

# The Kaiser as I Knew Him For Fourteen Years

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

Copyright, 1918, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

## CHAPTER IV.

### America Disappoints Kaiser.

The Kaiser ascended the throne in 1888. For twenty-six years his reign was unmarred by a single war, although twice during that period, once in 1905 and again in 1911, he nearly succeeded in precipitating a conflict. Subsequent developments have brought out clearly enough that during all these years of peace, the Kaiser was only awaiting the opportune moment to bring on war.

Germany's preparation consisted not merely in building up her army and navy and developing a military spirit in her people, but in trying to establish friendships abroad where they would do the most good in the event of a world war.

The German military preparation was more or less obvious. The Kaiser was always its warmest advocate and frankly admitted that it was his intention to remain armed to the teeth, although he protested to me many times that his sole object was to maintain the peace of the world.

In 1913, for instance, I was in The Hague when Carnegie delivered a speech at the opening of the Peace Palace, in the course of which he declared that the Kaiser was a stumbling-block in the way of world peace. When I got back to Berlin I mentioned the fact to the Kaiser, hoping to draw him out.

"Yes, I know exactly what Carnegie said at The Hague," he replied rather testily, "and I don't like the way he spoke at all. He referred to me as the 'war lord' and said I was standing in the way of world peace. Let him look at my record of twenty-five peaceful years on the throne! No, the surest means to maintain the peace of the world is my big army and navy! Other nations will think twice before going to war with us!" The fact that he had previously accepted 5,000,000 marks from Carnegie for the furtherance of universal peace didn't seem to occur to him.

And the world at large learned more or less of German intrigue and propaganda since the war, but it is not generally known that the same sort of thing was going on even more actively in time of peace. Countless measures, of the most subtle and insidious character, were taken to lull into a sense of false security the nations she intended eventually to attack and to inspire fear in or command the respect of nations which she hoped would remain neutral or might even be induced to throw in their lot with hers in the event of war.

In this phase of Germany's preparation for war, the Kaiser took a leading part.

It is a fact, for instance, that practically every officer in the Chilean army is a German, and the Kaiser has spared no pains to foster the friendship of the South American republics, commercially and diplomatically.

One of the South American ministers told me of an ex-president of Peru who had visited Berlin. This Peruvian had previously visited London and Paris and had received little or no official attention in either of those capitals. For reasons best known to himself, the Kaiser decided to cater to this gentleman, and accordingly arranged an audience.

In the discussion which took place when they met, the Kaiser displayed such a remarkable acquaintance with Peruvian affairs and the family history and political career of his visitor that the South American was stunned. When he returned home he carried with him a most exalted idea of the all-pervading wisdom of the German Emperor. To what extent the Kaiser had spent the midnight oil preparing for this interview I have no knowledge, but knowing the importance he placed upon making a favorable impression at all times I have a mental picture of his delving deeply into South American lore in preparation for his guest.

There is nothing dearer to the Kaiser than caste and social distinction. Morganatic marriages were naturally abhorrent to him. Nevertheless, before Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the successor to the Austrian throne, was murdered, the Kaiser not only recognized his morganatic wife, who was only a countess, but went out of his way to show her deference. He placed her at his right at all state functions which she attended. To bring Austria and Germany closer together, he was willing to waive one of his deep-rooted prejudices.

The significance of the Kaiser's many visits to Italy, his presentation of a statue to Stockholm, his yachting excursions in Scandinavian waters, his flirtations with Turkey from his castle on the Island of Corfu, and similar acts of ingratiating, becomes quite apparent in the face of more recent

developments, but his efforts to curry favor with America during all the years of peace which preceded the war were so much more elaborate that they deserve more than passing mention.

No more subtle piece of propaganda was ever conceived than the Kaiser's plan of exchanging professors between the United States and Germany through the establishment of the Roosevelt and Harvard chairs at the University of Berlin and corresponding chairs at Harvard and other American universities. Ostensibly the purpose of the project was to foster good-will between the two nations. Actually, it 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 inculcated 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 statesmen, 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 enter-

tain 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 be 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.

