

The Kaiser as I Knew Him For Fourteen Years

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A post-card picture of the Kaiser, signed by his own hand, was in his own estimation one of the most priceless gifts he could bestow. I remember his donating one of them to an American charity bazaar in Berlin to be auctioned off. He thought that the fact that the card came from his imperial majesty gave it a value which could not be measured in dollars and cents.

No doubt the royal banquets were prepared much upon the same principle, for it was a common saying among the German aristocracy that one had better feel well before going to a banquet at the palace.

"That's good!" he commented. "The Germans are too fat, anyway. The majority of the people eat too much."

Long after automobiles became more or less perfect, the Kaiser still employed a horse and carriage. He used the railroads for longer distances. When, however, the railway passed a low crossing, he would get out of the train and walk across.

"Amos are expensive," he declared, "but they don't cost me that much!"

The Kaiser speaks English with but the slightest trace of a foreign accent. His diction is perfect. He speaks French, too, very fluently, and I believe Italian. He is widely read on almost all subjects and knows the literature of England, France and America as well as that of Germany.

He prides himself on his acquaintance with history and has little respect for the political opinions of others whose knowledge of history is less complete.

Shortly after Carnegie had donated five million marks to Germany to further world peace, I happened to be talking to the Kaiser of American millionaires and the steelmaster was mentioned.

"Of course, Carnegie is a nice old man and means well," remarked the Kaiser, concedingly, "but he is totally ignorant of world history. He's just advanced us five million for world peace. We accepted it naturally, but, of course, we intend to continue our policy of maintaining our army and navy in full strength."

Indeed, there is hardly any subject to which the Kaiser has directed any considerable attention in which he doesn't regard himself as the final authority.

As an art collector and investigator in other art places and he is willing to be called an art collector. He was very much interested in the art collections of American millionaires and he frequently showed a surprising store of art objects and a surprising store of art objects.

tion possessed in the Stegas since it guard them. Not long ago a burglary occurred in the vicinity. The burglar was observed while at work and a startled civilian rushed to the Stegas. Allice to summon one of the fellows who were known to be on guard there.

"If you hurry," exclaimed the civilian, excitedly, "you can catch these burglars red-handed!"

"I'm sorry," replied the policeman. "But I cannot leave the station."

Realism is the Kaiser's idea of what is most desirable in dramatic art. When he put on "Sardanapal," a Greek tragedy in pantomime, at the Berlin opera house, he sent professors to the British museum to secure the most detailed information available regarding the costumes of the period.

Perhaps the Kaiser's love for details might be attributed to his keen observation. Nothing, no matter how trivial, escaped his attention.

A couple of years before the war I had the empire furniture in my waiting room reupholstered. On the very first occasion of the Kaiser's calling at my office after the change he noticed it.

"My, my, how beautiful the chairs look!" he exclaimed. "Good enough for Napoleon himself!"

On another occasion, between two of the Kaiser's visits, I had had put up in the waiting room a new portrait of Mrs. Davis. The Kaiser noticed it the moment he came into the room and made some complimentary remarks about it.

The Kaiser frequently accused the Americans of being self-proclaimed and of being ruled by Mammon, but that he himself was not totally unacquainted with the value and power of money was clearly revealed by the manner in which he treated his people of wealth in recent years.

The Kaiser's best man in Berlin and one of the richest in Germany was a Hebrew and his name was Friedlander. The Kaiser employed him and made him, Von Friedlander-Paul. Another wealthy Hebrew to whom the Kaiser referred was Schwabach, head of the Bleichroder bank, one of the strongest private banks in Germany, and he, too, was employed, becoming Von Schwabach.

A number of other wealthy Hebrews in Germany were also honored by the Kaiser in another way. Although he was averse to visiting the homes of private individuals who lacked social standing, he departed from his rule in their favor and visited their mansions ostensibly to view their art collections, but actually to flatter their vanity.

Shortly after Goldmann became ambassador to Germany, the Kaiser called on me.

"Your new ambassador's daughter is the best looking young lady who has attended our court in many a day," he declared. "What a demon of my name that she is, she is very anxious to be married. Can you tell me, Davis, whether these Goldmanns have money?"

If the Kaiser desired the American property for money-making, he was certainly not averse to acquiring American dollars.

summer in connection with the porcelain tooth I had patented.

"Well, it won't be necessary now," Davis, he commented. "We can send the Deutschland over and bring back a boatload of teeth!"

"Fix my teeth well, Davis," he declared on another occasion. "So that I can bite. There are lots of people I would like to bite!" and he snapped his jaws together in a way that would have boded ill for the victims he had in mind, although his remark was evidently more facetious than vicious.

