The Kaiser as I Knew Him for Fourteen Years

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

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PREFACE

For 14 years the kaiser was my patient. All I know of him and all that he told me came to me while the relation of patient and dentist existed between us.

For that reason I felt at first that, no matter how vital to the allied cause might be the information I could give as to the kaiser's viewpoint, ambitions and plans, the requirements of professional ethics must seal my lips and compel me to withhold it from the world at large.

When, however, I considered the grave crisis that confronts the world and in which my own country is playing so important a part, and realized that what I knew of the kaiser might prove of some value to civilization, I concluded that my patriotic duty was paramount and rose superior to any of the ordinary demands of professional ethics.

In this conclusion I was strengthened by the urgent solicitation of the leaders of my profession who were most emphatic in their contention that my ethical qualms were entirely unwarranted in view of all the circumstances.

ARTHUR N. DAVIS, D. D. S.

CHAPTER I.

"America Must Be Punished!"

When war broke out between the United States and Germany, on April 6, 1917, I was in Berlin. I had lived and practiced my profession as a dentist there for 14 years, and the kaiser had been one of my patients during all that time.

I don't know exactly how many visits the kaiser paid me professionally, but I know I am safe in saying they were not less than 100, and the probabilities are they were closer to 150. Almost invariably, after my work was done, the kaiser remained anywhere from ten minutes to an hour and a half to discuss the topics of the hour with me.

When we declared war against Germany, therefore, while I was still an American citizen—as patriotic an American, I believe, as might be found anywhere—I had lived in Germany so long, had developed so many professional friendships in Germany's most favored circles and was so generally regarded as a particular favorite of the kaiser himself, that I found it hard to realize that nevertheless I had become an alien enemy.

The same day the breaking off of diplomatic relations was announced, the German newspapers had published the provisions of an old treaty between Germany and the United States which gave Americans in Germany and Germans in America nine months after a declaration of war between the two nations within which to settle their affairs and leave the country.

"This treaty," the newspapers pointed out, "was made in the time of Frederick the Great. It has never been repealed. Germany will respect it." As there were so many more Germans in America than there were Americans in Germany, this prompt announcement of Germany's intentions regarding this treaty was quite understandable and it seemed most improbable that Germany would adopt any harsh measures toward Americans and thereby invite reprisals.

Had the situation been reversed, of course, the Germans would undoubtedly have thought it expedient to intern Americans no matter what happened to their own countrymen in America, and, in that event, this ancient treaty would have shared the fate of that which guaranteed Belgium's neutrality. One "scrap of paper" more or less would never have been allowed to interfere with Germany's "destiny."

Influential Germans who called to see me professionally during that period almost invariably expressed the hope that I was not planning to leave Berlin.

"No matter what happens, doctor," they declared—"even if the worst comes to the worst and war is declared between America and Germany—you may feel quite sure the kaiser will never let anyone harm you."

I had not let the matter rest there, however. I had called at the American embassy, where it was pointed out to me that, while diplomatic relations had been severed, it was not at all certain that war would result and there was, therefore, no reason for me to leave Berlin precipitately.

Had the kaiser been in Berlin at the time, I might, of course, have had an opportunity to put the question to him squarely as to what my fate might be if war were declared, but he was away. The court chamberlain had been appointed but a short time before and I did not know him personally, but his predecessor, Count August von Eulenburg, one of the wisest and most respected men in Germany, was one of my oldest patients and I decided to discuss the situation with him. Unfortunately, however, I found him too ill to receive me. He was eighty years old and, although unusually well preserved, was in no condition on this occasion to receive visitors.

Another influential patient of mine whom I sought out at this time was ex-Ambassador von Sturm. Although he was now retired from official life, he had formerly been a powerful figure in German state circles and still kept more or less in touch with the new court chamberlain and others in high office. His nephew was under secretary of foreign affairs.

I found the ex-ambassador at his private apartment in the Adlon hotel.

"What will happen to Americans," I asked, "if my country declares war against Germany?"

