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## A PROPHECY OF WAR

ANNIE OAKLEY'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE KAISER

Lessons Learned by a War Mad King from the Train of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show



A MAN would have to go a long way to find a modern character who is not known to Annie Oakley. That her appraisal of men is unusually keen and direct is in no case more clearly demonstrated than her judgment of the Kaiser, made more than twenty-eight years ago.

She had just come in from a bird hunt on the Pinehurst preserve, riding her favorite horse Fred—the gift of Leonard Tufts, and the namesake of Fred Stone of Chin Chin fame. The morning papers had just arrived and the Carolina lobby full of the exultant excitement engendered by the news that Von Bernsdorf had received his walking papers and Gerard invited to old home week in New York.

We crowded about eager to hear her first comments, and, displaying the headlines, wanted to know what she thought about that.

### A SATALITE OF MARS

"What I have thought, lo! these many years," she said. "It is the inevitable result of a mania in high places. I wouldn't say so now if I hadn't said so publicly years and years ago. Kaiser Wilhelm, Emperor of Germany, is not only belligerent, he is war mad, crazy for military conquest, obsessed with the visions of Caesar and Alexander. It was bound to come—Servia, Russia, France, England—the United States, and if possible, the Universe. It was twenty-eight years ago that I first saw him, at that time only the grandson of a monarch. But if ever I felt sure of anything, it was his mania for arms and legions and glory. I gave an interview at the time to the New York papers, in which I flatly stated that of all the men I had ever seen he was the most war-like; and strangely enough I also said that in my opinion it was a moral certainty that sooner or later he would engineer a colossal

war. I stated it just as definitely as that. And every time I saw him afterwards the conviction was strengthened.

### A SUMMONS FROM THE EMPEROR

"We had an excellent opportunity of perceiving his interest and delight in the matter. Although, indeed, if he had any other side he concealed it thoroughly. The old Emperor, his grandfather, sent for me when I was in London. Of course I went, and it was arranged for me to give an exhibition at the Charlottenburg race track on a Sunday afternoon. It so happened that both the Emperor and the Kaiser's father were sick. So it fell to him to conduct the affair.

"Never in all my life have I seen so many soldiers. I saw nothing else. The program was arranged at the Union Club in Berlin. When we had submitted a program for approval, the Kaiser had added live pigeon shooting to the events. When we reached the capital we discovered that it was strictly against the law to shoot pigeons in the city. So my husband, Frank Butler, went up to the club to see about it.

### "VERBOTEN"

"The club was inhabited exclusively by majors and captains, field marshals and conquerors, all in full panoply of war, and bristling with side arms and crosses. He ventured to explain to the secretary that we were plain American folk who in spite of legends to the contrary were prone to obey the law, and that having discovered the statute made and provided rendering the shooting of pigeons distinctly verboten, we would like to omit that detail from the performance.

"His answer was merely to push a button (presumably fixed there for exactly that emergency). This summoned an orderly of the Mark Anthony type, who presently reappeared with no less a renowned and formidable companion than the Kaiser him-