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The Kaiser as I Knew Him for Fourteen Years

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

prices on their wares; but we needed what they had to sell and we were ready to pay even the outrageous prices they demanded. And then they foolishly declared war against us and we got it all for nothing! When I spoke to Hindenburg about the contemplated campaign against Roumania he said, "This will be a very interesting campaign.' It was. We got all we wanted and didn't have to pay a penny for it."

The kaiser beamed all over as he contemplated the results of Roumania's entry in the war.

When the German troops entered Tarnapol, Russia, at a later time they captured vast quantities of Americanmade hospital supplies.

"We were just figuring what this seizure amounted to, and my army doctors were strutting around as if they owned the world," declared the kaiser, "when one of my officers was approached by a group of long-haired, greasy Jews, who claimed that these supplies belonged to them. 'They are our private property; we bought them and we should be compensated if you selze them,' they contended. 'Did you pay for them?' my officer asked. 'No. we didn't pay for them, but we gave our notes, they replied. "Then, said my officers, when you take up those notes we'll pay for these stores; in the meanwhile we'll just take them.' We secured bandages, serums-everything, in fact, that we needed so very badly, and we got them all for noth-

I did not know at that time that the German army lacked medical supplies, but later I saw paper bandages in use.

I have previously referred to the kaiser's defense of the use of Zeppelins against Paris, London and other nonmilitary cities. He claimed that it was proper to make war on civillans, because England was endeavoring to starve Germany. On one occasion I pointed out to him that in 1870 the Germans had besieged Paris and had starved its population.

"The cases are entirely different," he answered hastily. "Then we were besleging a city and the civilian population had plenty of opportunity to evacuate it before the slege began. England is besieging a whole nation and trying to starve my women and children, who have nothing to do with

I couldn't help thinking of the "whole nations" which had been absolutely crushed under the kaiser's heel-of Belgium, Servia and Poland. The kaiser never admitted that the destruction of the Lusitania was a result of special instructions from him

to the U-boat commander, but in discussing the general subject of submarine warfare he asked: "What right have Americans to take passage on these vessels, anyway? If

they came onto the battlefield they would not expect us to stop firing, would they? Why should they expect any greater protection when they en-

ter the war zone at sea?
"Don't ever forget," he went on, "a bullet from a pistol would be enough to sink one of our U-boats. How can we stop and board vessels we encounter to ascertain whether they are neutral and not carrying contraband? If what appears to be a neutral should in fact prove to be a belligerent, or if a belligerent should heave to in response to the command of one of our submarines, how could we safely send a boarding party over when a rifle shot from the vessel in question would send us to the bottom? Obviously if America persists in sending munitions to the allies, there is but one thing for us to do-sink the vessels."

When I suggested that while the rulnerability of the submarine undoubtedly lessened its value in con-nection with the right of search which belligerents have under international law, still the law ought to be observed, the kaiser interrupted me hastily with the remark:

"International law! There is no such thing as international law any

In that assertion, of course, lies the answer to all the questions which have arisen in connection with the conduct of the war. If the Germans recognized no international law but were guided solely by their ideas of expediency and the demands of "kultur," then the whole course of the war became perfectly clear. The use of polsonous gas, the destruction of unfor-tified towns, the desecration of churches, the attacks on hospitals and Red Cross units, the countless atrocities committed against civilians and prisoners of war require no other explanation.

No such thing as international law any more!

CHAPTER VI.

Democracy's Worst Enemy. The great military machine which the kaiser had built up during the first 26 years of his reign "for the purpose of maintaining peace" was constantly itching for war. There was a feeling was all right for the kaiser to assume

(Copyright, 1918, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.) ed pure gold and they set enormous | the role of the "Prince of Peace" during the period of preparation, it was possible to overplay the part. He so frequently referred to the fact that his sole purpose in maintaining a large

> to fear that perhaps he might mean it. The murder of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the successor to the Austrian throne, and his wife by a Serbian on June 29, 1914, gave Germany the excuse for which she had been waiting so long to start a European conflagration and found Austria as anxious for war as her ally.

> army and navy was to maintain peace

that the war lords of Germany began

But even had Emperor Franz Joseph shown reluctance to plunge his nation into war and had Austria refused to chastise Serbia for the murder of the Archduke I doubt very much whether the kaiser would have allowed that event to have gone unavenged.

It touched him in one of his most vulnerable spots. The sanctity of royalty is one of his most cherished ideas. He felt sponsor for the monarchies of the world, as we feel sponsor for the democracies. A thrust at a throne was a stab at the kaiser's heart, and with or without the co-operation of Austria I firmly believe he would have gone to any lengths to have avenged the crime of Sarajevo.

It is true that the kalser sent a essage to the czar of Russia in which he pointed out that Austria ought to be allowed to chastise Serbia without interference from the other European powers, remarking, princes must hold together," but there can be no doubt that that was very far from the outcome dearest to his heart. If, indeed, the punishment of Serbia kad been accomplished without war the kaiser would have been a most disappointed man, and if Russia had failed to meblize her troops, which gave Germany a pretext for crossing the Russian border, I haven't the slightest doubt that Germany would have prodded Russia into war, anyway, knowing that France would follow. "Der Tag" (the day) had come for which Germany had been planning and plotting, and nothing on earth could now interfere with the execution of the program.

How firmly the kaiser was wedden to the dynastic idea and how deeply he abhorred the spirit of democracy was revealed throughout the whole course of his life, and in his conversations with me he frequently gave ex pression to views which disclosed how thoroughly he believed in the "divine

right of kings." I saw him shortly after Wilson's election in 1912.

"What will America ever accomplish with a professor at its head?" he asked, sneeringly. "Davis, your country will never be truly great until it becomes a monarchy!"

On another occasion he sneered at conditions in England.

"Look at England today," he re-George, a socialist! Why, England is virtually a republice as bad as France! What's become of the king of England? One never hears of him any more! Why doesn't he assert himself?" The tone of disgust with which he gave vent to these sentiments was more significant, perhaps, than the words used might imply.

"Your president is trying to overthrow me and my family from the throne of Germany by his notes," he commented bitterly, when I saw him shortly after the publication of the president's reply to the pope, "but he little understands how loyal are my people and now futile his efforts will prove. They held meetings recently all over the empire, in every city and village, and showed their allegiance to me in no uncertain way, and your president received the answer from my people that he deserved!" I wondered whether the kaiser was unaware of the fact that all these meetings had been inspired by the government and their useful agent, the press, or whether he was once again making use of his histrionic ability.

Although Germany is regarded as the cradle of socialism, to the kaiser it was a cancer which was slowly eating away the foundations of his empire and he viewed its progress with the direct misgivings.

Before the war he steadfastly re fused to receive a deputation of so cialists and never once gave an audience to the leaders of the socialist party in the reichstag, although the heads of committees of all the other political parties were at times received in conference.

While the reichstag was little more than a children's debating society, the growth and increasing power of the socialistic party, which was constantly clamoring for the reform vote, could not be ignored, and no doubt had a great deal to do with the militarists' anxiety not to postpone the war too

After mobilization was ordered, however, the kaiser decided to recede from his position somewhat, and from the balcony of the palace in Berlin, in front of which an enormous crowd among the militarists that while it had gathered, he declared significantly: "I recognize no parties. We are

long.

new all Germans."
(To be continued)

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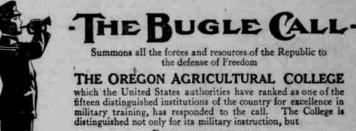
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