The Private Life of the Kaiser

From the Papers and Diaries of the Baroness von Larisch-Reddern, the Kaiser and Kaiserin's Late Major Domo, Chief of the Royal Household at Berlin and Potsdam.

(Continued from last Sunday.)

I have sometimes hinted that the Imperial Germany Court was "financially embarrassed." I will show that the Kaiser was both miserly in petty matters and an uncontrollable spendthrift. He was "penny wise and pound foolfah;" he "robbed Peter to pay Paul;" he was stingy with his friends and luxurious with himself. He was niggardly with his family and extravagant where his own wishes were concerned.

I will show that at times he kept the court in downright poverty; his servants in actual want, and his own family

His was a strange mixture of personslities, indeed-the little man whose ambition and greed led him to attempt to conquer the world.

Kainer's Wagen \$4,000,000 a Year. "But how is it possible?" asks the reader whose "Statesman's Year-Book" tells him that the Kniser has an income of but \$4,000,000 per year, and who re-members, perchance, William's boastful speech in which he said he was the biggest landowner in Germany,

Whether the latter assertion is true ! cannot say, but those four millions were a shining reality and unencumbered, save for the obligation to pay five appanages of \$15,000 each per annum to \$3,900,000 a year to "bless himself with." besides his private income of \$50,000 per month.

The \$50,000 formed the nucleus of vance for his uniform and toilet accounts, his private journeys and amuse-

serin and the children, all the expenses of the household and provided funds for the maintenance of the royal thea-

tres, palaces and gardens.
Out of a much smaller official income William I. saved an immense fortune, though he kept up a separate court for his Queen for thirty years, and, for a Prussian, was exceedingly liberal toward

ladies that engaged his fancy. William Is Always In Debt. The present Kaiser actually wound up year after year with a tremendous deficit, and his court, outwardly splendid and richly endowned, was more penurious than that of the meanest

prince of the empire. Indeed, my maid assured me that at Buckenburg, when the monarch received only as many marks as the President of the United States gets dollars tal makeup; as some people lack a sense per year, the grooms were better fed of locality, so the Emperor happens to and lodged than under-stewards in Pots-

The reason for this is obvious enough. The Kaiser has no conception whatever of the value of money and ordered for himself anything that pleased him, what he saw and read about, without paying would cost a million German lives at the least ind to the pecuniary consequences. If he desired an article, it ahead," with no more emotion than he the least ind to the pecuniary consequences. If he desired an article, it must be procured in the quickest possi-

though my purchases were not exten-sive by any means. My carriage no Comte de Simeon, Prinme Minister of man rushed out, bowing and scraping of Saxony to confer with the great and adding to my titles some I never dared hope to acquire. I also observed that he charged me less than the prices marked. "Your Ladyship belongs to the

Slow In Paying His Bills. "But," I said, "others do, and I have seen the carriage of the Countess von - halt a considerable time in front of your store before one of the em-

"Well," said the florist, "you belong to the court and pay cash. For that reason I would rather sell you a 3-mark bouquet than a 50-mark flower piece to the lady you mention or (and he lowered his voice) to even the Emperor or

"I am a well-to-do man, thank the Lord; but when it comes to waiting a year and a half before one's bills are paid by the royal treasury I feel like cursing my appointment. And the worst of it is the All-Highest example is followed by almost everybody connected with the court."

Had 'No Fixed Income.

But nothing illustrates the unsettled state of the royal finances more thoroughly than the fact that the Kalserin had no certain income of her own. Her court-marshal was obliged to fight for every dollar required beyond the ordinary pay of servants and help with the Kaiser's court and house marshals, who often refused to grant necessary funds until Augusta Victoria's express commands compelled them to honor the disputed bills.

A rather amusing incident of that sort happened a few months after the enthronization, when my mistress ordered me to buy a little bed, together with the necessary clothes, for Prince Oscar (born July 27 that year). It was my good fortune to find at Mosse Prussian princes. That left William Brothers, Jaeger Strasse, the exact article Her Majesty wanted, and when the bed was sent up she was greatly pleased.

"We will keep it right here," she Bis Majesty's private purse, and was said, "and, that there may be no mis-always spoken for three months in ad-understanding, take the bill and order it paid immediately."

"And since when are ladies of the ments.

The civil list discharged the cost of representation, the needs of the Kaifice?" asked the Baron, after listening to my request.

