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POPULAR PRINCESS  
BETROTHED.

To Marry Viscount Lascelles--The  
Wealthiest British Soldier's  
Good Luck.

(Glasgow Weekly Herald, Nov. 26.) An announcement of interest to the whole world, and particularly to British subjects, was made with something of dramatic suddenness from Buckingham Palace on Tuesday night. It was the news of the engagement of Princess Mary to Viscount Lascelles. That her fiance is an Englishman and one who distinguished himself in the late war will no doubt add to the gratification with which the news will be received throughout the British Empire.

The following is the text of the historic announcement:—It is with the greatest pleasure that the King and Queen announce the betrothal of their beloved daughter, Princess Mary, to Viscount Lascelles, D.S.O., eldest son of the Earl of Harwood. At a Council held at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday evening His Majesty was pleased to declare his consent to the marriage.

The betrothal pair met at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday evening. Following the Privy Council at which the King's assent to their union was declared, Viscount Lascelles dined at the Palace with the members of the Royal Family.

## The First Break.

The betrothal of Princess Mary marks the first break by marriage in the close-knit circle of the British Royal Family, and since she is the only girl among a number of brothers the occasion will be remarkable in the royal household.

Princess Mary, born in April, 1897, was known as the Jubilee baby, and is the third child of the King and Queen. She is a typical, healthy, happy British girl, of a frank and lively disposition, with a keen sense of humour and a love of sport, and everything appertaining to outdoor sport. She is thoroughly domesticated and well informed, and is, in fact, a "home girl." Twice already she has been erroneously reported as engaged to be married. The first occasion was in 1915 when she was 18 years of age. It was rumored that she was to marry Prince Eric of Denmark, a youth of about her own age, who was then expected to become King of Poland. Then in May, 1919, a London newspaper announced that Princess Mary was engaged to the Earl of Dalkeith, son of the seventh Duke of Buccleuch. Among her own girl friends she is a general favourite by reason of her sweetness of temper, her sense of humour, unselfishness, and the genuine pleasure she derives from the simplest amusements. Though she did not appear in public before those days, she has performed since the outbreak of war many public ceremonies and public services. She served a time in nursing, in canteen work, and as a staunch friend of the Girl Guides. She has travelled in this country frequently with her father and mother and occasionally alone this year, having been entertained by the Earl and Countess of Lonsdale at Oakham, and at Chatsworth by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, whose daughters were friends of her early "school days" under the various private tutors engaged for her schooling at the Palace.

## The Wedding.

The Princess and her betrothed have ridden in the Row, and have walked side by side through London streets. Country house-parties at which the Princess has visited have included the Viscount among the guests.

Viscount Lascelles was a guest at

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at the time, and not unnaturally the candidate found himself heckled upon his family's land-roll. To one critic who was indulging in sweeping generalizations about the Viscount's family having fought the people for their land, he quickly replied, "No. One of my ancestors fought a king (Charles I.) for the people; for the right of 'no taxation without representation.'"

## In the War.

When the war broke out Viscount Lascelles returned to his old regiment, the 3rd Grenadiers, with the rank of lieutenant. He remained with his battalion until the end of the war, when it marched under his command to Cologne. He was wounded twice and once gassed. Besides the D.S.O. with bar, he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre.

Lord Lascelles may be described as the wealthiest lord of ancient family in England. There may be two others with a greater potential wealth, but unlike nearly all the rest of his order, Lord Lascelles' money is not in land but in houses and securities. He lives in Chesterfield House, one of the four finest houses in London, and it is crowded with fine pictures and china and prints, which his great-uncle had amassed. The Princess will thus have in London a more beautiful house than Buckingham Palace, and one of the best country houses in England.

An important point to the nation about the match is that in the circumstances it is unlikely that Parliament will be asked for a grant, and if so the Princess Mary will be the first Royal Princess for centuries to have that distinction.

Lord Lascelles is a keen sportsman. His entry into racing was heralded by his purchases of Mr. William Clark's smart two-year-old Galrooy, at the Newmarket October Sales in 1919, for 10,000 guineas. However, the second Royal Realm-Gallinista proved a very disappointing creature, failure coming his way time after time. His winnings this year, however, amount to £1500, the last horse to carry his colours successfully being Mullen, who won the Downs Nursery at the Liverpool meeting last week.

