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## The Kaiser as I Knew Him For Fourteen Years

By ARTHUR N. DAVIS, D. D. S.

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### CHAPTER X.

#### The Kaiser's Appraisal of Public Men.

No one ever speaks to the Kaiser until addressed. As that monarch's opinions on most subjects are firmly fixed and he will stand no opposition, any erroneous idea he may entertain is very apt to remain with him. His advisers were apt to leave him in error rather than arouse his ire by attempting to set him right. But for the fact that he was very fond of asking innumerable questions, his store of information might have been extremely scanty.

In the course of my conversations with him he frequently expressed his views of men who were in the public eye. Upon what basis they were founded he did not always enlighten me, but even when I knew them to be erroneous I realized it was useless to try to change them and I did not often take issue with him. When I did his eyes would flash fire, but I had expected that and I continued just the same.

The Kaiser always seemed to take a particular interest in American affairs, and while he professed to despise our form of government he watched very carefully the careers of our public men. It is not unlikely that he imagined, as I have pointed out elsewhere in these pages, that he could influence our elections by swinging the German-American vote in favor of the candidate he preferred, and he made a study of our public men in order that he might know which of them would be more desirable in office from the German viewpoint.

When Mr. Wilson was nominated for the presidency, the Kaiser was quite positive that he wouldn't be elected. Perhaps the fact that Mr. Roosevelt, for whom at that time the Kaiser had the greatest admiration, was one of Mr. Wilson's rivals, blinded him to the strength which elected Wilson, but the fact that the latter had had little experience in international politics unfitted him, in the Kaiser's estimation, for the important office for which he was running.

I saw the Kaiser shortly after Mr. Wilson's election.

"I am very much surprised at the result of your election," he declared. "I didn't think your people would be so foolish as to elect a college professor as president. What does a professor know about international politics and diplomatic affairs?"

I haven't the slightest doubt that the Kaiser pictured our president as a counterpart of the typical German professor—a plodding, impractical, unambitious bookworm with no hope or desire of ever earning more than \$1,000 a year and no yearning for public acclaim, a recluse, absent-minded and self-centered, who spent the midnight oil poring over musty volumes and paid little or no attention to what was going on around him! Such a man, the Kaiser undoubtedly believed, the United States had elected as its chief executive and his surprise was more or less natural in those circumstances.

When Wilson sent 5,000 men to Vera Cruz the Kaiser felt that he had exceeded his rights.

"What right has Wilson to mix in the internal affairs of Mexico?" he asked. "Why doesn't he allow them to fight it out among themselves. It is their affair, not his!" Germany had many financial interests in Mexico and looked with disfavor upon any move we made in that direction.

When, however, the war in Europe started the Kaiser made every effort to have America mix in international affairs provided we fought on her side.

When I saw him just after the war started he said we ought to seize the opportunity to annex Canada and Mexico.

"Can't your president see the won-

derful opportunity now for combining with us and crushing England?" he asked. "With our feet on one side and America's on the other we could destroy England's sea power. This is America's great opportunity to dominate the western hemisphere, and your president must see his chance to take Canada and Mexico!"

As the war progressed and reports reached the Kaiser of our increased shipments of munitions to the allies, the Kaiser's impatience with Wilson became more difficult to repress, and there was hardly an interview I had with him in which he did not give vent to his feelings in that connection.

"My officers are becoming so incensed at America's attitude," he told me, "it will be impossible for me to restrain them much longer."

And when, on another occasion, he accused Mr. Wilson of discriminating against Germany, he made the remark: "Wilson's in the hands of the Wall street group!"

But, perhaps, the most bitter denunciation I ever heard him make of Wilson was shortly after we entered the war. I had been summoned to the great army headquarters to see him, and when he entered the room he appeared to be in a towering rage. Indeed, his condition was so apparent that the Kaiserin, who was also present, sought to excuse him with the explanation that he had been very much upset and had been sleeping very poorly, and she asked me to treat him gently and tried to soothe him at the same time, but he told her to leave the room and resented her showing me that she petted him.

We said little while I was at work, but when I was through and was preparing to leave, the Kaiser stepped toward me and said:

"Davis, Wilson is a real scoundrel!" My face flushed, I suppose, at this insult to our president, and my resentment was so apparent that the Kaiser immediately patted me on my right shoulder and apologized.

