

BERNARD SACHSSE SOLDIER OF SAXONY AND HAPPY MAN

Scion of Saxon Nobility Seeks His Fortune in New World and Applies His Natural Bents to a Life of Democratic Simplicity and Earnest Toil in Many Ways

THAT fickle dame, Fortune, who plays pitilessly with the lives of men, scourging them, goading them, tormenting them often even unto death, was foiled like the villain in a melodrama when she sought to lay low a young man of German parentage who came to Omaha in the early days and has lived here ever since. Though Fortune seemed to call the furies to help her sometimes in attempting to subdue this young man, he laughed in her face and is today as happy as ever in spite of her slings and arrows. For he possesses that anodyne for sorrow, a cheerful and merry spirit, together with hearty laughter, the bulwark of the soul.

The life story of Bernard Sachse is wonderful for the manner in which the wheel of fortune has moved from the heights to the depths. Bernard Sachse was the companion of princes of the blood royal in his youth; in later life he had friends among the lowliest of pioneers. He lived his early life in the great manor house of his father, where there were thirty-five servants to wait upon the family; he lived some of his later life in a small two-room frame shanty in early-day Omaha. He was a dashing soldier during the most trying days of German history; he was a peaceful citizen of Nebraska during the most peaceful times of this country's history. He had his own personal servant when he was a young man; he became the servant of others in later life.

Through all these buffetings about he has maintained within his breast that hopeful heart, that cheerful spirit forming the true stronghold in which dwell contentment and happiness. He lays no claim to being a philosopher, and yet he is a most profound one. With his hearty laugh he enunciates the epitome of his philosophy of life, which is this: "Money is made to be spent, not to be kept. Money is nothing and health is everything."

Bells Announce His Birth

On October 29, 1842, the 900 inhabitants of the village of Klengenber, near Dresden, Germany, knew that a son had been born in the castle which stood on the hill above the village. This child was named Bernard and became, after an eventful adolescent manhood, a pioneer of Omaha. He was the third of four sons. His father was the feudal lord over all the villagers of Klengenber. His word was law. This was while the serf system still obtained in Germany. Each one of the 900 men and women on the estate had to give a certain number of days each year of unpaid work for their lord. The father of Bernard Sachse had been tendered the title of baron, but had refused it.

The boys of the household were brought up, of course, in the lap of luxury and under the strictest of strict German discipline. Private tutors cared for their education. Servants waited upon them. The castle stood on a hill surrounded by woods. The estate consisted of about 1,500 acres, which in Germany is considerably more than it is here. The church was close to the castle and down in the valley lay the village.

At the age of 11 years Bernard was quite a young gentleman. His studies had been carried so far that he was well acquainted with the Latin language and had made similar progress in other branches. He entered the "gymnasium," or academy, at Freiberg when 11 years old and pursued his studies there four years. Then at the age of 15 he entered the "kadetten schule," or military academy, for the sons of noblemen in Dresden.

It was Easter, 1862, and he was in his twentieth year when he left the military school and entered the First Saxon Dragoons. He wore a sword at his side, but occupied an office somewhat between that of a noncommissioned and a commissioned officer. At Christmas of the same year he was appointed lieutenant. A romantic career was now entered upon by the young lieutenant, a career which might well be the envy of young men living in quieter and more prosaic ages. In November, 1863, that political and military caudron of Schleswig-Holstein, began to bubble with trouble, which was more than the usual trouble there. Six thousand troops from Saxony, with an equal number of Prussians, Austrians and Hanoverians, marched into Schleswig-Holstein and camped there as an army of occupation for a year.

Service in the Field

When the Austrians and Prussians fell out in 1866 Saxony refused to be neutral and troops were sent into the field of hostilities in Bohemia. Among these troops were the First Dragoons, in which regiment young Sachse was a lieutenant. They were in the terrible battle of Gitschin, June 29, 1866, in which out of 45,000 they lost 4,000. They were also engaged in the great battle of Koenigsgratz, July 3, 1866, in which also the Saxon troops numbered a loss of about 4,000. It was in this battle that 60,000 of the Austrian force, numbering altogether 223,000, suddenly fled from the fortress across a narrow way into which the enemy had led the water of the Elbe. Thousands of men were crowded from the path into the mud and ooze of the moat bed. Over this bridge of human bodies their comrades, horses and cannon tumbled pell-mell. Many thousands lost their lives in this awful manner.

After Koenigsgratz the Saxon troops proceeded south to Baden, near Vienna, where they encamped. Vienna's gaiety had scarcely been affected by the awful carnage of war around it. The young officers of the Saxon army took advantage of the social life of the gay capital city and it was there that Lieutenant Sachse saw and loved the young daughter of Dr. Ferdinand Zohles, a surgeon who had been in the army service for many years.

