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WOULD YOU WHEEL THROUGH EUROPE?

New Laws for "Exemption from Security Deposit"—First of All You Must Join One of the Foreign Touring Clubs, Preferably the English.

So many changes have been made this winter in the customs laws relating to bicycles in most European countries that tourists intending to cycle abroad next summer will do well to post themselves on this point. With one important exception the continental states permit tourists to enter their bicycles without the payment of duty under certain conditions. These conditions vary more than ever this year, and it will be particularly difficult for American tourists to get from one country to another with untrifled temers unless they act upon the advice here offered and join either the English, French or Italian touring club.

The writer's experiences give the preference to the Cyclists' Touring Club of England, the most influential and far-reaching organization of its kind in the world. It has perfected reciprocal relations for its bicycle riders with all the continental nations, and its special membership tickets are not only an open sesame to the gates of all those countries but act as a passport as well. The cost of joining the organization is about \$10, a mere trifle in the tourist's expense ac-

counts. The charges are about the same in the Touring Club de France and the Touring Club Cyclistico Italiano. The advantage in favor of the English Cyclists' Touring Club lies in the fact that its field is more extensive, and moreover, all its literature is printed in English, a matter of great importance with many. The Cyclists' Touring Club is represented by an American consul, Frank W. Weston, in Savin Hill, Boston, Mass., who is delegated to receive applications and to give information regarding the club and its invaluable European road books on receipt of a two-cent stamp to cover return postage.

The special tourists' certificate of the C. T. C. consists of a membership ticket, with a blank space for the photograph of the individual man or woman, to whom it is issued. Such elaborate identification is demanded by certain governments, notably those of Austria, Italy and Switzerland. There are lines on the ticket for the member's name and address, for the name and style of the bicycle, the factory number and its money value. These special tickets are issued by the secretary of the club in London.

Armed with one of them, the tourist

has the free entree into all Europe, without the annoying delays incidental to custom house negotiations. Non-members of any of the touring clubs mentioned are permitted to enter their wheels in some of the European States by paying a cash deposit equal to the amount of duty involved, the money to be refunded when the cyclist leaves the country with his wheel. But as it seldom happens that a tourist leaves a country by the same town through which he entered. In the amount of red tape mixed up in such a transaction is disheartening and involves a delay of from one to three days at port of departure.

The photograph feature is entirely new in the countries named. Singularly, the Swiss and Italian laws make an exception in favor of the Touring Club de France members and grant them all privileges on presentation of the regular membership tickets, with or without photographs.

In France, after May 1, foreign tourists will be required to make a declaration to the customs officials at the port of entry to the effect that they intend to remain in the country not longer than three

months. In this document (or *laissez-passer*) is indicated the times in which the bicycle must be re-exported.

"2. On leaving of a state the cyclist must show to the custom officers at the frontier his bicycle and the respective mark attached by the officers of the states from which he came. For when states who so order it, the lead applied by them must be preserved.

"3. When a cycle is sent from any foreign country by sea or by rail the cyclist must see to it that his bicycle and the special mark be shown at the port of embarkation or at the railway station in the frontier. The custom house contained of the identity of the bicycle (and description in the certificate), takes away the countermark and keeps the certified document.

"4. The cyclist must be sure to obtain a certificate attesting that the bicycle was re-exported during the period agreed upon. The member is advised to preserve this document by all means because should there be any contestation on the part of the customs house officers, it is the only document that can prove the re-exportation of the bicycle and the directors of the custom house do not accept any other proof.

"5. The cyclist is informed that it is absolutely necessary to present the bicycle to the custom house with the relative mark before crossing the boundary. For, if this is not done the member must pay the amount of the importation pertaining to the state which grants the facilitations."

It is the object of the newly organized International Association of Touring Clubs, at its coming convention to take steps leading to the modification of all formalities for cycling tourists in visiting foreign countries. The association consists of the important national bicycle organizations of Europe and the League of American Wheelmen. The last named body has now an energetic National Touring committee which promises to place American wheelmen on the same admission ground with those of England and France before the year runs out.

THE COMING OF THE MADCAP PRINCESS

Louise of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and of Divorce Fame, Will Soon Present Herself to American Society.

THE PRINCESS WHO IS COMING TO THIS COUNTRY.