"I don't know," I answered, "and besides, I have not come here to answer

"Then," said the house marshal, icily, accept my compliments, together with the information that this bill is irregular, extravagant and unnecessary; hence it will not be paid. The baby can sleep in his cradle six months longer; by that time we shall be able to buy him a bed in the regular way.' "Then it is your pleasure that the little Prince be taken out of the new bed and put back into the cradle?" "It will do him no harm, and give me

nuch satisfaction." Deficiency In William's Mentality. This matter of finance and business is clearly a deficiency in William's men-

be destitute of a proper comprehension of values. Maybe that explains in part, at least, the Kaiser's callousness during the great war. When Ludendorff explained

to him that his projected July offensive might display when he ordered his bath. And this recalls an experience had by I had noticed for some time that a a relative of the editor of these mecertain dealer in flowers on Unter den moirs. When Napoleon arrived at Linden served me with excessive zeal, Dresden after the retreat from Mos-

> Emperor. As De Simeon entered Napoleon's room the Emperor grabbed him by the

"Off with you to Paris. I want 325, 000 men within the next six weeks. You

ping his fingers, he pushed De Simeon out of the door, bidding him not to lose a moment.

Off and on I heard of cases of pov-

off and on I heard of cases of poverty, even of destitution, in the servants' families, for which they dared not ask for relief in the most likely place, of their master or mistress, who caused it to be known once and for all that they must not be analysed with slave to tradition, revived a habit of their masters.

make up for it. Picture, then, my tered the royal purse) to pay the customary 10 marks (\$2.50) only to those lackeys and maids who wait upon me personally. It will be well for you to instruct Baron von Mirbach similarly, or you will run the risk of feeing a whole tribe of men and girls who are merely second or third assistants."

William's valets, I heard later on, received 40 marks (\$10) from their imperial master as Christmas gratuity; all his other attendants, men and women, had to be content with the customary 10 marks "for ginger-bread."

Miserly With His Servants.

"And that is the only drink money the Kaiser dispenses all the year round," complained the wife of one of the wardrobe men, who did my plain sewing, "outside of Christmas, he never

seems to have a copper for his body-servants, although himself continuously in want of stimulants (he often drinks four or five egg cognacs in the course

their servants' personal concerns.

In the bountiful Christmas season, I stroll out of his pulace gates as an ordiseveral of his ancestors-namely, to thought surely their Majesties would nary mortal once a year, on holy night, make up for it. Picture, then, my when he douned a subdued civilian dress and when no adjutant or any one say to Her Majesty at the beginning of of the body service was allowed to fol-Holy Week: "I have cautioned Heiss-ner (a privy councilor, who adminis-did not apply to the secret police, which were made acquainted with the Kai-ser's every outdoor move beforehand, and had its guardian angels about wher-

ever and whenever he was in the open. The war lord walked through the park behind the Neues Palais toward San Souei and often rambled beyond the gates of the ancient chateau, wishing a "Merry Christmas" to and distributing small gold pieces among needy

persons he came across.
Santa More Limited Than Ever. It was ordinarily a novel amusement for the Kaiser and a fairly profitable one for the poor men and women who happened to attract his attention while his pockets were still lined; that is, while his charity fund of 200 marks

(Continued on Page Sixteen.)

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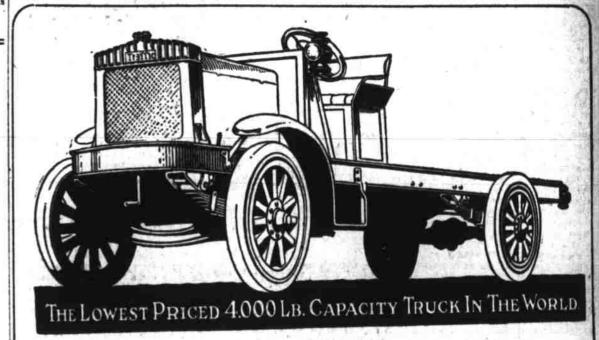
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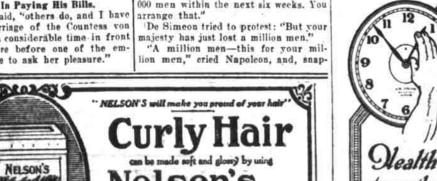
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