"I beg your pardon, Davis," he declared, in a quieter voice. "I know you're an American and I beg your pardon for hurting your feelings, but if you only knew, you would realize what a scoundrel your president is. When it comes to throat-cutting, Wilson should have his cut first!"

Whenever the sun shone for the Kaiser he grew so optimistic that he failed to pay the slightest attention to the clouds gathering on the horizon. After the Italian collapse, for instance, he was so enthusiastic about his military success in that arena that he failed to realize that America was slowly but surely forging the thunderbolt that was to strike him down.

"Now how foolish it was for your president to bring your country into this war!" he said. "Americans will now see, when it is too late, what fools they made of themselves when they elected a professor for president. Now America must pay the bills!" In this remark and others of the same import the Kaiser's expectation of being able to exact an enormous indemnity as part of his peace terms was clearly indicated, and he felt that America, having profited the most and suffered the least of any of the belligerent powers, would be in the best position to fill his depleted coffers.

The last time I saw the Kaiser when he mentioned the president was in the fall of 1917, shortly after Wilson had replied to the pope's peace proposal.

"Wilson is an idealist, and an idealist can accomplish nothing!" was his comment. "He went into the war that he might have a seat at the peace table but he will never get it. I shall prevent it!"

Of Wilson's peace notes, which were issued before America went into the war, the Kaiser remarked: "I think I am right, the others think they're right. America has all the money. If Wilson really wants peace, let him pay the bills and take care of the indemnities and the war will be over! It is very simple."

There was no man of modern times whom the Kaiser seemed to admire so much, before the war, as ex-President Roosevelt. The Kaiser was convinced that Roosevelt had prevented war with Japan by sending the American fleet around the world and showing that it was as fit. This brilliant stroke of statesmanship, as the Kaiser termed it, was a topic that he referred to on several occasions. It was a forceful demonstration that was very much after his own heart.

"What I admire about Mr. Roosevelt most," he said, "is the fact that he has the greatest moral courage of any man I ever knew!" The fact that Mr. Roosevelt had given Germany's fleet twenty-four hours' notice to steam from Venezuelan waters didn't serve to lessen the Kaiser's admiration for him.

I heard him shower praise on Roosevelt many times and I haven't the slightest doubt that he was quite sincere.

After the war started, when Roosevelt showed very plainly that no matter what nice things the Kaiser might have thought and said of him, he certainly didn't reciprocate the feeling, the Kaiser was very much disappointed.

"I'm terribly disappointed in Mr. Roosevelt," he declared. "After the way my wife and I entertained him when he was here as our guest, for him to take the stand he has is very ungentlemanly. I gave a great review for him—the greatest honor I could bestow upon him and a thing which had never been done for a private citizen. He was not president then, you know. I used to admire him very much, but now I think the man has gone crazy and lost his mind. I never thought he would turn against us like that!" He did not seem to realize that a patriotic

American owed allegiance to his own country.

In 1916 I asked him whether he had heard that Mr. Ford was on his way over from America in a chartered ship with a delegation.

"Who, Peace-Ford?" he inquired. "I told the Kaiser what I had read of the Ford expedition."

"How can your country allow a man like that to do this thing—a man who has played no part in the politics of his own country and is entirely ignorant of international affairs—a man who, I understand, was formerly in the bicycle business and knows very little outside of business matters?"

"I haven't the slightest doubt Mr. Ford is a great business man," the Kaiser went on, "and I am sure he means all right, but what a mistake it is to allow a man so ignorant of world affairs to do a ridiculous thing like this!"

I told the Kaiser that it had been suggested in some of the American papers that if Ford really wanted to end the war, all he had to do was to pay Germany \$100,000,000 and buy Belgium back.

"One hundred million dollars!" the Kaiser repeated, and then after a moment's reflection, as though he had been turning over some figures in his mind, "No, Davis, it will cost much more than that to get Belgium back!"

It occurred to me that if the Kaiser really meant what he said on that occasion, all his talk about "peace without annexation" was obviously a myth and that the only hope of Belgium's redemption lay in the military defeat of Prussia. Subsequent developments amply confirmed that view.

In the winter of 1916, we were talking of the sentiment in America and the conversation turned to Von Bernstorff.

"Von Bernstorff has been doing very good work in your country," the Kaiser commented.

"Well, your majesty," I replied, "it is said in America that if he had not been such a clever diplomat he would long ago have been compelled to leave."