The Kaiser's attitude toward the country and its stability which the Kaiser almost invariably displayed in his relations with me did not prevent him on one occasion from showing his indignation when I touched him upon what was evidently a very sore point—the fact that America was going to play the war without his always reluctant to be imported about the American situation.

He had pointed out that America at that time had over 80,000 men in France and he believed that the U-boats would effectively prevent any great addition to our forces abroad, if indeed, they ever left our shores.

"As a matter of fact, however," he added, "your countrymen would be very willing to fight for their country to protect it from invasion, but I don't believe you'll ever get many of them to leave home to fight abroad. America will really be a very small factor in the war, Davis!"

"Your majesty is underestimating the power of America!" I replied.

He turned to me indignantly, and in his most imperious manner exclaimed: "We underestimate no one! We know exactly what we are doing!"

How seriously he was mistaken in this respect has since been sufficiently proved.

No matter how gloomy the outlook for Germany, the Kaiser seldom showed concern. It is true that whenever things were going wrong, as when the Russians in the early part of the war were sweeping everything before them in their advance on the Carpathians, he and the rest of the royal family kept as far in the background as possible, whereas when the German cause was triumphant, as in the case of the offensive against Italy, he would make himself almost too conspicuous at the front.

But even when Germany's cause was greatest, the Kaiser showed a certain reserve. At such times I had seen him step in the front after taking my duties, and he, for the honor of his people, would not let me accompany him to the front.

At the same time, on one or two occasions after the war started, I noticed that he acted differently when in the dental chair than had been his custom when everything was serene.

The Kaiser once boasted to me that not a building was erected in Germany, not a bridge built, not a street opened, not a park laid out, but what he pointed was first submitted to him. He kept posted on everything that was going on, not only in Germany, but in the world at large, and, as far as he was able, he endeavored to keep his finger in every development of world-wide importance.

I cannot recall that he was less interested in world-wide developments during his time of power than he was in his earlier days, when he was a full and active member of the Kaiser's staff.

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PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. The following proposed amendment to the constitution of the State of Nebraska, as hereinafter set forth in full, is submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska to be voted upon at the general election to be held Tuesday, November 5th, A. D. 1918: A JOINT RESOLUTION to amend Section one (1) of Article seven (7) of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska. Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska: Section 1. That Section One of Article Seven of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska be and the same hereby is amended by striking out the following words: "And inserting in the place of the words so stricken, the following words: "Second. Persons of foreign birth who shall have declared their intention to become citizens conformably to the laws of the United States, on the subject of naturalization, at least thirty days prior to an election." And inserting in the place of the words so stricken, the following words: "Second. Persons of foreign birth who shall have become citizens of the United States by naturalization or otherwise conformably to the laws of the United States at least thirty days prior to an election. Sec. 2. That at the general election nineteen hundred and eighteen (1918) there shall be submitted to the electors of the State for their approval or rejection the foregoing proposed amendment to the constitution relating to the right of suffrage. At such election, on the ballot of each elector voting for or against said proposed amendment, shall be written or printed the words: "For proposed amendment to the constitution relating to the right of suffrage." and "Against said proposed amendment to the constitution relating to the right of suffrage." Sec. 3. If such amendment shall be approved by a majority of all electors voting at such election, said amendment shall constitute Section One (1) Article Seven (7) of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska. Approved, April 5, 1918. KEITH NEWVILLE, GOVERNOR. CHARLES W. BRADY, CHIEF JUSTICE. Notice of Administration. In the County Court of the County of Red Cloud, Nebraska. In the matter of the estate of Nathan A. Schaefer, deceased. To all persons interested in said estate: Notice is hereby given that, within thirty days of the date of publication of this notice, proof of administration of said estate may be granted to Amos Sims as administrator and that said petition will be heard before the court on the 11th day of October, 1918, at the hour of 10 o'clock, a. m., at the county court room in the city of Red Cloud, in said county, when all persons interested in said matter may appear and show cause why the prayer of petitioner should not be granted; and that notice of the filing of said petition and the hearing thereof, be given by publishing a copy of this order in the Red Cloud Chief, a local weekly newspaper printed and of general circulation in said county, for four consecutive weeks prior to said day of hearing. Dated this 11th day of September, 1918. (SIGNED) A. D. HANSEN, County Judge.

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Dr. W.H. McBride DENTIST Successor to Dr. Cross. OVER STATE BANK RED CLOUD NEBRASKA

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