the Germans could not do anything in a military way.

I got him on to the Luxembourg question. He had returned yesterday from Paris; had seen Millerand Saturday, and had a long talk, but to no conclusion. . . . While de Margerie¹ was discussing the disposition of the Grand Duchy railways with [the government] here, and Gaffier² discussing it with Millerand at Paris, the French Government behind their backs entered into a contract, and effected a settlement with the Grand Ducal Government. The first information that this had been done was when the Grand Ducal Government informed the Belgian Government, and said that it, the Grand Ducal Government, had been forced by the French Government to do so. ——— was very angry, and had reproached Millerand. The French wished to negotiate a military convention with Belgium for mutual defence, and so on, before settling the affair of the railways, but ———, very wisely, will not consent to that. There is no doubt that the French, who, as ——— admitted today, are very imperialistic, are trying to secure complete domination in Belgium.³ While the de Margeries and the whole train at

¹ The French Ambassador to Belgium.

² Belgian Ambassador in Paris.

³ The temporary French domination in Belgium was largely the product of Catholic activity there. Alarmed by the sudden growth of the Socialists in power, the clericals undertook a set of machinations to combat it. They decided to win popular support by concluding a military alliance with France and appealing to the people, with many manifestations of hatred against Germany, to endorse this policy. The secret military treaty was negotiated by the General Staff, and concluded as a military measure, without submission to Parliament. Nor was it, in contravention of the League Covenant, communicated to the secretariat of the League at Geneva. The old neutrality, which had guaranteed Belgium the support of Great Britain and the sympathy of the world in 1914, was thus sacrificed. Whitlock's diary from this point contains many entries upon the efforts of the clericals, militarists, and Francophiles to whip up support for a close alliance with France—a policy contrary to Belgium's best interests, if France were determined upon stern measures against Germany, for Belgian prosperity is largely dependent upon the prosperity of western Germany.

the French Embassy have been straining everywhere to keep up the social whirl, and splashing champagne and perfume over every Belgian they can see, this skullduggery has been going on. The de Margerie social campaign is mere camouflage, or a kind of barrage. . . .

He spoke of the President's letter to Simmons,¹ and said that while it was true enough—that is, what he said of French imperialism—he never should have said it; for the head of a state to say such a thing of a friendly Power was unheard of. He had, indeed, much to say of the President, none of it unkindly said at all, and, as I felt, all of it quite well justified and true; still it was embarrassing, and I told him that he mustn't expect me to criticise my revered sovereign. He said that the feeling against the President at Paris was extremely bitter.