"From all I hear," the Kaiser said, "he hasn't had a very easy time of it. The American press as a whole has been conspicuously anti-German, although I understand that one of your newspaper publishers has been friendly to us. Mr. Hearst, for instance, has helped our cause very much in your country. He has been telling the truth about affairs, which is more than most of the other papers have been doing!"

Just before the king of Greece abdicated, the Kaiser referred to the attitude of the American press again.

"The way the American newspapers and the press of the allied countries generally are presenting the Grecian situation to the world is absolutely false and a disgrace!" he declared, bitterly. "They are entirely misrepresenting the facts. Mr. Hearst is the only one, as far as I can find, who has revealed the real conditions and told the truth about them. My, I wonder what the people have to say now that Mr. Hearst has finally exposed the whole thing!" It was only a short time afterwards that the king abdicated and revealed unmistakably which papers had correctly interpreted the trend of Grecian politics.

The Kaiser spoke to me many times about the writings of William Bayard Hale.

"Have you been following Hale's articles?" he inquired. "What he is writing about the war is excellent and is really the best material published. He voices my sentiments exactly, and it would be well for every American to follow this writer's work."

I had to confess that there was one American at least who was not only not following Hale's writings, but had never heard of the writer, and the Kaiser seemed to be somewhat displeased.

He referred to Hale several times subsequently and in the meanwhile I had ascertained that the man in question was the representative in Berlin of the Hearst newspapers and I subsequently learned that he had published a book called "American Rights and British Pretensions at Sea," which explained at once to me why the Kaiser was so enthusiastic about him.

In the course of one of our many conversations on the subject of American munitions, the Kaiser paid his respects to Mr. Schwab.

"What can one expect from Schwab, who is using the Bethlehem steel plant to work against us?" he asked. "He is of Austrian Jew extraction and would work against anyone for the sake of the money that's in it!"

"I'm following affairs in America very closely," he told me on another occasion, before we entered the war. "Not all of our senators are against us. Senator Stone, for instance, is taking a very strong neutral stand, I understand, and it is a pity there are not more like him."

Just before I left for my trip to America in 1916, the Kaiser called on me and I told him I was leaving.

"Well, Davis," he said, "be careful not to run against any mines or be torpedoed. You'll probably be pulled into England on your way over. We understand all boats are taken there for examination." Then, with fire in his eye, he added: "If you should see my cousin the king, in England, kick him on the shins for me!"

To Be Continued.

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## ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF SUPPLIES SENT BY Y. M. C. A.

Cost of Sweets and Smokes for One Month Reaches Staggering Figure—Armistice Didn't End Smoking on Any Front

New York, Jan. 1.—Almost \$4,000,000 worth of smokes, sweets, sporting goods, chewing gum and other commodities was shipped to France during the month of November by the Army and Navy Y. M. C. A. for the use

of the American Expeditionary Forces. A statement to this effect has just been issued by the National War Council and tends to demonstrate that the demand for supplies of this character has not been reduced by the fact that hostilities have ceased.

In exact figures the value of the supplies shipped to France was \$3,895,903 and each month's quota will approximate this total until the forces overseas have been materially reduced by demobilization.

The demand for tobacco, cigars and cigarettes has not diminished since the armistice was signed, as witness the fact that \$1,351,000 of the total amount went for the purchase of the weed in some form. In the shipments were 464,911 pounds of tobacco, 198,065,320 cigarettes and 99,700 of cigars. As for confectionery, there were 213,800 pounds of hard candy, 175,918 pounds of chocolates and 329,280 packages of cough drops, not to mention 537,600 tins of jams and 6,541,300 pounds of sugar. The chewing gum consignments totaled 6,100,000 packages—enough to load every slot machine in the United States.

## Y. M. C. A. SECRETARY HONORED FOR BRAVERY

Brooklyn Man is Awarded Croix de Guerre by Commander of Polish Forces

Paris, Dec. 11.—"For heroic and untiring work for the soldiers while under fire," Stanley Modra, of 2123 Ca. avenue, Brooklyn, a Y. M. C. A. secretary, has just received the Croix de Guerre from General Haller, commander-in-chief of the Polish army, and has been mentioned in the official citations. He is the third Y. M. C. A. man thus honored for conspicuous bravery.

Modra has been with the Polish forces continuously since his arrival in France five months ago, and has given many notable exhibitions of gallantry and fidelity to duty. During the last days of the hostilities he served with the First division in the Vosges, in charge of a hut in a narrow valley between the first and second line trenches. From this hut he made trip after trip, carrying supplies to the men at the most advanced posts, and was under fire repeatedly.

