

## The Kaiser as I Knew Him For Fourteen Years

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

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The Kaiser, who was 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, but, 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 streets of Japanese towns which he said their action, the Ger-

mans 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 Kaiser, Prince Taidos, 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 Taidos' 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 Kiao-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 Kiao-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 the ones which your country must look upon as its real enemies."

A German officer of high standing told me just before I left Berlin that America had made the great mistake of sending ammunition, guns and supplies to Russia, via Japan, because Japan had just retained the finely made American articles and had dumped on Russia a lot of good-for-nothing material of her own in their place. "My advice to America," he declared, "is to cut the throat of every Japanese in America and get rid of the internal danger." He did not suggest cutting the throats of all the undesirable Germans who were in America and who had already demonstrated that they were far more dangerous than the Japanese had ever been.

### CHAPTER VIII.

#### The Kaiser's Confidence of Victory.

About twelve years ago I attended the German military maneuvers at Liegnitz, in Silesia, having been invited by some journalistic friends of mine to accompany them in the motor allowed the press. The military representatives of England, France, America and other countries were there with the Kaiser's staff to witness the display of Germany's military power. Apparently they were very much impressed, for I heard afterwards that one of the French officers who had been present had written a book in which he said: "With such an army, Germany could annex France in six months!"

I happened to mention this fact to the Kaiser shortly afterwards and his significant comment was:

"Six months! I should hope so. It wouldn't take that long!"

The confident belief that when "Der Tag"—the day—finally arrived, Germany would crush her enemies and accomplish her object within a few months at the outside was held not only by the Kaiser but by the people generally and their conduct when the war broke out clearly disclosed it.

When Germany's man power was mobilized, no one in Germany believed it would be very long before they would all be back and every effort was made to make their few weeks of active service as little irksome as possible. "Liebesleben," gifts of love consisting of clothing and food of every description, were forwarded to them by their relatives and friends in the most lavish manner, although, of course, at that time the German commissary was able to satisfy all the soldiers' requirements.

One of my patients told me that she had sent seventeen hundred pounds of sausages to one regiment within a week, and when I asked her why she had been so generous she replied that her chauffeur was a member of the regiment!

The extent to which the country's resources were squandered in those early months is evidenced by the fact that the soldiers had such an excess of ill-fitting woolen wearing apparel that they used many of the knitted articles as earpieces and covers for their horses. No one had the slightest idea that the time might come when the whole nation would be clothed in paper!

At this late day it can hardly be necessary to establish how thoroughly prepared the Germans were for the war, but an incident which occurred in the early days of the conflict may not be out of place to show the self-satisfied and confident attitude which all the Germans assumed.

Two officers sitting at a table in an out-of-door cafe shortly after the war began overheard one of several ladies who were passing remark: "Look at



those officers sitting there drinking. Why are they not at the front fighting?" One of the officers got up and, approaching the ladies, said: "Our work was completed months ago. We worked from early morning till late at night on plans which our armies are now carrying out. It is our time to rest."

The resistance that France would be able to put up was always very lightly estimated, and if the intervention of England was at all taken into consideration, the comparatively small army she could place in the field was regarded as but a drop in the bucket compared with the well-trained German horde that was ready to sweep across the border. How could England's 80,000 men cope with Von Kluck's 500,000 or the hastily mobilized French armies resist the thoroughly prepared, equipped and well-disciplined German warriors?

It really did not seem wonderful that the Germans firmly believed that they would bring the allies to their knees within a comparatively few weeks and that the conquering German armies would celebrate Sedan day, September 2, in Paris. What actually happened is, of course, too well known here to require recital, but I know that the Germans were kept in absolute ignorance of the marvelous resistance the allies were able to put up in those critical days of August and September, 1914, and to this day the majority of Germans have not heard of the battle of the Marne!

Just after the English passed their conscription law I was called to see the Kaiser at the great army headquarters, which at that time were at Pless. Although the war had lasted two or three times as long as the Germans had expected, and the war had developed over night, they must have felt by putting on a bold front.

