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The Kaiser as I Knew Him for Fourteen Years

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

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If anyone imagines, however, that his kowtowing to the socialists in this instance was evidence of a permanent change of heart, he little appreciates how deeply rooted is the kaiser's abhorrence of socialism and democracy. Indeed, one of the principal things the kaiser hoped to accomplish by prosecuting the war to a triumphant conclusion was the blow it would deal to socialistic progress. He felt that victory would make his army the idol of the people and that their monarch would shine in the reflected glory of their martial achievements. A successful war, he believed, would set socialism back a hundred years.

Certain it is the war brought no change in the kaiser's personal habits. Even to curry favor with the socialistic element he never unbent to the slightest degree in his outward display of kingly attributes. In all his career the German people had never seen their kaiser other than in his royal uniform, and at all military parades or reviews he always rode a white horse, that he might be most conspicuous, and bore the royal mace which his ancestors had carried centuries before him. With the death struggle between medieval monarchy and democracy raging about him the kaiser was determined to yield not a tittle of his prerogatives. His automobile still made its coming known by its distinctive "tada-tada-ta-ta" and the royal palaces were maintained in all their accustomed pomp.

But while the kaiser's armies were triumphant in the field, the principle which he was combating was everywhere gaining ground. On March 15, 1917, the czar abdicated and Russia, whose autocratic form of government had long been the envy of the German aristocracy, became a republic!

"The downfall of the Russian empire was brought about by England because she feared that the czar was about to make a separate peace," the kaiser commented to me. "As a matter of fact, however, neither the czar nor his government ever approached us on that subject, and when England overthrew the Russian monarchy she defeated her very purpose. With the czar on the throne Russia would probably have gone on fighting us."

Although the kaiser bore no particular love for the czar, whom he was fighting, he had no desire to convert the empire into a democracy, and his bitterness toward England for what he thought was her part in the establishment of the Russian republic was very pronounced.

When, a few months later, the abdication of the czar was followed by the abdication of King Constantine of Greece, the kaiser sustained another blow which hurt him more than the defeat of one of his armies would have done.

"They are trying to force their rotten form of democratic government on Greece," he declared fiercely. "The way they have treated my poor sister, the queen of Greece, is a shame and a disgrace. They talk about our invasion of Belgium, but their actions in Greece are infinitely worse. I have studied the English people for twenty-five years, and they always try to cover their acts with religion and the talk of benefits to civilization and humanity, but, hypocrites that they are, they continue to grab all they can get their hands on just the same!"

The fact that Greece had a treaty with Serbia which required her to take up arms if Serbia were attacked and that she had failed to meet her obligations in that respect was naturally of no significance to the kaiser, to whom treaties were but scraps of paper.

The keynote of the kaiser's military program lay in the fact that he realized that it was necessary for him to win in order to hold his throne. I feel quite sure that if the allies were willing to concede to Germany all the territory she has conquered—Belgium, Serbia, Poland, Roumania, Russia and part of France, and restore all her colonies, upon condition that the kaiser step down from the throne, he would reject the proposition without a moment's hesitation.

"Your country would like to make a republic out of Germany," he commented, "a republic like France, perhaps, going down and down all the time—a country ruled by lawyers!" And he mentioned half a dozen of the great French statesmen who were members of the legal profession. "It's a sad thing for a country when it gets into the hands of the lawyers. France and Italy are already controlled by them, and America and England are rapidly following their example!"

The kaiser regarded the German people as his own property to do with as he liked. When I referred to the "German people" in conversation he would delicately correct me by referring in his reply to "my people." When, for instance, I said on one occasion, "I understand, your majesty, that the German people are anxious for peace," he answered, "Yes, Davis, my people are strongly in favor of peace, but they want a German peace—no allied peace!"

He believed that just as the universe is ruled by God so should the earth

be dominated by an earthly ruler and that God had selected him for the task. To displace him in favor of a republican form of government, to substitute a ruler elected by the people for a monarch designated by God was in his opinion the basest sort of sacrilege, and the unfortunate part of it all was that the majority of his people coincided with him. They preferred to be ruled by a hand of iron rather than to rule themselves. Some day they may be awakened to the blessings of self-government, but up to the present time they have not shown the slightest indication that they would prefer to rule than be ruled, and because they submit so willingly to the kaiser's domination he has become obsessed with the idea that the rest of the world should follow suit.

CHAPTER VII.

The Japanese.

According to the talk of the German diplomats before the war the expectation was that Japan's power would be used against America at the first opportunity. Whether the object of this campaign was to stir up trouble between Japan and America or only to awaken this country to a sense of the danger which the Germans professed to believe threatened her I don't know. I do know, however, that prospect of a Japanese-American war seemed to worry the Germans considerably more than it worries us.

The day England declared war against Germany, August 5, 1914, the Prince von Pless called to see me professionally.

"There will be two wars fought," he said, oracularly. "The present one, by which we shall gain control of the continent of Europe forever, and then a war with the yellow races, in which we shall probably have your country to assist us!"

That this opinion was more or less general in Germany may account for the fact that from the time war was declared until August 23, 1914, when Japan declared war against Germany, the Japanese residents in Berlin were made the subject of the most sickening attentions. It was reported that Japan was going to attack Russia, and the Germans could not do enough to show their newly born admiration for the yellow race which they had hitherto so deeply despised. The Japs were carried through the streets on the shoulders of the populace and kissed and cheered wherever they appeared in public.

And then Japan declared war against Germany! Instantly there was a wild demonstration in the streets of Berlin, which would have resulted most disastrously for the Japs who had so recently been hailed as friends but for the astonishing fact that every single Jap had succeeded in getting away from Berlin before the news of Japan's entry into the war became generally known.

In the absence of Japanese upon which to vent their spleen, the Germans did everything they could to make life miserable for those who resembled Japs. The few Chinese who were there were terribly treated either because they were taken for Japs or because they were of the same race. The Siamese minister, Prince Traidos, who was one of my patients, told me that when his wife and children went out on the streets the crowds followed them, and jeered, referring to the Japanese as monkeys and using other opprobrious epithets. They even went so far as to spit in Princess Traidos' face, and the minister finally decided to send her and the children to Switzerland, although he himself remained at his post.

I saw the kaiser shortly after the Japanese declaration of war, and he was very bitter against the United States because of that development.

"What is your president thinking of to allow a yellow race to attack a white race! Now the Japanese are attacking Kiau-Chau, and America could have prevented it. All that America had to do was to raise a finger and Japan would have known enough to keep her place!"

He spoke in this strain on several subsequent occasions.

When Kiau-Chau fell he again criticized the United States for not having stopped Japan.

"How can your president allow Japan to increase in power at the expense of a white race?" he asked, indignantly. "Now China is lost to the world forever. America is the one power that could have prevented it, but now Japan has got her fingers on China and she is lost to us forever!"

After we were in the war, the kaiser expressed to me his opinion that our object in taking this step was fourfold:

"First," he said, "Wilson wants to save the money you have loaned to the allies! Second, he wants to have a seat at the peace table. Third, he wants to give your army and navy a little practical experience—unfortunately, at our expense. And fourth, and principally, he wants to prepare for the war with Japan which he knows is inevitable. The Japanese are

(To be continued)

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