"That, doctor, will depend entirely upon how America treats our subjects," he replied, somewhat more coldly than I had expected of him. "If America interns Germans, of course, we shall undoubtedly treat Americans the same way, and you could hardly expect any special consideration, although, if you will write a letter to the court chamberlain, who is a personal friend of mine, I shall see that he gets it."

"But, excellency," I replied, "there is a treaty between Germany and America, I understand, which gives the subjects or citizens of one country who happen to be sojourning in the other when war is declared nine months within which to close up their affairs and leave. Would not that protect me?"

"Of course, doctor," he answered, "Germany will respect the treaty if America does, and then there will be no trouble. It seems to me you must await developments and, in the meantime you have no cause for worry."

"Suppose some of your subjects in America should act up and start blowing up bridges or munition factories and should be lynched, which they probably would be," I suggested, "what would Germany's course be?"

"What Germany would do then, doctor," he replied, slowly and thoughtfully, as though such a contingency had never occurred to him before—"really, doctor, I don't know what we would do!"

This somewhat unsatisfactory interview with Von Sturm might have worried me more, perhaps, had it not been for a visit I received only a day or two later from Prince von Pless, one of the kaiser's closest friends and advisors, who called on me professionally. For a year and a half the kaiser had had his great army headquarters at the prince's palace at Pless, in southeastern Germany, and I knew that he enjoyed his monarch's confidence.

When I asked him regarding the possible internment of Americans, he assured me that, come what might, I and my family had not the slightest reason for alarm.

"No matter what may befall other Americans, doctor," he asserted, in a confidential manner, "the kaiser has gone on record to the effect that you and your family are not to be molested."

Another incident which made me feel that I could proceed with my preparations for leaving Berlin without undue haste was the receipt early in the year of a most extraordinary post card from the kaiser which, it occurred to me, was quite significant as to his intentions regarding my welfare. On one side was his picture and on the other, written and signed in English in his own handwriting, was the message:

"Dear Doctor Davis:

"Wishing you a very good year for 1917. WILLIAM I. R."

This was the first message of its kind that I had ever received from the kaiser. Even in peace times, the picture postals which he had sent to me from time to time and which were autographed by him, were always signed in German. When, on February 1, the Germans resumed their ruthless submarine warfare—a move which was immediately followed by the breaking off of diplomatic relations—I felt that the kaiser must have foreseen this consequence and had sent me the postal as an intimation that he wanted me to remain in Berlin nevertheless.

When the Germans sank the Lusitania, living and practicing in Germany lost many of their attractions for me. I made up my mind then that I would rather return home and commence my professional career all over again, if necessary, than remain in a country which could sanction such a hideous form of warfare—the wanton destruction of women and children. To that end, I went to New York in the summer of 1915 to investigate the requirements for the practice of my profession in that state. I had an Illinois license, but I wanted to be in a position to practice in New York, and the following year I went to New York again and took the state dental examination. I returned to Germany late in the autumn of 1916 and later I learned that my certificate had been granted. Then I commenced active preparations to dispose of my German practice and return home.

My second reason for wanting to get out of Germany as soon as possible was the fact that food conditions in Germany were becoming more precarious every day. My wife and I feared that our child, who was two years old, might suffer from lack of proper nourishment if we remained and I determined that no matter how long it might be necessary for me to remain in Berlin, my wife and child at any rate should leave at the earliest possible moment.

My third reason, however, was by far the most insistent of all.

I had become convinced that what I knew of the kaiser and his plans, now that we were at war, ought to be communicated to America without delay and that the only way to do that adequately would be to get home as soon as I possibly could, no matter what personal sacrifice might be involved in abandoning my European practice and interests.

It is true that in the early years of my relationship with the kaiser our conversations naturally embraced only the most general of subjects, but in later years, when he came to know me better, he cast aside all reserve and talked to me on whatever was uppermost in his mind at the time. After the war started that, of course, formed the principal subject of our discussions and the part that America was playing in the conflict was frequently brought up because of the fact that I was an American.