## ABOUT THE HAPPY FAIR.

Princess Mary is an excellent French scholar. She plays a good game of tennis, and is very fond of her dogs and rabbits at Sandringham. Three or four horses at Buckingham Palace are retained for her use. While at Balmoral she was interested in fishing. The Princess knits, crochets, and embroiders with considerable skill, and has some knowledge of typewriting and shorthand.

Wherever possible the Queen desired that her daughter should have the society of girls of her own age and work in classes. In the Princess's actual schoolroom days this was particularly done in respect of the studies of history and literature, when some seven or eight young ladies honoured with her personal "friendship" were wont to meet twice a week at Buckingham Palace. When the Princess was ten years old the Queen (then the Princess of Wales) was considering the question of sending her daughter to a boarding-school on the South-East Coast, but Her Majesty eventually decided against the project.

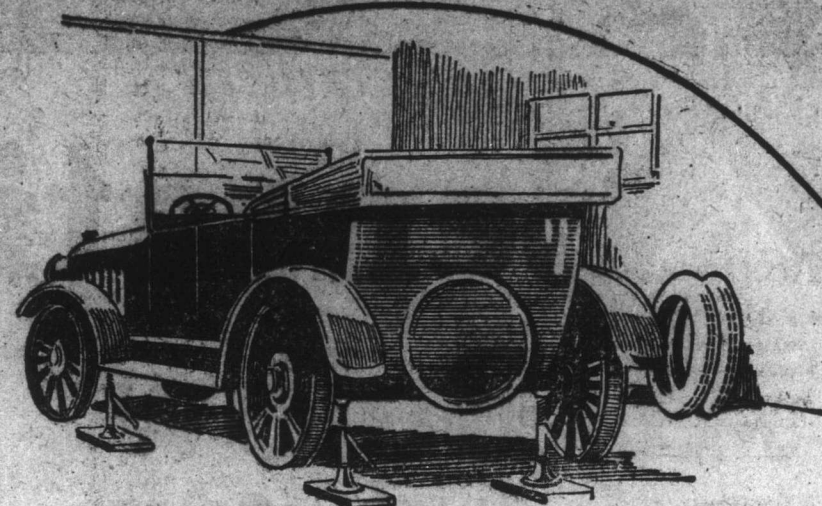
Not Condescending. The Princess is the most unselfish girl that I have ever met (writes a correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian"), but apart from that she may be described as a conventional English lady of the upper class, with unusual good humour. Her manners are better than most girls nowadays, for she is much more considerate, and she can meet with people of the poorer class without condescension. Her behaviour on her midnight visit to an East End social hostel, where she danced with some of the young men, was natural and youthful and dignified, and the personal experience must have been a good test of personality as well as training. She is the member of the royal family with strongest Church tendencies.

Princess Mary, brought up as she was in close association with her brothers in her younger days, used to use in her speech a number of slang words which she learned from them, and which she would sometimes rather startle the visitors at York Cottage. Some of the slang words current among the Princes, but which have been carefully eradicated from the Princess's vocabulary, are "Buck House" for "Buckingham Palace," "tinker's tea" for afternoon tea, "the Dilly Wig" for the Privy Council, "muckers" for hands, and "Noggers" for the House of Lords.

Some years ago, when the royal children were quite young, the son of a friend of the King, a boy about nine years old, went down to stay with them at York Cottage. One afternoon during the visit the conversations turned, as it sometimes will among boys, to the subject of "tinkers," and the little guest very politely inquired, "What sort of a girl is your sister?"

And the Prince of Wales replied, with conviction, "She is a brick!" The guest answered, with equal solemnity, "So I thought."

Taking Her Brother Down. The Princess, until recently was fond of joking at the expense of her brothers. One day at Dartmouth the Prince of Wales, who used to be very proud of his naval cadet's uniform, and longed to wear it on all sorts of occasions, found a parcel on his plate. The Prince tore the package open, to



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find a doll inside dressed in the best Prince Edward manner, naval uniform, correct in every detail, and a label attached with the words in his label attached with the words in his

slender writing, "Isn't he pretty?" In the summer of 1909 the Princess was in a boat on the Thames with her brothers. A boat containing three Eton boys narrowly missed coming into collision with them.

"When are you going to learn to row?" inquired one of the Eton boys cheekily.

"When you learn manners," was the democratic and apt retort of the Princess.

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