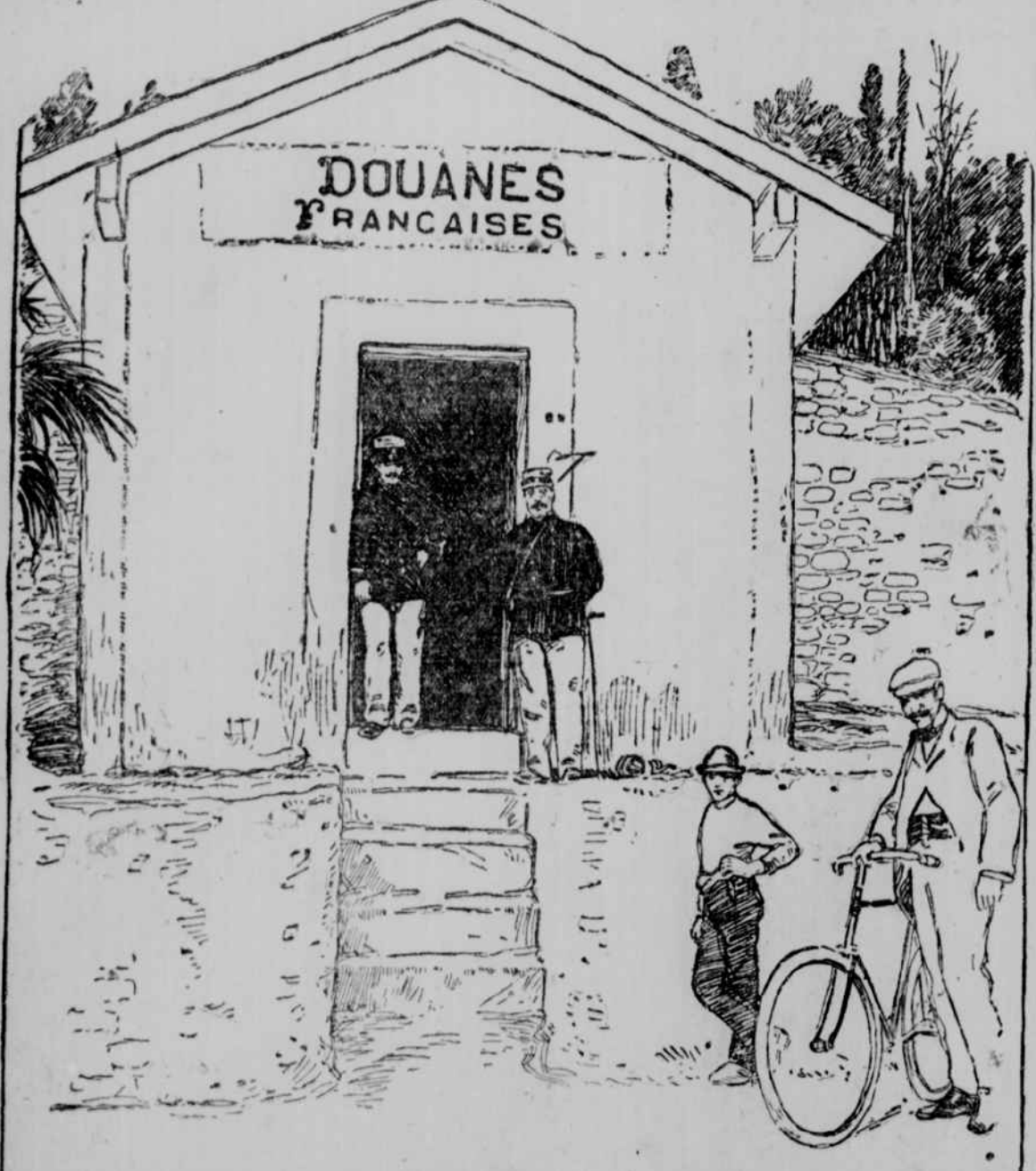
The change that came over her life was marvellous. The swollen eyelids, the dark caverns beneath the eyes were gone and with head high in the air and a smile on her lips she set out to drown her despair in the gay life that her husband found so alluring. Milliners and modistes vied to make her apparel the most gorgeous at the Austrian court, and she who had shunned the world now sought it. None were gayer, none more resplendent. She appeared upon the turf, she participated in late suppers, she made her husband's companions her intimates. At last her handkercher found its way into the pocket of her husband's adjutant, Lieutenant Osga von Matiaschek.

Even in Vienna there are conventionalities that must be observed by ladies who desire to remain in good standing at the court and to keep their husbands and their lovers from spilling each other's blood. Whether the princess was suddenly attacked by the germ of heedlessness that has ruined many fairer women than she, or that, as her friends claim, she purposely had her husband notified of her proposed visit to the adjutant's apartments may never be known, but the fact remains that there the prince found her. Even this, however, was not considered grounds for divorce. The prince simply

by to debauchery had killed the innocent girl who had been content to say her prayers at her mother's knee at the court of Belgium.

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FRENCH CUSTOM HOUSE AT MENTONE AT ITALIAN FRONTIER ON CORNICHE ROAD.

months. That absolves them from the new internal tax, which will then go into effect and which has no connection with the import duty. A printed permit will then be given, for which the charge is to be sixty centimes (twelve cents). This must be shown on demand. If the tourist's visit is to be longer than three months he must pay the government tax which is fixed at ten francs (\$2). In receipt for the tax a numbered metal tag will be given, which must be attached to the tubing in the steering head of the machine.

