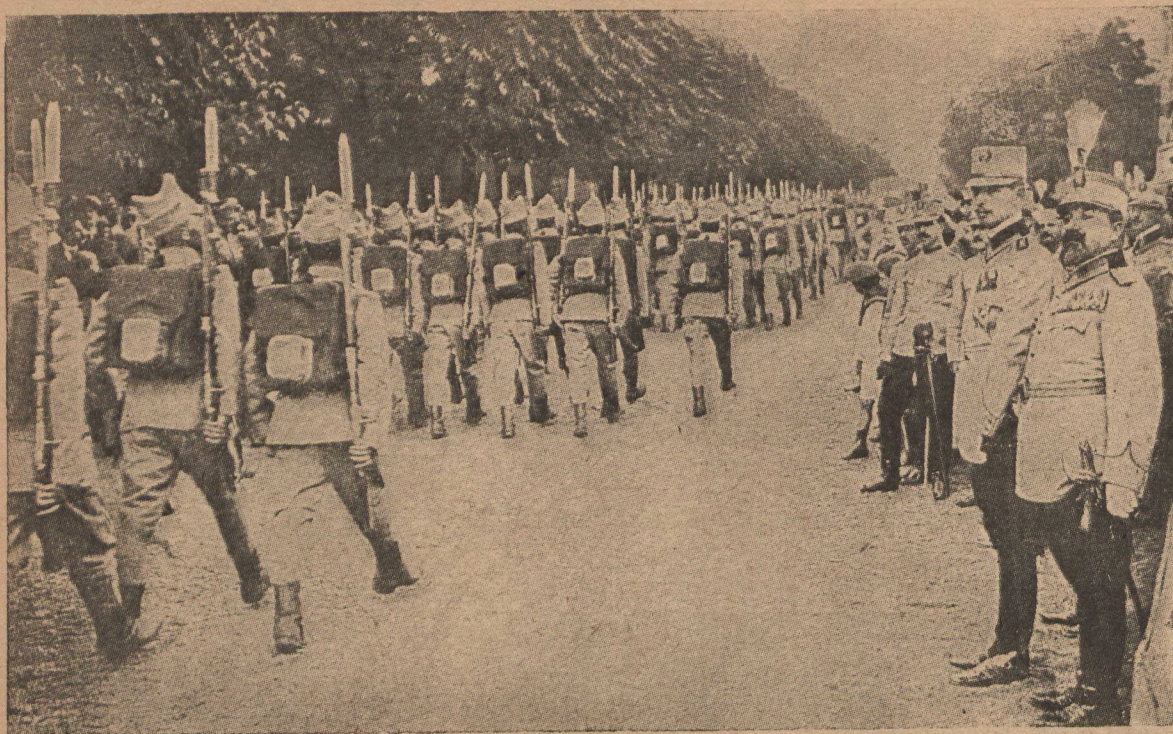




How Roumania felt about the war when she decided to go into it.

naturally, they being who they were, was of extreme interest to me. Thus, I became in a way quite well acquainted with the life of the Grand Admiral. She told me of her childhood at Kiel, when her father was only commanding a vessel, at which time her mother made all their clothes, having only one maid to assist her in keeping the house and taking care of the children. And from these and other conversations I glimpsed enough to realize that von Tirpitz's rise from lieutenant to Grand Admiral of the German navy came through sheer ability and an almost superhuman toiling—I know, during the time of my stay there that he often worked twenty hours a day, sometimes for days at a stretch, and he was by no means a young man. We often discussed the Kaiser, and she told me many stories of her father's relations with him.