A picture of Sachse at that time shows a young man with ruddy cheeks and a small black moustache, his curly hair parted in the middle. He wears a handsome uniform of blue, with gold epaulettes and braid. Upon the left breast is the cross of '66, presented to officer veterans of the Austro-Prussian war. He was 24 years of age at the time. Miss Antonia Zohles was 21 years old. It was a case of love at first sight. The young officer returned to his regiment and soon after was taken sick with pneumonia. He was sent home, where he recovered. Immediately he returned to Vienna and he and the young girl went to the house of a priest, where they were married. Then Lieutenant Sachse returned to his regiment.

Between Lieutenant Sachse and the commander of the First Dragoons Colonel Seufft von Pilsach, who later became a renowned general in the Franco-Prussian war, there had long been bad blood. One captain being absent on leave, most of the time it was the duty of the lieutenant to command a company. In this he was always hampered by the colonel. One day young Sachse put his sword in the scabbard and calmly notified his colonel that he would no longer command the company. Some trouble ensued, but eventually he was transferred to the Second Saxon Dragoons, in which regiment he remained until he left the army in 1869.

Played Cards With Princes

It was while he was an officer in the Saxon army that he was a friend and companion of princes. His particular friends were Prince George and Prince Albert, sons of King John of Saxony.

"As a cadet I had been one of the guard of honor when Prince George came home from Portugal with his bride, Princess Maria," he says. "While I was in the army I played many a game of cards with the young princes. I knew their father also. King John was a philosopher king. He was a learned and accomplished man and translated the works of Dante into German. The princes were fine, genial young men, not too haughty, and still they had the dignity which men of royal blood should preserve. Albert was at that time the crown prince, and he was also in command of the Saxon troops in the wars. George was brigadier general. I was invited, with Herr von Stammer, to a private dinner with Prince George on several occasions. Albert became king on the death of his father only a few years after I last saw him in the army. He died only a few years ago."

With his army career ended and life before him, several roads branched out. He could be a gentleman of leisure enjoying the sport of German country life, or he could indulge in the gay existence of



BERNARD SACHSSE.

the German city. His father had money to provide him with either and, in fact, wanted to buy him a half interest in a large manufacturing concern which would have supported him in leisure all his life.

But the blood of adventure was in his veins. He had heard tales of the new country across the sea. His young wife also was willing to accompany him out into the big world to seek their fortunes. They embarked at Hamburg September 1, 1869. The ship touched at Havre, France, for a day and the young couple went to a hotel. It was there that they first heard of Omaha from Dr. H. Sorel. He advised them to go direct to Omaha upon their arrival in America. As to occupation, he advised the young man to become a veterinary surgeon because his long career as a cavalryman gave him the most intimate knowledge of horses.

Upon landing in New York they proceeded at once to Olean, N. Y., where they visited a friend of Mr. Sachse's brother, Rev. Theodore Sebt, an Episcopal clergyman who became a bishop later. From there they proceeded direct to Chicago, and from there to Council Bluffs, and came across the river on the ferry boat. Here their

fortunes have been varied, with almost the shifting of a weather vane. Mr. Sachse has engaged in a score of businesses and enterprises, has always been a good citizen and has always preserved a cheerful spirit and maintained a most happy home life.

"We stayed the first three days at the Empire house," he says. "That sounded fine when I wrote about it to our people in Germany, but if they would have seen the hotel that had such a fine name they would not have thought so much of it. It was almost impossible to get a house. Omaha was crowded. Finally we got a little frame house on Jackson street, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets. It had only two small rooms and for it we paid rent of \$18 a month. That shows how much the town was booming. Only a few years later we lived three months in a house near Fifteenth and Dodge streets for nothing. The man came to us and asked us as a favor to occupy the house so as to take care of it."

The young man, who had been brought up in the great ancestral halls of his family, with servants all about him, who had had entree to the best houses of Vienna and Dresden, who was the com-

panion of princes, now became a veterinary surgeon, going about at all hours of the day and night healing the ailments of horses and cows in the pioneer settlement. Later he acquired a horse and embarked in the express wagon business. Still later he laid up money sufficient to buy a grocery store on North Twenty-fourth street. He built a little home between Clark and Grace streets, on Twenty-fourth street, and farmed that part of the future city for years. It was at this time that he branched out into the tailor business.

Selling Out His Business

"I was only a silent partner in this," he says. "The way I got in was through a tailor who had a little bit of a shop near Ed Maurer's restaurant. He was after me all the time to go in with him. Finally I did so. He did the work and I went out and got the business. One day I came in and found another man in the place of my partner.