One memorable interview I had had with him influenced me perhaps more than any other single factor to hasten the settlement of my European affairs and return home.

It was in the fall of 1916. The kaiser had come to me for professional attention, and after my work was completed he remained to discuss some of the aspects of the war. Perhaps the fact that I had just returned from a visit to America made him more than usually eager for a chat with me.

We had discussed various phases of the war, when the kaiser changed the subject abruptly with the question:

"Davis, what's the matter with your country?"

"In what respect, your majesty?" I asked.

"Why is it that your country is so unfair to Germany? Why do you persist in supplying munitions and money to the allies? Why doesn't your president treat the European warring nations the same as he treated Mexico by putting an embargo on munitions and letting us fight this thing out ourselves? You do not ship munitions to us, why do you ship them to the other side?"

I was on such terms with the kaiser that I did not hesitate to answer his question with another,

"I have always understood, your majesty, that during the Russian-Japanese war, Germany continually supplied munitions to Russia. Why was that any more justifiable than America supplying munitions to the allies? Then again, in the Spanish-American—"

"Davis, you surprise me!" the kaiser interrupted, rising from the operating chair, in which he had remained, walking towards me, throwing back his shoulders and rising to his full height. "The cases are entirely different. When we helped Russia against Japan we were helping a white race against a yellow race, don't ever forget that—don't ever forget that. But with America, that is certainly not the case. Your country is acting from purely mercenary motives. It is a case of dollars, dollars, dollars!"—and each time he repeated the word he struck his partially helpless left hand violently with his powerful right. "America values dollars more than she values German lives! She thinks it right to shoot down my people."

He had worked himself up to a degree of indignation which I had seen him display only on two or three previous occasions, and I must confess I was reluctant to start a fresh outburst by answering his arguments. His eyes, usually soft and kindly, flashed fire as he advanced towards me and slowly and incisively declared: "Davis, America — must — be — punished — for—her—actions!"

In that expression, which he repeated on subsequent occasions in precisely the same words and with the same measured emphasis, I knew that he revealed mostly clearly what his attitude was and will ever be toward this country.

CHAPTER II.

The Kaiser at Potsdam.

Getting out of Germany proved to be a far more difficult proposition than I had imagined.

Realizing that it would probably be several months before I could finally settle up my affairs, and that my child, who was anemic, ought to be taken out of Germany with as little delay as possible because food conditions were fast going from bad to worse, I applied to the kommandantur for leave to have my wife and child go to Montreux, on Lake Geneva, Switzerland, where I hoped to join them at the earliest possible moment and accompany them home. I did not relish the idea of their going across the ocean without me.

That was in May, 1917. Weeks passed while our application was going from one official to another, lying, perhaps for days at a time under a pile of other applications of a similiar character or awaiting the investigation of our personal histories, and it was not until the end of June that we received any word regarding it. Then we learned that it had been denied.

To be Continued

SUGAR.

You can't eat your sugar and give it to the soldiers too.

A young college boy now serving as a private in France writes his mother: "If you have any chance to ship us some sweets, don't fail to do so. The Triangle Huts are fairly mobbed when a candy consignment arrives and I have never yet gotten there in time to get my share."

And we must remember what this craving is an indication that these lads need the sugar; they are better soldiers if they get it—not only happier, but better fighters.

Canada has gone us one better on the sugar ration and is down to one and one-half pounds a month.

Every man, woman and child can help send sugar to the front if they will remember to put less sugar in their glass or cup and then see that it is thoroughly dissolved. Make "Stir Like a Madman" the slogan.

SALT.

The salt shortage which the Southeastern States experienced last spring and winter was not so much from a shortage of the salt as from a shortage of coal for use in the manufacture, and of cars in which to ship the finished product.

The Staple Grocers' Division of the Food Administration adivses that as much the same transportation conditions are likely to prevail this fall and winter, the trade should place its salt orders now, or certainly far enough ahead to anticipate the delay in shipment.