"How foolish for England to start conscription now," he declared. "She thinks she can accomplish in a few months what it has taken Germany a hundred years to attain. Armies and navies cannot be developed over night. We have never stopped preparing since the days of Frederick the Great!"

"Yes, your majesty, but the Northern states in our civil war put in conscription two years after the beginning of the war," I suggested.

"But just look how long your war lasted," the Kaiser replied quickly. "This war won't last that long. The allies will feel what the power of Germany is long before English conscription can avail them anything!"

"And while England is slowly building up her insignificant army," the Kaiser went on, "she will see America's navy and merchant marine constantly growing and the dollar replacing the pound as the unit of the world's finance. No, Davis, England will soon be sick of the war and will look with fear upon America's growing power!"

The French army, too, was generally belittled, and the Russians were believed to be absolutely negligible. The French army was so poorly equipped, it was pointed out, that the officers had to go to the front in leather boots, and on the Russian front, only the first-line men had guns, the others being armed with clubs!

Eventually, officers and soldiers returning from the western front on furlough or passing through the country en route from one theater of the war to the other brought the report of the defeat before Paris. Soldiers who participated in that disastrous retreat wrote from the new trenches to their friends and relatives telling of the terrible experiences they had undergone, when they went to fight with nothing to eat but raw potatoes and turnips which they picked from the fields.

When these reports finally spread through Germany the people began to realize that their generals in the west were not meeting with the same success that Von Hindenburg had had in the east and Von Hindenburg became the idol of the people immediately, a fact that was very distasteful to the high command.

The Kaiser's dislike of Von Hindenburg was of long standing. He had never forgiven that general for the mistake he made during military maneuvers in peace time when by a brilliant stroke of strategy he had succeeded in capturing the Kaiser's forces, including the Kaiser and his whole staff!

I have referred in a previous chapter to the Kaiser's unbounded confidence after the Italian collapse in 1917. "Now, we've got the allies!" he exclaimed, with an air of conclusiveness which emphasized the optimism he displayed.

After the capture of Roumania, he exhibited a similar degree of exultation. He believed that in that achievement he had successfully solved the food problem—the one cloud which constantly darkened the Kaiser's horizon.

"Now the allies will never succeed in starving us," he said to me in my office shortly after the Roumanian drive. With his hands clasped and a look of serene certainty on his face, he said: "Look at the agricultural possibilities which exist

## WAR NEWS

### Tuesday

The fall of Valenciennes to Marshal Haig's forces is imminent. Despite the desperate resistance of the Germans the British have entered the city on the west; while to the north they have made a deep thrust into the great Raisnes Forest and are moving in the direction of Conde near the angle of Scheldt.

Although the progress of the Allied forces in Belgium and Flanders has slowed down; appreciable gains have been made. Holland and Brussels on the Scheldt; south of Tournai are now in the hands of the British.

In the northern battle area; the Belgians have reached the Lys Canal along their entire front.

The French are still moving actively to the north of Laon and have now completed the occupation of Chateau de Grandpre. To the southward of Ghent they are firmly established to the east bank of the Lys river; having made crossings at several points. Around Le Cateau activity has diminished greatly. The same is true of the American northwest of Verdun.

### Wednesday

The attack of the British Third and Fourth Armies on a wide front south of Valenciennes today is of vital strategic importance. The allied salient here menaces the German line all the way to Holland and if it is widened it will have a tremendous effect also on the enemy front to the south.

Two thousand prisoners were taken by the British early in today's attack.

In their attack Tuesday southeast of Ghent the French captured Molendhoek and gained the west bank of the Lys from Mechelen to Driesch. They had to fight hard for all their gains.

The new and most important attack today was a general one and was delivered by strong forces of British Third and Fourth Armies. The British forged ahead towards the Scheldt Canal and the tributary Lys along which the enemy is endeavoring to protect the flank of his grand retirement.

