

British Gossip

THE Aberdeens had their Canadian admirers, especially among the serious set. But in Dublin, where they are enjoying a second reign, their popularity is warm and unwavering. During this month, Lady Aberdeen's lace ball shows how dear to her Scottish heart are Irish industries. Quadrilles named Carrickmacross, Limerick and old point are sure to appeal to the Celtic imagination.

It has become the fashion for a young aristocrat anxious for political honours to begin on the democratic rung of the London County Council. The Hon. Neil James Archibald Primrose, the second son of Lord Rosebery, is one of the latest candidates for such a position.

It's an ill wind that blows nobody an unexpected fortune and the slight uncertainties in Russian and Austrian politics are sending a shower of foreign gold into the lap of "The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street." The Czar is said to have six millions sterling in the Bank of England, the religious houses of France have a neat little pile somewhere in the vaults, the Kaiser has a good fortune in British securities and the royalties of Southern Europe also like to put away some of their frugal savings in London strong-rooms. This is a tribute which talks.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, the sturdy suffragette who served a term in Holloway Prison for the cause of would-be voters, spent some of her spare time in sketching the characters about her and the illustrated periodicals are the richer for her sufferings. Miss Pankhurst and other fair prisoners were given a sumptuous banquet on their liberation, when they announced their determination to continue an aggressive policy. Poor Mr. Asquith! There is a cloud in his sky the size of a woman's fist.

London is still talking about the mysterious Mr. Yates, the millionaire from Nowhere, who suddenly appeared in Covent Garden and bestowed one hundred pounds in notes on por-

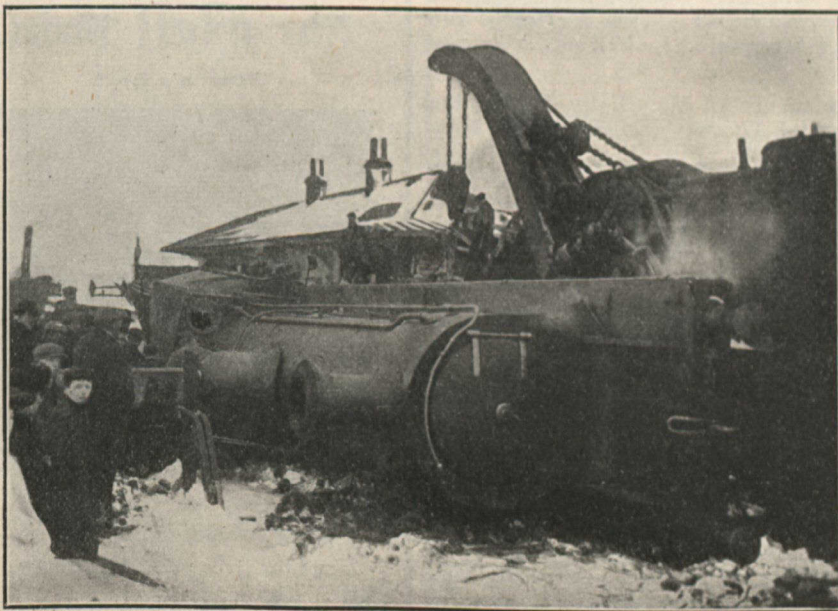
ters and other deserving characters. One chap preferred to take hard cash and received five sovereigns; but Mullins who was content with notes was made happy, if left gasping, with one hundred good pounds. The mysterious benefactor has sailed for New York. A Winnipeg rumour says he is a Yukon miner.

Since motoring has become so fashionable, old houses have risen in value because they are now more accessible to the cities. A historic old residence, York House, Twickenham, the home of the Duc d'Orleans, in which Queen Anne was born, has been sold to Mr. Ratan J. Tata, a Parsee gentleman. The Orleans family have been connected with Twickenham for over one hundred years.

Miss Marie Corelli has broken forth in prose once more, to the effect that America does not love England, but is merely playing Wolf to John Bull's Red Riding-Hood. The nursery tale comparison is hardly happy, as under no circumstances can one imagine John Bull's rosy countenance peeping from anything so demure as a hood. Happy thought! Perhaps "God's Good Man" did not have a large sale in America and Marie is merely "mad."

In Great Britain they have the smoke nuisance much worse even than in America. Toronto and Montreal are suffering from the "tall chimney," but in England there are places where the said chimney will not let the grass grow. Cleopatra's Needle, the famous Egyptian monument erected on the Embankment in London, is said to be suffering severely. Half the beauty of Westminster Abbey is lost because of grimy carbon deposit. Even Canterbury Cathedral is being ruined by modern smoke, though it has stood time's ravages since the eleventh century.

The method of furnace-heating is being decried by some English journals which assert that the open fire is more home-like and healthful and that home would be anything but sweet, had it always in winter an atmosphere reminiscent of the Commons.



The Railway Disaster in Scotland where 22 lives were lost. This picture shows the big engine on its side. The driver escaped with a bad cut on the ear, but the fireman was pinned under the tender for eight hours.

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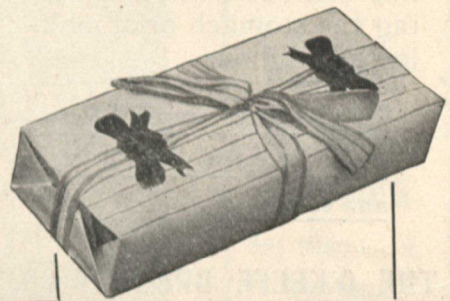
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