He is Really Peaceful.

"They call me a hard guy," whanged the would-be tough individual.

"They do, do they?" hissed the sheriff of Lone Wolf county, shaking him by the coat collar.

"Y-yes, they just call me a hard guy back home," was the reply, "but really I got a soft disposition."

DRAFTED MEN TO BE TRAINED BEFORE CALL

Nation-wide Organization for Preliminary Drill Launched by National Security League Under Sanction of General Crowder.

Under the sanction of Provost Marshal General Crowder, the National Security League has undertaken the organization throughout the country of a systematic preliminary course of training for the young men in the draft, so that when they are called they will know something of their duties and how to take care of themselves.

The League has drawn up a comprehensive plan, which will be put in operation in every state in the Union under the direction of a "Committee on Preliminary Training and Instruction of Men Registered for Draft," of which Surgeon-General Charles F. Stokes, U. S. N., retired, is chairman.

Crowder Approves.

Provost Marshal General Crowder, to whom the Security League submitted the idea before acting, has approved it in a letter to Col. Charles E. Lydecker, President of the League, in which he says:

"Your proposal gives me great satisfaction. Your League can render valuable assistance in this manner."

The Security League's plan will be made effective through the 131 branches of the League, scattered in all parts of the country, and subcommittees of Surgeon-General Stokes's committee co-operating with the Local Draft Boards in all the states. It provides for the organization into instruction classes of the men soon to be called, to be selected by the Draft Boards, the actual training to be conducted by retired or disabled army officers, whose efforts to prepare the young men for service will be supplemented by local clergymen and physicians.

Gen. J. Franklin Bell, commandant at Camp Upton, is an enthusiastic supporter of the plan and has promised the Security League co-operation in obtaining instructors for the classes in New York City and vicinity.

"Clean, Sober Soldiers."

"The object of our endeavor will be to make the young men understand why they are called for service to their country, what is to be expected of them and why they should be loyal, clean, sober and intelligent soldiers," says Surgeon-General Stokes. Outlining the operation of the plan, he continues:

"There are three main working points:

"(1) Each Local Draft Board, through its Chairman, will select a Captain, who will procure the assembly of the registrants and obtain from a local military or naval post, State Guard or Home Defense Unit or from retired or disabled veterans of the present war an adequate training officer.

"(2) The Captain will also invite a local clergyman to give information, instruction and advice to the young men.

Save Time and Money.

"(3) A local physician will also instruct the young men in matters of health, hygiene and physical well-being in order that when they go to camp they shall present themselves with a consciousness of knowledge which will add to their strength and usefulness.

"At present the vast majority of our young men are called to the colors untrained. It would greatly facilitate their being turned into soldiers and save the government time and money if when they are called they are provided with some knowledge of military training and a sense of discipline and organization.

"The position of local Captain, who will supervise the work, offers one of the finest opportunities for patriotic service for men of standing in the community who are unable to get into the trenches.

"Disorganized Rabble."

"Under the guidance of such a man, aided by an influential local clergyman and physician, the drafted men will go to their cantonments in efficient, organized bodies rather than as a disorganized rabble and with a spirit of self-reliance and comradeship. All the strangeness of the new life will have been eliminated, and, since the men will have been taught what lies before them, they will face duty with the confidence of familiarity.

"The military instruction will comprise only the simplest evolutions, with particular emphasis upon military courtesy—when, where, how and whom to salute. A general supervision of this phase of the training for uniformity and efficiency will be conducted by the government military authorities. Armories, public parks and squares, public school playgrounds, etc., will be utilized for the actual drilling. Drills two or three times a week of an hour's duration will be preferable to longer periods at less frequent intervals.

Fitted for Officers.

"Competitive drills will be arranged to stimulate interest and enthusiasm. One of the advantages of the plan will be that the men who prove most proficient in the preliminary training will have an excellent chance of being selected as non-commissioned officers when they arrive in camp."

SUGAR AND FLOUR FOR HOSPITALS.