The stiffest fighting of the American offensive west of the Meuse was under way today. The line is swaying back and forth. In the region of Grand Pre, on the western end of the front the Americans threw back repeated violent German counterattacks.

The evacuation of Ghent Belgium is in full swing according to a despatch to the Telegram from Savan Ghent. The last boats in Ghent are being hastily towed toward Selraete near the Dutch frontier south of Savan Ghent.

### Wednesday

Over the entire front held by the British further gains have been made by Field Marshal Haig's men from the region south of Le Cateau to the Scheldt River. At some places enemy positions to a depth of more than three miles were penetrated; numerous villages were taken and several thousand prisoners and many guns were captured.

### Thursday

On several of the most important sectors in France—from the region of Valenciennes to the east of Le Cateau; north of Laon between the Oise and the Sambre Rivers and on the front from the Meuse River to the vicinity of Grand Pre—battles of a sanguinary character are being fought. In these the British, French and American troops everywhere are making progress against the stubbornly resisting Germans.

In Belgium the allied forces, owing to the rapid retreat of the enemy and the flooded conditions of the lowlands have not yet been able to come into full fighting contact with the Germans but doubtless a few days more will see them again hard after their quarry and driving him farther toward his own frontier.

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South of Valenciennes; the British Third and Fourth armies; with which Americans are co-operating have continued successfully to press onward with Mons and Maubeuge their objectives. Valenciennes is gradually being enveloped.

South of the Oise River the French are making sharp thrusts against the enemy with the intention of clearing out the entire triangle between Flaviigny and Mont Cornet and taking all the railroad lines within this region and also blotting out the salient that still exists there. The Germans are strongly counter-attacking on all the fronts of attack.

North of Grand Pre and north of Verdun in the sector lying between the Meuse river and north of the Ar-

gon Forest the Americans have cut further and deeply into the enemy's line.

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### MILK PRICES

This is the time of year when the producers of milk are liable to force the question of price upon our attention. From several parts of the Province enquiries have come to me with reference to the action of the Food Board in regulating the retail price of milk. The Food Board does not fix any price at which the producer must sell his milk; nor does it limit his profits in any way even if he retails to consumers the milk he produces. The Board does not require milk dealers to be licensed by it but it does limit the spread or margin of the milk distributor to five cents a quart above the cost of the supply to him laid down at his dairy or place of business and it further provides that no dealer operating on a margin or spread lower than the maximum can increase the same without the written consent of the Food Board. Any dealer so doing makes himself liable upon conviction therefore to a penalty from one hundred to one thousand dollars or to imprisonment of to both fine and imprisonment.

The regulation recently enacted to prevent the undue enhancement of the cost of living gives to any city

or other council power to appoint a Fair Price Committee with adequate power to investigate and determine fair retail prices for milk bread substitutes fish fuel or other necessities of life. We pride ourselves upon our local self-government which has been evolved to attend to matters of this character. It is a great mistake to seek to lift upon the Federal Government by the medium of the overworked Food Board matters of such fundamental municipal concern.

With reference however to price increases it is well to bear in mind that a depreciating currency as an advancing cost of commodities is world-wide and the inevitable result of war. Some commodities advance more than others because the war intensifies the demand for them; food supplies are of this character. Our farmers have responded loyally to the demand for increased production and there should be among them a sense of their responsibility to their country and a determination not to take advantage of the present excessive demand to drive a hard bargain. But obviously the present conditions have greatly increased the cost of production and any severe measures restraining prices is liable to decrease a production that is already inadequate.

Mr. Clynes the British Food Controller recently fixed the price of milk to the farmer in that country higher than it had previously been and naturally very much higher than the price in Canada. In answer to criticism he says "Milk is an indispensable food for which substitutes could not be found and one upon which children must very largely depend." He was anxious to "milk supplies" free from the risk of break-down because of the price being fixed too low. It was necessary to have "adequate supplies of the indispensable food."

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