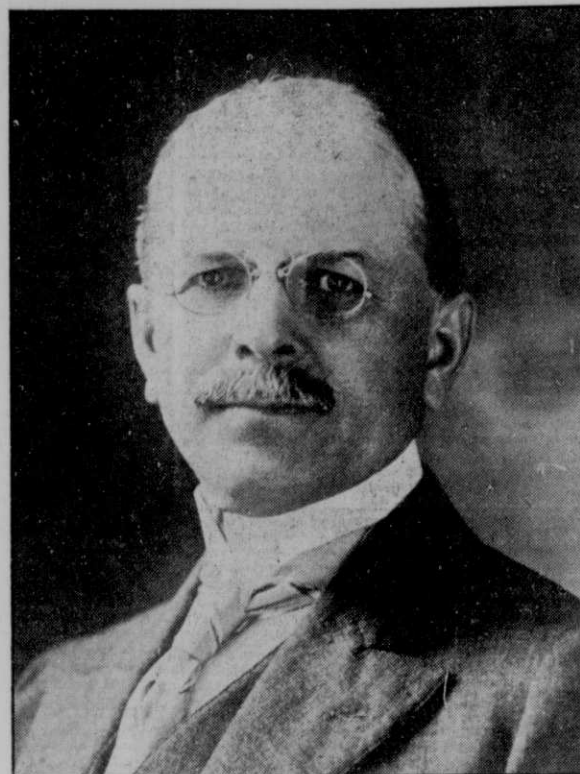
"Well, did you gather from what you read that the American people want to see peace in Europe or do they want the war to go on so they can continue to make fortunes out of it?"

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 was never mentioned and it was not until several months later when the submarine warfare was started again on a greater scale than ever that I realized that the whole purpose of this interview was to ascertain if they could, without telling me their intentions, who was the candidate, Hughes or Wilson, who would be least dangerous to them if more American vessels were sunk in the ruthless submarine campaign they were then contemplating.

The election was drawing close; it was necessary to notify Von Bernstorff of Potsdam's preference; the Kaiser believed that perhaps he held the deciding ballot in his hand in the shape of the German-American vote and he didn't know how to cast it.

# A True Servant of the People



CONGRESSMAN ADDISON T. SMITH

Congressman Smith has actively supported ALL the government's war plans.

Congressman Smith has consistently sustained the president in ALL of his recommendations for emergency legislation and ample appropriations for the conduct of the war.

If the voters of Idaho want to MAKE SURE of electing a Congressman who will SUSTAIN THE PRESIDENT, why not vote for one who HAS done so, IN EVERY INSTANCE.

Congressman Smith has specialized on the enactment of legislation for the benefit of settlers on the public land and has several laws of this character to his credit.

Congressman Smith has been active in support of prohibition legislation, woman's suffrage, rural credits, the fixing of a price for wheat, which will encourage ample production and give the farmers a fair profit.

Congressman Smith is the author of a bill which has attracted the attention of the leaders of both branches of Congress and is strongly recommended by Secretary Lane for enactment next session, to provide farms for returning soldiers on reclaimed arid, swamp and cut-over lands, under the provision of which soldiers and sailors will have the preference right of employment and entry.

Congressman Smith has advocated legislation to regulate the price of farm machinery, vehicles, harness and other commodities farmers have to buy.

Congressman Smith initiated and carried to a successful conclusion legislation providing for the Government to take over the King Hill Irrigation Project, for which \$600,000 was appropriated, saving to the settlers their homes and earnings of years. A bill which he introduced over a year ago has been made the basis of a systematic plan, strongly endorsed by the Administration, to encourage private capital to invest in irrigation bonds where the projects are constructed by the Reclamation Service, under which the Bruneau, North Side-Minidoka, Fort Hall and other proposed irrigation projects will be constructed.

Congressman Smith's prompt and intelligent attention to the requests of constituents has attracted to him a large personal following regardless of politics, who are interested in his re-election.

**What REASON is there for replacing a man who has proven his usefulness and worthiness with one who is unknown, untried, and whose political affiliation and belief is a matter of conjecture?**

Hence the eagerness with which they interrogated me upon my return from the "front."

The interview with the Reichskanzler and the fact that it was instigated by the Kaiser indicated to me that America occupied a most important place in the Kaiser's plans. When, a few months later, we declared war against Germany, however, all the Kaiser's planning and plotting of years collapsed. The edifice he had been so confidently erecting came crashing to the ground because it was built upon

a false foundation. How elementary was his expectation that his efforts to win the friendship of the United States in time of peace could avail him anything in the face of his barbaric methods of making war!

GEORGE H. HANSON.

Republican Candidate for Sheriff of Power County.

I have been acquainted with a large number of the older residents of Power County for many years. They

know my record, and of my activities during the time. I served one term as sheriff of Cassia County. My record there is known, or can be easily learned. The work of the sheriff's office is not new to me, and my acquaintance with the peace officers of other counties, will be an asset in serving the people if I am elected.

I submit my candidacy to the voters of the county and suggest that they make inquiries concerning me if they are not entirely satisfied.

Respectfully,  
GEORGE H. HANSON.