ALTHOUGH a great admirer of the Grand Admiral and his junior by a few years, the Kaiser, with his dominating nature, often wanted to dictate and bring the Admiral to do certain things against his judgment. But the Admiral had a will of his own, and an absolute fearlessness in expressing his opinions and sticking to his own convictions in naval matters. Of course, this caused friction between the two, often so great as to keep both parties from speaking to each other, sometimes for quite a period. How valuable a man von Tirpitz was, and how well the Kaiser knew his worth is exemplified most fully by the fact that von Tirpitz, in spite of many times daring to set himself in opposition to the Kaiser, still retained his standing. Any other person, no matter of how high position, who would have taken such a stand, would shortly have found himself relegated from official circles. And after these differences of opinion the Grand Admiral often went so far in showing his displeasure as to decline invitations to dine at the Royal table, a thing about as close to lese-majesty as one could imagine. All of which is only another instance of how valuable the Grand Admiral must have appeared to the Kaiser. Perhaps even then the German war lord of to-day had dreams of world dominence; and for the furthering and fulfilling of them he realized how vital to their success was the presence of von Tirpitz in his position—it seems this must have been, for the Kaiser, of all men, is least given to brooking even the slightest breaches of court etiquette.

The relations between the Kaiser and the Grand Admiral had been strained for a considerable period when it came time for the ceremony of the Admiral's daughter Elsie's presentation to the Court. Till then the Admiral had been seeing the Kaiser only when summoned on matters pertaining to the navy. Now, however, it was impossible for the Admiral not to be in attendance. After the ceremony of presentation, the Court dispersed and dancing followed. It should be mentioned right here that Elsie was a great favourite with the Kaiser. Shortly following her presentation she noted he was alone at one side of the great ball room. Quickly going to her father, who was standing near by her, talking to some of the guests present, she drew him away. Claspings his arm tightly she led him straight to the Kaiser and by her tactful words, aided by her strong favour with His Majesty, she effected a reconciliation. How well she stood with the Kaiser, a very aloof man at all times, even for a King, I saw for myself once at a celebration of the Admiral's birthday, which the

Kaiser attended. Elsie and he were talking together and he held up his left foot remarking jocularly: "How do you like my new boots?" which were of a peculiar pattern. "Why, I don't like them at all," she replied quite coolly. The incident may seem inconsequential, and would have been with anyone less given to unbending than the Kaiser, but he smiled easily, remarking regretfully: "Well, that's too bad." Time and again after the reconciliation effected by Elsie, the Kaiser when he would happen to see her, would make teasing comment upon her powers as mediator.

The Kaiser often invited his Excellence, the Admiral, to his numerous hunting parties given at one or other of the Royal castles and hunting lodges, scattered in different parts of Germany. As usual, the Admiral would go, accompanied by one manservant. The hunting parties generally started out about six o'clock in the morning and breakfast would be served accordingly, but the Emperor, following one of his dear habits, often got up and dressed long before time, and had a most annoying habit of personally going around, waking up everybody hours before it was necessary. The Kaiser is extremely impulsive. Once seized with a thought, idea or plan, he does not stop for anything, but immediately carries it out or to those concerned in it. On one of these hunting trips when up extra early, a thought came to him regarding some naval matters. Immediately he rushed to the rooms reserved for the Admiral. In answer to his knock, Herbert, the Admiral's valet, came to the door. The boy was new and had never experienced any of the Kaiser's informal calls; so he was almost overcome by the sight of his Sovereign standing there hatless, unannounced and unattended. The boy, however, finally managed to articulate that while his Excellency was up, he was for the moment in his bath; but that he would surely be out immediately. Hearing this, the Kaiser brushed aside the astonished youth, made his way to the bathroom, and, walking calmly in upon the naked, reclining Admiral, plunged at once into the subject upon his mind. His excellency, quite disconcerted, was forced to stand dripping wet with a bath towel wrapped hastily around him until the Kaiser finished. And it was not until the Kaiser finished that the oddness of the situation struck him, so fully had he been wrapped up in the business at hand. Then his invasion struck him as exceedingly funny, and he took himself away laughing heartily.

MY walks with Margaret, in fact, my whole stay at the Minister's, was more recreation than an ordinary duty of necessity, for it brought me in touch with many personages that otherwise would have remained but names to me, and indirectly it gave me knowledge of much of the lives of many of Germany's great people whose whims, peculiarities, etc., I heard through the girls and their friends whom I came in contact with.

Often when I was out with Margaret, Elsie would be away with her mother, and at an appointed time the four of us would meet at musicales and lectures. Their lives were along very ordinary grooves, and for a family occupying such a high place in the country's social world, they were an extremely quiet, homeloving one, the girls going out very seldom.