"Who are you?" I inquired.
"I have bought out half of the business," he said.
"That makes no difference," I replied. "You must buy me out also."

"He was scared, but finally he asked how much I wanted for my half. 'Well,' I said, 'I have here invested about \$25. Now, you give me \$2 for my share and we go over to Maurer's place and spend it.' He did so and we spent the \$2. So I sold out my tailor business."

This is a fair example of the free-handed manner in which the young man conducted his business ventures.

He entered the saloon business on North Twenty-fourth street and he also started the saloon at Thirteenth and Harney streets. Once he bought a house and lot near Fort Omaha. But sickness intervened several times and just as the young pioneers were getting "on their feet" they would be thrown back by a siege of several months of bad health. Once he officiated for several months in a pinch as second cook in the Metropolitan hotel, Twelfth and Douglas streets.

He was justice of the peace for four years and notary public for twelve years. He has always maintained a sort of fatherly protectorate over men of his nationality. Once he took a job as constable in the Union Pacific shops, where all day he carried heavy iron and timber. "Then I had once more epaulettes," he said, pointing significantly to his shoulders, where he was accustomed to carry the timbers.

Pleasant Recollections

He made two trips back to the fatherland, one in 1877 and one in 1880, where he visited his brother, Heinrich, a veteran of the Austro-Prussian and the Franco-Prussian wars, who now is a retired colonel living in Dresden, and also his brother Alfred, who lives on his estate, Gersdorf, near Dresden. He also met many of his former comrades of the wars, gentlemen and members of the nobility. But he remembers with particular pleasure the greeting given him by the soldier who had been his personal servant through several years of his military career. This man had been so attached to him that, though he had suffered a bad wound in the head by the kick of a horse and was ordered to the hospital at Dresden just before the regiment went to Schleswig-Holstein in 1863, he eluded the guard at the last moment and met Lieutenant Sachse just before the hour of departure. Upon leaving for America young Sachse had secured a permanent position for this man as a government employe of the railroad. When, then, this man saw his old master after many years, his delight knew no bounds.

He knew Edward Rosewater well. Once in the pioneer days he met him at a picnic. Mr. Rosewater handed him a copy of a little sheet called The Bee. "It is not very big," said Mr. Rosewater, "but it will be bigger."

Mr. and Mrs. Sachse have one daughter, Mrs. G. E. Shukert. They have been prominent in the history of the Saxonia Verein, an organization of natives of Saxony. No slings and arrows of outrageous fortune have been able to daunt this happy couple. They are living today in a comfortable cottage at 2220 Meredith avenue.

"We are ever young," says Mr. Sachse, with a hearty laugh. "See, we are so young that we live in an infant incubator."
Then he laughs at the puzzlement of the visitor. And what he says is true. The couple, approaching the span of three score years and ten, really live in an infant incubator building. At the close of the Transmississippi exposition Mr. Sachse bought the infant incubator building, moved it to its present location and remodeled it for his home. Considering the price at which he bought it, the present comfort of the house and the fun he has extracted from that joke about living in the infant incubator, this was the best investment of his life. He declares, however, that the best acquisition of his life by all odds was his wife.

Sage Millions Are Busy Doing Many Good Works

NEW YORK, May 30.—The fifty or more millions which Russell Sage accumulated in his lifetime have been doing lots of good since Mr. Sage died on July 22, 1906. It was announced at that time that Mrs. Sage would distribute the bulk of the estate which came into her possession in charitable work of various kinds. In the two years which have elapsed she has made a good start.

The gift which attracted most public attention was that of \$10,000,000 to establish the Sage Foundation. The foundation, it was understood, was to be her almoner.

But Mrs. Sage did not put away from herself the pleasure she takes in giving, and giving generously. Her other gifts, as far as they have become known, have amounted to several millions more, and she keeps on giving.

An idea of the various charitable and semi-charitable activities into which the stream of the Sage fortune has been directed may be had from a tabulation of the principal gifts Mrs. Sage has made. They are given herewith in chronological order:

1903.	School Building fund, Sag Harbor	\$ 50,000
October.	New York university, Schwab estate	300,000
1907.	February. Rensselaer Polytechnic insti-	1,000,000
	Emma Willard school, Troy, N. Y.	1,000,000
March.	Sage Foundation for Improving Social Conditions.	1,000,000
	American Seamen's Friend society	150,000
	Syrian Protestant college, Beirut, Syria	75,000
	Y. M. C. A. International committee	350,000
	School building, Sag Harbor, (additional)	50,000
April.	Endowing bed, Syracuse hospital	5,000
May.	Y. M. C. A. Naval branch, Brooklyn	200,000
June.	Institute of Pathology at City hospital (through Sage Foundation)	\$90,000

July. . . . Association for the Relief of Respectable and Indigent Females in the City of New York. . . . 125,000
Teachers' college, Syracuse, university. . . . 100,000
October. . . . Y. M. C. A., Long Island City. . . . 85,000
December. . . . Restoring governor's room in city hall. . . . 25,000

1905.
April. . . . Princeton university, dormitory for freshmen. . . . 250,000
May. . . . American Bible society (conditional on a like amount being raised). . . . 500,000

Mrs. Sage has offered recently to restore the entire city hall, and the city still has her offer under advisement. She has made many small gifts which do not appear in the above table. The New York Exchange for Woman's Work has been a frequent recipient of her bounty.