The sugar certificate now in use in Virginia, under which a week's supply may be purchased for household use is also applicable to institutions (XI B) serving regularly less than twenty-five persons, and the Federal Food Administrator may make exception to the regulations governing the per capita allowance of sugar and flour, and the use of wheat flour substitutes, in the case of hospitals, asylums and sanatariums upon the written statement of the physician in charge that the health of patients requires a larger allotment.

FEDERAL FOOD ADMINISTRATION FOR VIRGINIA.

Information and Rulings.

Mr. Hoover returned from London on the 24th of August, from a conference with the Food Controllers of our Associates in the war.

The object of this conference was to plan an effective international program of conservation in the use of the present food reserves and the 1918 crop yield.

On the 4th and 5th of September the fifty-three Federal Food Administrations, representing the forty-eight states and Alaska, the Philippines, Hawaii, Porto Rico and Panama, will meet Mr. Hoover in Washington to go over the facts he has to present and consider what regulations must govern the use of our available food supplies.

Every one of these fifty-three Federal Food Administrators will bring to the conference many problems confronting the people of his section.

From this mass of stark facts and complex problems, equitable regulations must be formulated and agreed upon as being "for the greatest good of the greatest number" of our own soldiers and people, and those of the Allies. (Failing of this test, any rule would be for the good of the enemy—that enemy which is selfishness incarnate.)

Under these, and existing regulations, as modified by the demands of changing conditions, the citizens of the United States will be called upon to conserve the food supply upon which Democracy depends for the stamina to fight on to victory.

Such conditions as confront these administrators make impossible the formulation of rules which will not inconvenience many and work hardship to some—if inconvenience and hardship are measured by standards of peace and fancied security, rather than by the sacrifice of blood the soldiers are offering.

The details of our food conservation program as worked out at this conference will be given to the people in the rules promulgated and requests made by the Food Administration from time to time.

The manner and quality of the people's obedience to these rules and requests will be the measure of blood yet to be spilled or saved. Hopes of soldiers' return, of Allied peoples saved from starvation, of peace upon earth, rest with our people, yet privileged to volunteer for self-sacrifice in the use of food.

The rules as issued will go out promptly through the local food administrators to all the people.

It is the glorious privilege of America to save the world from starvation. It is the proud mark of a free people that every American man, woman and child can have part in this glorious privilege—can learn the regulations, and the underlying necessity for them—be loyal, and help one's neighbor to understand and be loyal—save, and pass on the tidings of what to save and how to save, and the reasons why to save, until we win the war by "the everlasting team-work of every bloomin' soul."

"Extravagance costs blood; the blood of heroes."—Lloyd George.

Germany saves with efficiency because she saves scientifically. She conserves her resources.

To waste in these times is to fight on the side of the Kaiser.

WHEAT CONSERVATION RULES, 1918.

The wheat conservation program for the 1918 crop and the new milling rules will be issued immediately after the adjournment of the conference of the Federal Food Administrators with Mr. Hoover on September 4th and 5th.

What The Packers Do For *You*

Not very many years ago in the history of the world, the man that lived in America had to hunt for his food, or go without.

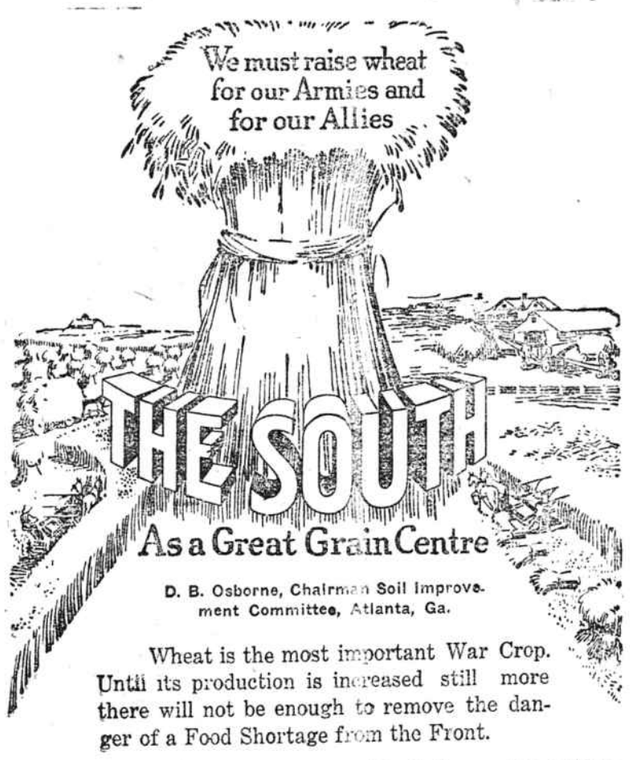
Now he sits down at a table and decides what he wants to eat; or his wife calls up the market and has it sent home for him. And what he gets is incomparably better.

