

September 6, 1921.—At six to the Foreign Office to see Jaspars. . . .

He brought up the subject of the Washington Conference, said that Belgium as yet had no invitation, that he felt very disappointed. He told me of his talk with Herrick at Paris—as Wadsworth had written me at Spa—said that Herrick was ready to help if only I would write to him, and so on. I could see, very plainly, that Herrick had been flattering him and that sort of thing. I did not say that I should write but that I should look into the question. Herrick, of course, had no intention of helping him; and even if I were to ask him, would do nothing but put me into an embarrassing situation by writing to Washington that I had been calling on him for help in my job.

Then I asked him about his meeting with Van Karnebeek in Switzerland. He said that they had met in Lucerne; after he had telephoned to Van Karnebeek, and asked him to meet him, he had found Van Karnebeek a very pleasant man, cultivated, speaking French well, and they had a very satisfactory conversation. He had said, laughing, “Will you give me the Limbourg?” and when Van Karnebeek had said, “No,” he had laughed again and said, “I knew of course that you wouldn’t.” They had had some talk about the security of Belgium, and about the Weiligen, always a

difficult point. As to the economic treaty, there was no difficulty. Their conversation was wholly general, and no effort was made to settle details, but both realized that it was necessary for the two countries to live in peace as good neighbours, and both were anxious to settle their differences. Jaspar said that they separated and agreed to meet again, and that he had a most encouraging and comforting impression of the interview, the atmosphere of which had been most pleasant, satisfactory, and encouraging.

This evening ——— remarked to me that all this trouble with Holland, and all of Belgium's other troubles, the Flemish question, for example, had been created, brought back into the country, by those who were in exile during the war, that is those who were in Ste-Adresse. "Inside" under the occupation the old divisions and animosities had been forgotten, Catholics, Liberals, and Socialists, Flemish and Walloons had come at last to know and to respect and to like one another; but those who had not been here at that time, those who had been four years in exile, with nothing to do, nothing to occupy them, had not known the purifying effect of the united resistance to aggression, and had come back small in spirit, petty and embittered, and had renewed all the ancient quarrels, and developed new appetites. There under the occupation no one had ever dreamed of demanding the cession of Limbourg, or the right bank of the Scheldt; no one had ever even imagined any sort of annexation, such as that of the Grand Duchy; the Flemish question was no longer urged; Franck and other leading Flamings had been the first to scorn and repulse the advances and suggestions made by von Bissing. But the returning exiles—ministers, Flamings, and journalists—had made all the trouble. And we sat there a long time recalling the good old times under the German occupation when we were all bound together by a common hatred of the boche!