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The Kaiser as I Knew Him
for Fourteen Years

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

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was intended to Germanize Americans to such an extent that their co-operation might be relied upon in the event of war for which Germany was sedulously preparing.

It was believed that the exchange of professors would accomplish the German purpose in two ways: not only could the professors the kaiser sent to America be depended upon to sow German seed in American soil, but the American professors who were sent to Berlin, it was hoped, could be so inoculated with the German viewpoint that when they returned to their native land they would disseminate it among their associates and students.

Some time before the kaiser conceived the scheme of the Exchange Professors, he sent his brother, Prince Henry, to this country to draw the two nations closer together and to instill in the heart of every child born in America of German parents an abiding love for the fatherland.

Just before the war broke out, he was planning to send one of his sons here with the same object.

He told me of his project and asked me to which part of the United States I thought he ought to send the prince.

"That depends, your majesty," I replied, "upon the object of the visit. If the purpose is to meet American society, I would recommend such places as Newport in summer and Palm Beach in winter. To come in contact with our statesmen and diplomats, Washington would naturally be the most likely place to visit."

The kaiser thanked me for the information but did not enter into further details as to the object he had in mind or which son he had planned to send across.

It was to curry favor with America that the kaiser had his yacht Meteor built in our shipyards, and it is a fact that more American women were presented at the German court than those of any other nation.

When he presented a statue of Frederick the Great to this country, in McKinley's administration, it created a great stir in congress. What could be less appropriate, it was argued, than the statue of a monarch in the capital of a republic? The statue was not set up in McKinley's administration, but Roosevelt accepted it in the interest of diplomacy and had it erected in front of the Army building.

Seeing that his gift had had just the opposite effect to that intended, the kaiser reprimanded his ambassador for not having interpreted American sentiment more accurately.

A few days after the death of King Edward, Roosevelt arrived in Berlin. Despite the fact that all Europe was in mourning, the kaiser arranged the most elaborate military dress review ever given in honor of a private citizen to celebrate Roosevelt's visit. The review was held in the large military reservation near Berlin. More than 100,000 soldiers passed in review before the kaiser and his staff and their honored guest.

How far the kaiser would have gone in his attentions to Roosevelt had he not been in mourning it is impossible to say, but I don't believe he would have left anything undone to show his admiration for the American ex-president and to curry favor with this country.

But Roosevelt was not the only American to whom the kaiser made overtures. He was constantly inviting American millionaires to pay him yachting visits at Kiel or wherever else he happened to be.

He sat for a portrait by an American painter, which was exhibited with a large collection of other American works under the kaiser's auspices.

There was nothing that the kaiser did not do in his efforts to ingratiate himself with this country in the hope that he would reap his reward when the great war he was anticipating eventually broke out.

Taken individually, these various incidents seem trivial enough, but I have every reason to know that the kaiser attached considerable importance to them. I know that there was a good deal of chagrin in the trades he delivered to me against America for her part in supplying munitions to the allies—chagrin at the thought that the seed he had sown in America had failed to bring forth better fruit.

When we finally entered the war and he realized that all his carefully nurtured plans of years had availed him naught, he could not restrain his bitterness nor conceal his disappointment.

"All my efforts to show my friendship for America—exchanging professors with your colleges, sending my brother in your country, all—all for nothing!" he exclaimed, disgustedly, after we had entered the war.

On another occasion he showed even more clearly how far America had fallen short of his expectations:

"What has become of those rich Americans who used to visit me with their yachts at Kiel and come to my entertainments in Berlin?" he asked, sarcastically. "Now that we have England involved, why aren't they utilizing the opportunity to serve and

to make their own country great? Do they think I put myself out to entertain them because I loved them? I am disgusted with the whole Anglo-Saxon race!"

The kaiser couldn't understand why the United States did not seize both Canada and Mexico. Apparently, from the way he talked from time to time, if he had been sitting in the White House he would have grabbed the entire Western Hemisphere.

That the kaiser followed American politics very closely, especially after the war broke out, was very natural. The fact that there was a great German-American vote in this country was not overlooked in Potsdam, and I haven't the slightest doubt the kaiser imagined that he could exert considerable influence in our elections through his emissaries in this country.

I returned to Berlin late in October of that year. Within a day or two after my arrival I received a telephone message from the Reichskanzler von Bethmann-Hollweg to the effect that the kaiser had sent him word of my return and that he would like me to call at his palace either that noon or at four p. m.

I was ushered into a very large room in the corner of which was a business-like looking flat-topped desk, but which was otherwise elaborately furnished. The reichskanzler, a tall, broad-shouldered, handsome specimen of a man, came over to me and, putting his arm in mine, walked me to a seat beside the desk. He asked me what I would smoke, and upon my taking a cigarette, he did likewise.

"The kaiser's been telling me, doctor," he said, "of your recent visit to America, and I would like to ask you a few questions."

I said that I was always glad to talk of America. Indeed, I was particularly glad of the opportunity to speak with the prime minister of Germany at that time.

Then followed a bewildering succession of questions, the purpose of which was not at all clear to me. We had a peculiar conversation—half in German, half in English. The reichskanzler did not speak English particularly well.

"How are things in America?" he asked. "Did you have any opportunity to gauge the political situation? Who do you think will be the next president? Do you think that Americans are opposed to peace because that would end their chance to make money out of the war? Are your people so mercenary that they would like to see the war prolonged for the sake of the money they can make out of it?"

"No, your excellency," I replied, "you are quite wrong if you imagine that my countrymen would like to prolong the war for the sake of war-profits. That is very far from being the case. On the contrary, the country at large is anxious for peace."

"Don't forget your people are making a lot of money out of this war," the reichskanzler persisted. "They are becoming very rich. They will soon have all the gold in the world. Putting an end to the war would to a great extent end American opportunities for making money on this enormous scale."

"That may be all true," I replied, "but fortunately my countrymen think more of the blessings of peace and liberty than they do of war and profits, and the sooner peace can be brought about on a basis which will have some assurance of permanency the better we will like it."

"Wilson has the greatest opportunity ever presented to a man to make his name immortal—by bringing about peace in the world," he went on. "We feel now that he is not our friend, but friendly to the allies, but nevertheless he may be able to see that if this war is prolonged indefinitely it will mean the destruction of all the nations involved in it. Do you think there is any possibility of America entering the war?"

"That, of course, will depend, your excellency," I answered, "upon developments. I don't believe my country is anxious to fight, but I'm quite sure that nothing in the world will keep us out of it if our rights as a neutral nation are not respected."

"We certainly don't like the way Hughes has been talking on the stump," declared the reichskanzler. "Did you hear any of his speeches or any of Wilson's?"

I said I had had no opportunity to hear any of the campaign speeches, but that I had followed them in the newspapers.

"Well, did you gather from what you read that the American people want to see peace in Europe or do they want the war to go on so they can continue to make fortunes out of it?"

Again I replied that I was certain our country would never be influenced by such sordid considerations as were implied in the reichskanzler's question, but that if the right kind of peace could be brought about the whole country would eagerly embrace it.

The subject of the U-boat campaign
(To be continued)

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