Everyone of us has some part in the vast human machine, called society, that makes all this convenience possible.

The packer's part is to prepare meat and get it to every part of the country sweet and fresh—to obtain it from the stock raiser, to dress it, cool it, ship it many miles in special refrigerator cars, keep it cool at distributing points, and get it into the consumer's hands — your hands — through retailers, all within about two weeks.

For this service—so perfect and effective that you are scarcely aware that anything is being done for you—you pay the packers an average profit of only a fraction of a cent a pound above actual cost on every pound of meat you eat.

Swift & Company, U. S. A.



D. B. Osborne, Chairman Soil Improvement Committee, Atlanta, Ga.

Wheat is the most important War Crop. Until its production is increased still more there will not be enough to remove the danger of a Food Shortage from the Front.

Of twelve most important Food Crops, the entire country gained in planted acreage in 1917 over acreage of 1914—26,124,000 acres.

Of this gain the Southern States increased 14,965,000 acres or 57 per cent of the whole.

Of the individual crops the South gained:

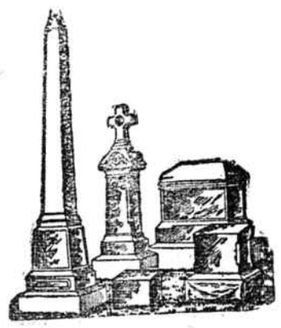
In Wheat—1,976,000 acres, or 56 per cent of the whole.
In Corn—6,532,000 acres, or 41 per cent of the whole.
In Other Food Crops—6,407,000 acres, or 37 per cent of the whole.

Of the Fall wheat acreage of 1918 there was an increase of 3,067,000 acres, of which the South gained 2,332,000 acres, or 76 per cent.

But we can do still better in 1919.

Let's back up Our Boys in France. It is no less our duty to furnish them and our allies food than it is their duty to fight. We are raising this fall an ample cotton crop to clothe and provide edible fats and oils for our boys. Let us raise a big grain crop next spring to help feed them.

It can be done. The labor requirements are comparatively small, and the acre yields may be increased with good seed, a well prepared seed bed and a liberal application of proper fertilizers.



GRANITE AND MARBLE MONUMENTS & HEADSTONES

In view of the continued rise in prices and the probable embargo, THE CLIFTON FORGE MARBLE & GRANITE WORKS bought several car-loads of finished work.

The prices are a little higher, but we can still offer you bargains.

Call and see me when in town, 'phone or write me. It will not obligate you in any way.

Thanking you for past favors.

HARRY F. SLAVEN, AGENT,
Clifton Forge Works
Monterey, ---- Virginia.

DR. C. P. COLLINS

DUBBN, W. VA.

Prepared to do all kinds of Dental Work. Satisfaction guaranteed.

People Read This Newspaper

That's why it would be profitable for you to advertise in it

If you want a job
If you want to hire somebody
If you want to sell something
If you want to buy something
If you want to rent your house
If you want to sell your house
If you want to sell your farm
If you want to buy property
If there is anything that you want the quickest and best way to supply that want is by placing an advertisement in this paper

The results will surprise and please you