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PEER RAISES A STOEM.

John Edward Poynder Grigg, 2nd Baron Altrincham, is in hot water. This 33-year-old peer often expresses views unpopular with his fellow-Tories; but now he is under fire from inside and outside his own party. In an article in his journal "The National and English Review", he voices criticisms of the Queen and her Court which rouse the wrath of much of the national press.

The town of Altrincham, near Manchester, is in a ferment - for many of its people are disturbed that a peer who bears the name of their borough should be so outspoken on a very delicate subject - the public personality of the Sovereign. Altrincham prides itself on its loyalty - and its patriotism, pointing to such citizens as Bill Speakman, V.C. as evidence.

Bow Street Magistrate's Court, London, is the scene of a sequel to the flare-up caused by the article. Mr. Philip Burbidge leaves after being fined £1 for slapping Lord Altrincham's face in public. The magistrate is Sir Lawrence Dunn, who tells him: "You have only made a most unsavoury episode more squalid". Later, Pathe News asks Mr. Burbidge if he thinks the fine was worth it.

Meanwhile, holidaying at Balmoral are those who cannot reply to the criticisms - the Queen and her family. Some consider Lord Altrincham's article was more restrained than certain press reports implied. It suggested that the courtiers who surround royalty advise the Queen badly, and are too narrow in their outlook. It also declared that Prince Charles' education should bring him into contact with all sections of the community. Pathe News decided to discuss the controversy with Lord Altrincham himself.