

DUKE OF LEINSTER, MEMBER OF FAMOUS IRISH FAMILY, BROKE

Descendant of Lord Edward Fitzgerald Who Was Stationed at Fredericton With First Regiment, To Come Here—A Local Feature — March To Quebec and Visits About Fredericton.

LONDON, May 28—Golden sunlight is streaming down into the dark and deep financial hole in which the 42-year old Duke of Leinster has been squatting ever since he sold his reversionary rights to his family estates fourteen years ago.

The sunlight is provided by his son Gerald, Marquis of Kildare, who comes of age this year. Gerald is inclined to give his father a helping hand—and perhaps take up the paternal squat—by now selling HIS reversionary rights to the family estates.

The 20 year old Marquis is quite willing to do this—in spite of family opposition, in spite of the fact that his father hasn't allowed him to hear from his mother during the last ten years, in spite of the fact that his mother died, recently by her own hand, in poverty and alone, and in spite of the fact that his aid will help his father to enjoy social prestige and happiness with an American step-mother.

Once Gerald makes up his mind to help his father—he will. For Fitzgerald stubbornness is something to reckon with.

If his family hadn't objected so strenuously, Lord Edward Fitzgerald, the present duke, might not have insisted on marrying beautiful May Etheridge, English actress, back in 1913.

So opposed were the Fitzgeralds to such a marriage, they kidnapped the headstrong 21 year old and held him until he promised not to marry May. They released him. He rushed right out and married her. She too, was 21.

He didn't have much money and he certainly had little prospect of inheriting the title, although his elder brother, the Duke, was an invalid and an imbecile. But his second brother, Sir Desmond Fitzgerald, was a strapping young man in excellent health.

Lived in Shack on Quebec Lake

And so, as "Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald," Edward and May sailed westward, hired a little shack on a lake in Quebec, and lived there until their child, Gerald, Marquis of Kildare, was born in 1914.

The war broke out and the Fitzgeralds returned to England. Edward went to the front. So did Desmond. Edward was badly wounded, Desmond was killed. That made Edward heir to the ancient title.

He and May became badly involved in debt. His brother would probably live on for years and poverty drove Edward crazy. He saw one way out.

In order to escape the money lenders he sold his reversionary rights (benefits, collections of rents, etc.) for \$250,000 plus a \$5,000 annual income. It wasn't much of a price for his \$10,000,000 heritage. But Edward wasn't much of a business man. Sir Harry Mallaby-Deeley, who bought up the rights, was. Furthermore a clause

She came back again in April, 1930, with a bang—when police arrested a Mrs. Williams' who had vainly tried suicide by gas in a London flat because her lover, Stanley Williams, a 26 year old chef, had walked out on her. Yes, "Mrs. Williams" was the Duchess of Leinster. She was placed on probation for two years.

Dropped First Divorce Suit—Won 2nd

The Duke begged and won permission to drop his first suit for divorce. He then instituted a second suit naming Williams. The Duchess did not contest. The divorce was granted in June, 1930.

It was not until after his divorce that the Duke met a very lovely young lady who called herself Mrs. Raffaele Van Neck. And it wasn't long before each was whispering their life story to the other.

But if all London thought when Mrs. Van Neck became the Duchess of Leinster in a marriage ceremony in December 1932, that she was a wealthy American society girl—all London was wrong.

She was born Agnes Raffaele Kennedy, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy later married James Henry Patterson, of New York and Greenwich, Conn. Agnes Raffaele in 1928 married Clare Van Neck, an orchestra leader, with whom she had made a great professional success in London.

No sooner did Mrs. Van Neck become Duchess of Leinster (she divorced Van Neck in the summer of 1932) and something of a social success among the Duke's friends, than the penniless nobleman was sued anew for \$6,400.

A letter from his lawyer to his creditor said "Our client for some time past has been expecting certain moneys from America."

But apparently the money never came, for the Premier Duke of Ireland, due to his financial condition, was unable to take his place in the House of Lords, was unable to attend court functions and was unable to use the royal enclosure at Ascot.

If these deprivations hurt Raffaele, Duchess of Leinster, they certainly didn't hurt May, former Duchess. For she had drifted with the tides of fate and humanity until she reached a little cottage in Brighton. She was found dead there last Feb. 13. A bottle which had contained poison lay at her side.

That ought to end a story. But the tale of Leinsters is a never-ending circle. That's why Gerald, certain that his father has many, many years to live, is willing to sell his reversionary rights to the estates.

Lord Edward Fitzgerald, who was a son of a previous Duke of Leinster, came to Fredericton in 1783 with the Fifty-fourth Regiment, the first to come here. In the winter of 1784 Lord Fitzgerald in company with a brother officer and two servants, walked through the woods from here to Quebec city, taking a direct course, and reaching Quebec at 178 miles, making what was called the most hazardous trip of "inland navigation" ever attempted. Lord Fitzgerald and his brother officer, Sir Henry Fitzgerald, a descendant of the family here for pres-entation to the York and Sunbury Historical Society.