Soon after Mr. Sage died she distributed \$650,000 among the heirs of Russell Sage, doubling the bequests in his will. The daughters of the late Ezekiel Olyphant received gifts amounting to \$10,000 because "they had been generous to her father."

She spent \$15,000 for a memorial window in the First Presbyterian church of Syracuse in honor of Rev. John Watson Adams, the first pastor of the church, who baptized her. An interesting gift was that of \$500 to the high school of Olivia, Minn., because the town bore her name, which is Margaret Olivia Sage. One Christmas she distributed more than \$1,000 among the employes of the Park department.

No doubt many gifts made by Mrs. Sage have escaped public notice. She is fond of giving; there is no doubt of that. She has distributed probably close to \$20,000,000 of the fifty or more millions which came into her possession.

There has been no general scheme of charitable work in all her gifts. When she saw a chance to give humanity an uplift she has accepted it gratefully. The Sage Foundation was not hampered by specific conditions, as she declared at the time she made the gift.

Its object is the improvement of social and

living conditions in the United States. The means to that end will include research, publication, education, the establishment and maintenance of charitable and beneficial activities, agencies and institutions and the aid of any such activities, agencies and institutions already established.

The Sage Foundation has been at work for about a year, and while the trustees are not yet prepared to give a general statement covering what has been done, it is known that three general lines of activity have been undertaken. The foundation has taken an important place in the fight against the white plague, it has had a share in the playground movement, and it has been making a careful study of social conditions in the city of Pittsburgh. Furthermore, plans are making for an alliance with certain branches of Red Cross work.

The men and women who are administering this great trust are familiar with social work. They are Robert W. De Forest, former tenement house commissioner and for twenty years president of the New York Charity Organization society; Cleveland H. Dodge, chairman of the executive committee of the Red Cross society in New York; Daniel C. Gilman, first president of the Carnegie institute; John M. Glenn, a man of means who has been prominent in charitable work in his native city of Baltimore; Miss Helen Gould, who is a close friend of Mrs. Sage; Mrs. William B. Rice, for years president of the State Charities Aid association of New York, and Miss Louisa L. Schuyler, who founded the Charities Aid association. The active management of the foundation is in the hands of Mr. Glenn, who gave up his work in Baltimore to come to New York.

It was Mrs. Sage's idea that the foundation would take up the larger and more difficult problems of social betterment in such a manner as to secure co-operation and aid in their solution. The Bee told recently something of the work of the Playground Association of America.

Various municipalities have expended something like \$50,000,000 for this purpose in the last ten years. The Playground association has found its mission in helping on this movement in many

ways. And this is how the Sage foundation was able to assist in a movement which well fulfills Mrs. Sage's idea of improving the social and living conditions in the United States.

The foundation is paying the expenses of an agent who is a sort of an educational missionary for playgrounds. This advance agent of civilization, Lee F. Hammer, stirs up interest by illustrated lectures, advises how to spend money already appropriated by municipalities and urges on city councils the need of appropriating money for such purposes. His general object is to teach cities how to help themselves along these lines. His services are in great demand.

The foundation's share in the war on tuberculosis has been important. It has financed in part the movement in this state which has led for one thing in putting a law on the statute books declaring tuberculosis to be an infectious and communicable disease dangerous to the public health and providing for the reporting of all cases to the local health authorities. In other words it puts tuberculosis practically on the same plane with smallpox.

The enemies of consumption are expecting great results from the International Congress on Tuberculosis, which meets in Washington on September 21 next. Director Glenn of the Sage Foundation is one of the committee of arrangements, and no doubt the foundation will find in the recommendations of this congress some way of using part of its income to help the fight.

The trustees of the foundation regard the work it is doing in Pittsburgh as about the most important that has been undertaken. Briefly, it is the first attempt to ascertain "the trend of living conditions in American industrial communities." The work has been called the Pittsburgh survey, and the idea is to make it as complete and comprehensive a survey as would be, for example, the survey of a newly discovered continent.

So it will be seen that the money which Russell Sage accumulated so carefully is being scattered throughout the land so that it will be productive of the greatest good.