As for the Admiral—he did nothing but work, barring those occasional hunting trips with the

Kaiser, he had no recreations, unless a daily walk for an hour in the Thiergarten just at dusk could be called such. He never touched cards, and I never heard of his knowing any other games. He did not smoke and drank only sparingly of light wines, such as Bordeaux and Moselle. He was very regular in his habits. No matter how late at night it might be when he got to bed, he always rose at nine, took a bath and a massage at the hands of his valet. This man of excessive energy began the day with a piece of dry toast, one boiled egg and a cup of coffee. In all the time I was there I never knew him to depart from this. In fact, for such a vigorous and powerfully built man (he is well over six feet) he ate so astonishingly little as often to arouse my wonder. With the exception of breakfast, the meals at Tirpitz were terribly irregular, and chiefly due to the Admiral's habits of study.

HE did all his work and planning pertaining to the navy in his huge study in his home in the Ministerial building at 13 Leipziger Flats; from here the whole German navy was commanded, and to this place came endless visitors: regular navy officers, old Count von Zeppelin and others with money intentions on the navy; cranks with crazy schemes and many representatives of foreign nations. Jules Cambon, Ambassador for France, was a very frequent visitor, the two men being on excellent terms. Strange as it may seem now, the Admiral had a particularly high regard for French people; equally a very decided antipathy to Englishmen and their politics, although he held the language in high regard, and spoke it perfectly. Often when he was engaged with his secretary, or studying out some important problem, the Admiral would forget all about eating. As none of the family would sit down without him, and no one dared disturb him, luncheon was served variously from one in the afternoon to four, much to the disgust of the butler and other servants.

In the spring started the sitting of the Reichstag. At night during this time we would often wait until ten o'clock for supper before the Admiral would come back utterly worn out, looking ten years older after a stormy session when he had to fight desperately for the rights of his dear navy against a horde of shouting Democrats bitterly opposed to the granting of more credit for the building of fresh cruisers, torpedo boats, etc. Sometimes on arrival home he had to be helped out of his carriage and up the steps. Often his broad shoulder, enveloped in long cape peculiar to the navy, stooped so he appeared more a man of eighty than the sixty years he was, and which in ordinary times he did not look. How terrific was the drain of some of those sessions upon him may be understood when his speech was temporarily gone, and his eyes were sunken and filled with that look of utter weariness that comes from the complete exhaustion of both body and mind. Immediately the session closed, at which, he it said, he generally got what he wanted, he and Frau von Tirpitz left for Bad where he would rest and recuperate in preparation for once more attacking his labour of love—the building of an invincible navy.

In March the Admiral's birthday came around, and for days ahead the whole household was busy in preparation for what was one of the main family fetes of the year. On his birthday, outside of the ordinary present giving and rejoicing, and, most important, was the coming of the Kaiser. It was His Majesty's custom to bring to his most venerated Minister his good wishes on the morning of the day. The drawing-room was all decorated for the ceremony, and everybody outwardly and inwardly much excited.

The necessity of being in gala dress at ten o'clock in the morning is rather trying, but I bravely made the best of it; and along with the rest made a brave showing of not being flustered or excited. Perhaps I was, slightly more than the rest, for this occasion had been also set as the time when I should be presented to the Kaiser.

Punctually, as His Majesty always is—that being one of his characteristic traits—the peculiar individual toning of his car sounded before the door promptly at ten. His Majesty alighted at the door accompanied by one of his aides-de-camp, while behind came to a stop three more of the Court autos—he has thirty—and from them alighted various officers of the army and navy. Happily he came up the steps where he was greeted by the Admiral and Frau von Tirpitz. The girls and myself and the rest of the household were drawn up in two lines on either side of the door; and as he passed through to the drawing room we all made him the elaborate curtsy common to German Court etiquette.

Following him came the Tirpitz, myself and the officers. After offering the usual congratulations the Kaiser turned to her Excellence and started conversing with her. Later on I was presented, and in excellent French, of which he is very proud, he con-