CHAIN LETTER FAD STRIKES MONTREAL

MONTREAL, May 28—The city aldermen have a new worry. The chain letter mania has got hold of the city personnel and is holding up civic business, or at all events so some of them said in an informal discussion at the City Hall this morning.

The problem that they could not solve was what to do about it. Several aldermen had found the constables and officers in police stations in their wards using their "rest" periods to write mail chain letters. Ald. Monette spoke of a certain police station where, he said "They are clean crazy over it." Another alderman had discovered a policeman who took in \$900 in dimes from a series of chain letters and is still hoping for more.

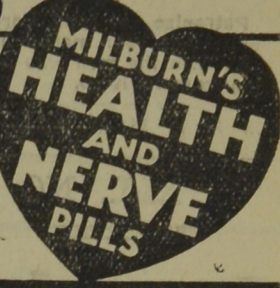
There was some suspicion that some of the clerical staff in the city hall were filling in spare moments writing chain letters, although no specific cases were cited. "They might as well be doing that as smoking cigarettes in the wash rooms," one of the aldermen growled by way of comment.

Another alderman had had a dime returned to him from the Dead Letter office. Some one had used one of the printed envelopes with City Hall address on it, and the postal authorities, detecting the presence of a silver coin in it had sent it to the Dead Letter Office instead of delivering it.

"That is either my civic secretary or the servant at home," he said. "I'm going to find out which of them it is—or perhaps I'll say nothing and just keep the ten cents," he concluded after a moment's reflection.

The general consensus of opinion was that the city should forbid municipal employees carrying on chain letter businesses. "It may not be a crime but it certainly is an unworthy manner of getting money," one alderman said. Another held that it was a fraud or a theft. Still another held that it was a form of begging letter and should come under the by-laws which forbid begging without license.

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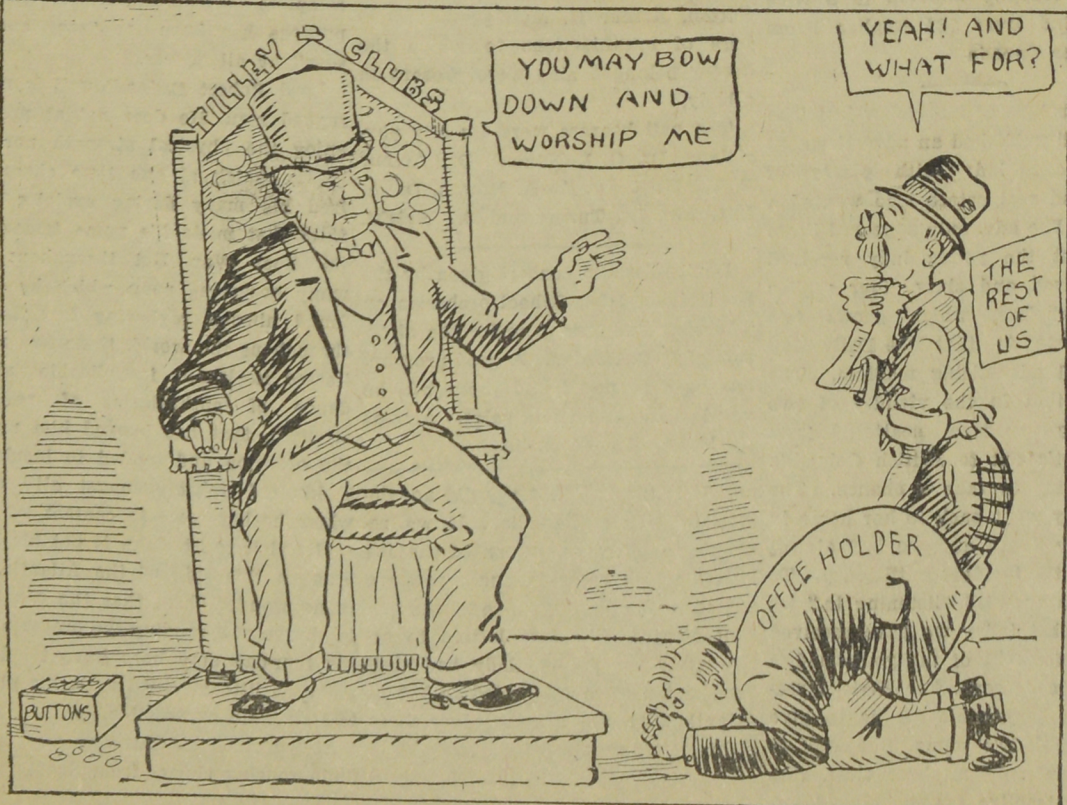
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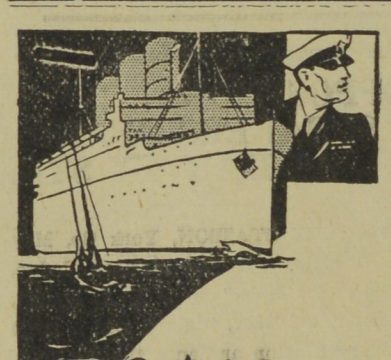
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