

THE TOWNSEND STORY.

Princess Margaret and Group Peter Townsend are two important weekend guests at Allanby Park near Windsor. Pressmen and nightseers throng the lanes, undeterred by the official statement that no announcement is contemplated at present about the Princess's future. Only a brief glimpse is caught of the Royal visitor as her car hurries by.

The Princess remains within the grounds while Group Captain Townsend takes a ride at a nearby stables. Much has happened since the days, recalled now by Pathe News, when he accompanied the Royal Tour of South Africa as an Equerry to King George the Sixth.

On that tour, the Group Captain crossed the Equator for the first time - and like every first-timer he had to submit to the traditional ceremony. Happy, informal scenes, these - from the days which are gone for ever, when few people even knew the name which is now known to millions. Busy days, but carefree days too, like this occasion when he climbed the hillside to the Rhodes Memorial with the Royal Family.

Now all is changed. Whenever he appears in public, cameras are waiting to photograph him, reporters to ask him questions - if they can. Not that the answers would help him, for he can say nothing. If any announcement is made, it cannot come from him.

The Knightsbridge house where he is staying is almost in a state of siege. A trying time for him, and for the Princess; may the great question be answered soon - one way or the other.