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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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FIRST OF APRIL HUMOUR.

(FROM THE DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

London, April 2.

The Children's Law which came into force yesterday gave ample opportunity for wags to exercise their wit in a manner appropriate to the date. As usual, the best plots were hatched on the Stock Exchange, where one burly broker, over 6 feet high and corpulent in proportion, was rigged out by his colleagues in a complete juvenile costume of the Georgian era and then sent out to the nearest tobacconist's to purchase a penny packet of cigarettes. The tradesman, also a wag, refused to serve the "infant" and called in the police to remove him. Yesterday for the first time it became necessary for tradesmen selling tobacco or cigarettes to keep a sharp look out on their customers. In many cases they were unable to decide whether a customer was under age or not, but in the majority of cases they were content to take his word for it. There is a story that Mr. Winston Churchill, whose boyish look only becomes more accentuated with the passing years, was refused cigarettes by a Westminster tobacconist. I am not prepared to vouch for the truth of this narrative, however.

A number of women at Canning Town and Plaistow entered public-houses yesterday, carrying in their arms what appeared to be babies. In every case they refused to leave the premises when asked, and it was only when the police were called in that the women revealed the fact that the "babies" they were carrying were dressed dolls or bundles of rags and clothing. The laugh was on the police. A constable on duty in Hyde Park was heard to state that he had confiscated a dozen packets of cigarettes in the course of the morning, and his only regret was that the boys did not smoke shag!

POPULAR NOVELIST DANGEROUSLY ILL.

Our readers will regret to learn that Mr. Marion Crawford, the well-known and highly popular novelist, is dangerously ill. A Sorrento telegram informs us that the attack of bronchial pleurisy under which he has been suffering has taken a decided turn for the worse. The director of the Naples University Hospital was called into consultation on Thursday, and declared the patient's condition to be very serious. An affection of the lungs is feared. Mr. Crawford's relatives are gathered at his villa. On being asked for information one of them volunteered the statement that "he has only a fighting chance."

AMERICAN SUGAR FRAUDS.

New York, April 3.

The New York Customs Commissioner has called upon the American Sugar Refining Company to pay the sum of 1,239,000 dollars in consequence of the fraudulent rendering of weights in connection with its imports of sugar from 1901 to 1907. The Government has imposed a further sum of one million dollars for duty on sugar imported by the Company previous to 1901.

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GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

Berlin, April 3.

The Post, in a leading article on the controversy carried on by foreign journals against Russia and Germany with reference to the recognition of the annexation of Bósnia and the Herzegovina, writes as follows: "The assent of Russia differed from that of France and Great Britain, the two countries friendly to her, only in the respect that Russia was prepared at once to carry out the exchange of Notes for the formal recognition of the annexation, while the other two Powers declared their willingness to do so immediately after taking a step in Belgrade. The impression made on Serbia by the Russian and by the British proceeding respectively was the same. Russia is accused of having deserted her Slav brothers, and Germany is accused of having incited her to do so. Russia is by far the greatest and most powerful of the Slav brothers. Is Russia, then, really bound to support every unjustified demand made by the smaller brethren? Fanatics who maintain that Russia is so bound, simply demand that the policy of the great Russian empire shall be subservient to the interests of every little Slav Balkan State, and that Russia shall declare war against Powers with which her relations have hitherto been normal, and indeed friendly, because it suits the whim of some instigator in the Balkans or elsewhere."

SENSATIONAL STORY FROM LONDON.

Vienna, April 3.

The Fremdenblatt writes: "A London newspaper publishes a report from Munich that, in the event of the employment of German regiments in Bohemia, Salzburg, and the Tyrol in a war against Serbia or Russia, a plan existed to garrison those countries with German Imperial troops drawn from Saxony and Bavaria. As a reason for that measure, it is asserted that the Austro-Hungarian Government had not considered it safe to leave Bohemia without German troops. It is not the first time that absurd stories of that sort have been taken to the public market, although their originators might have convinced themselves that they are not in a position to influence the judgment of Europe as to the solidarity of our internal relations in view of notorious facts. The Imperial and Royal army enjoys in all well-informed and serious quarters so distinguished and so established a reputation that it cannot be harmed by any frivolous accusations. The same may be said of the patriotism of our people."

AMERICAN TARIFF REFORM.

Washington, April 3.

The programme of the Federal Senate with regard to the Tariff Bill prescribes that all countries shall enjoy the minimum tariff for one year. At the expiration of that year, the maximum tariff will apply to countries that do not give America the benefit of their most favourable tariff rates.

It is said that President Taft emphatically approves of the programme of the Federal Senate, and that it will ultimately be agreed to.

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