Germany is now considering a law which aims to prohibit the transportation of bicycles on express trains, even when accompanied by the owners. If the measure is adopted wheels can be forwarded on freight and slow accommodation trains. The German railroads are controlled and conducted by the state. Unless a cycling tourist is a member of the Cyclists' Touring Club, Austria is practically closed to him by the new regulations adopted by that country. Members of that organization are passed into the land of the Danube on presentation of the special photograph certificate hitherto described. Others must stop

French officials look upon cyclists as curiosities and upon the sport as a huge joke. They have been in the habit of entering tourists without unnecessary ceremony, performing their duty good-naturally, and giving no end of road information willingly.

The new arrangements made by the Tourist Club Cyclistico Italiano to cover the new conditions to be encountered this year in Europe are announced in three languages in the current issue of the club's monthly publication, the Rivista Mensile. Paris of the "English" version follow:

"To members of the T. C. C. I., who wish to enjoy the facilities accorded by different states as the temporary importation of bicycles with exemption from security deposit, must be kind themselves in the following conditions:

"1. To be exempt from paying a deposit the owner of a bicycle must present to the custom house the card of identity, together with his photograph. The custom house, having taken notice of the correctness of the card of identity, gives the bearer a certificate of temporary importation and applies a counter-sign (lead) to the bicycle (a few states

the life of her daughter might be free of the sorrows that had blighted her own existence. If a suitable husband had been found for the young princess this dream might have been realized. What she needed was the hand of iron encased in the velvet glove and when, instead, she found a hand that was more stinky than firm she forgot the teachings of her youth and became the "madcap princess" who has shocked a not over-censorious Europe.

Balkac has said that there is just as much mud in the upper classes as in the lower, only in the former it is gilded. This is often true, but this story is the exception that proves the rule. There is no pomp of sonorous deeds, no delicacy of intrigue, no carnival of blood to clothe the narrative in the garb of romance, for, instead of splendor, there is nothing but vulgarity; instead of royal things, monumental bad taste.

The world never had a better example of the power of a hereditary taint than is offered by this "madcap princess." It was in her blood. When she grew older she saw it personified in her father. Her mother had power over her while she was in the nursery, but the screen of innocence was torn from her eyes when she passed from the hands of her governess into those of the modiste who was to make her wedding gown.

The princess was seventeen years old when she was married to her cousin, Philip of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. He was old enough to be her father, a man who looked like a brewer and acted like a fool. He had been born with the same hereditary taint in his blood and while the examples set before him had been less diffuse he had broadened his education while yet a very young man. At Bonn he had displayed a capacity for liquor that had won for him the respect of the student corps. Later at Vienna he continued his orgies in a manner to surprise the most fastidiously corrupt court in the world. Such a marriage could only

be fraught with the most direful consequences.

The plain, unvarnished facts of the life of Princess Louise have never been told, but from the most reliable Belgian sources it is learned that she stepped from her nursery days at the Brussels court into a life of martyrdom at the hands of her husband, the prince. At their wedding feast Philip grossly insulted her before a great company and he continued to treat her so brutally that she appealed to her mother before they had been married many months.

Poor Queen Marie's life had been so embittered by her own matrimonial experience that she could sympathize with her daughter, but King Leopold was obdurate, and even when the princess returned to the home of her youth with her face and shoulders cut and bruised from the horsewhip that had been wielded by her husband her father would not consent to a separation. "Reasons of State" prevented.

Then began the actual tragedy of her life. Before that she had suffered, now she would sin. Her husband had laughed her appeals for divorce to scorn. Perhaps, she thought, she might drive him to grant her the much-coveted release. When she called him "son of a pig-sticker," in reflection upon his descent from a Hungarian cattle dealer, he simply thrashed her once more, an incident that had occurred too often to have much effect upon her. When a pretty little sister whom the princess had left in pinafores at Brussels blossomed into the wife of the Austrian Crown Prince, Princess Louise was brought more than ever into close contact with the throne. She ceased to be a wall flower. Men who had passed the heavy Belgian by without a second glance now found fascinations in her that they had never seen before, for in her life at Vienna she had learned the secret of being fascinating. The court where women live only to allure and the maltreatment of a husband whose life was given



THE LIEUTENANT WHO STOLE HER HEART. THE JEA LOUS, BRUTAL HUSBAND.

thrashed his wife and challenged the lieutenant.

In the art of fascinating the princess must have been an apt pupil. She was not beautiful and she was the mother of two children, but when she took the lieutenant by the hand he went with utmost docility. After she had gone he was left to search for her. When he found them he called the lieutenant out and got pinked for his pains.

Since that time gossip has been busy with the affairs of the princess. Dame Rumor has had her variously situated. She has been in an insane asylum and she has been buying jewelry and running up bills with sufficient rapidity to threaten the financial standing of the Belgian treasury. When Princess Louise was simply running over Europe with her husband's adjutant's gossip said that she was bad. Now they say that she is mad; but, bad or mad, it is not difficult to see what made her so.

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