When the fighting was at its heaviest Modra and the men associated with him in Y work continued their ministrations to the soldiers, serving cocoa, cakes, when the men were in position to receive them, and cigarettes. This service contributed much to the high morale of the troops and won not only the praise of the officers but the lasting gratitude of the men.

## "Y" ENTERTAINERS NEEDED IN FRANCE

While certain branches of the work the National War Work Council of the Y. M. C. A. has been doing for some time are being curtailed, one type of service is being called upon for more co-operation than ever before. Although for some time there have been approximately 400 to 500 entertainers in France, many difficulties have surrounded this type of service and the thousands of shows which have been given in France have only been put over in spite of almost superhuman difficulties. Now, however, with the period of demobilization forcing upon the Army new problems has a real spirit of co-operation been shown by the Army authorities. Therefore, General Pershing has detailed Colonel Kelly, from his own Staff, to act as entertainment officer for the A. E. F., which position places him as the liaison officer between the Army and the "Y" Entertainment Bureau in Paris.

Theatres and large buildings are being taken over, mechanics supplied by the Army are putting them into operation and the "Y" is producing shows, given by soldier troupes alone, and also dramatic and vaudeville performances and miscellaneous musical programs, the personnel of all of which must be recruited from this country.

Owing to the large number of men in the Army with entertainment ability, no effort is being made to send men from this side. Women, however, are wanted for these positions in large numbers. 125 must be sent out from this country every month, which will require the co-operation of every recruiting agency throughout the country. All entertainers are supplied with uniforms, Life, Accident and Health insurance, transportation, and allow \$150.00 per month for living expenses in France.

The women should be preferably between the ages of 23 and 30, neat and attractive and possessed of a pronounced ability in their particular line. The field for entertainment now reaches from the coast towns in France right up and into Germany, for while the "Y" cannot do much with the Army of Occupation in the way of Canteen, it can supply entertainment and is doing so on an increasingly large scale. Information may be obtained from W. C. King, Peters Building, Atlanta, Ga.

## DOUGHBOYS INVADE HISTORIC RESORTS

Haunts of Napoleon Are Home to A. E. F. Troops Through Efforts of Y. M. C. A. Forces to Better "Leave" Facilities

Paris.—Where Napoleon III and King Edward VII of England spent many leisure hours the American enlisted men are now at play. The famous yacht club at Cannes, founded and patronized by King Edward, and St. Sauveur, where the third Napoleon was wont to go with his court, indicate the variety of attractions offered by the Y. M. C. A. in the leave area system operated in co-operation with the military authorities. From the Alps to the Pyrenees and from the Brittany coast to the Riviera, there are seven "Y" leave areas in which 50,000 soldiers can be entertained at one time. Preparations are now under way to increase these much-appreciated facilities to double their present capacity.

Representatives of the army and of the Y. M. C. A. are now traveling from one end of France to the other seeking new spots in which to set up leave areas. The experiment at Aix-les-Bains has been successful from the start, as America now knows pretty well from first-hand information carried home by Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., who organized the woman's canteen work at Aix.

"Aches and Pains" was an ideal spot for the experiment, but six others have been found and put in operation, each equally satisfactory as the original model. Consequently it is with optimism that the army and the "Y" seek to increase the centres where sore cures have been found for homesick doughboys.

Location, climate, hotel accommodations, opportunities for entertainment and sight-seeing and the moral and physical cleanliness of the area are all-important in the selection of a leave resort. As soon as a site is selected the largest available is obtained by the Y. M. C. A. as its main center of operations, men and women are assigned to service and negotiations are begun to secure reduced prices from such entertainment enterprises as cannot be duplicated by the Y. M. C. A. and every effort is made to give as much service as possible. The army provides transportation and pays the hotel bills, thereby enabling the soldier to enjoy all the attractions formerly restricted to kings and emperors and malefactors of great wealth.

The Jetty Casino at Nice and the Municipal Casino at Cannes are the centres of attraction in the Riviera for the 8,500 men who can be accommodated in this area. Many officers favor this Mediterranean section and there is a "Y" club for them. Everything except the gambling that was stopped by the government at the beginning of the war is at the disposal of the Americans. Golf and tennis and other athletic sports, bathing, boating and the companionship of the local population are the most popular attractions.

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