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NEWS FLASHES:

Nineteen people were killed and 74 injured when two expresses collided head-on just outside Capetown, with an impact which witnesses said "sounded just like a dynamite truck exploding". Four coaches were completely destroyed, and the breakdown cranes have great difficulty in lifting the tightly-packed wreckage. Miraculously, the drivers of the two trains escaped with their lives. Work goes on round the clock to clear the scene of one of the worst railway disasters in South Africa's history.

Cannon Street, one of London's busiest terminal stations, works on an emergency footing. Transport chief Sir Brian Robertson leaves the burnt-out signal box which caused all the trouble, and inspects a plan of the track to see how the return to normal can be speeded up. So intricate is modern railway control that a burnt-out box at a main station takes months to replace, even with top priority. But using a temporary control box (a special wagon) and signalling the trains in by flag, British railways have the peak traffic restored to three-quarters of normal within three days. A new modern signal box is to be built - but meanwhile, the railway staff are working wonders!

At Washington's Walter Reed hospital, three-year-old Prince Mashhur of Saudi Arabia is doing fine. King Saud, brought him there during the recent royal visit to the United States, to be treated for partial paralysis. The use of his right arm and leg is being steadily restored - a marked improvement from his condition just a few months ago.

Prince Mashhur's a friendly lad, but he's particular about bestowing the royal kiss. Nothing doing for an American army doctor, but His Royal Highness has one to spare for his Arabian tutor;

New finds in the excavation of Herculaneum, sister city of Pompeii buried in the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. A marble table, intact after two millennia, is typical of the many discoveries in an avenue of villas which were occupied by wealthy Roman families. Disaster overtook them - but it preserved, for later centuries to admire, something of the glory of Imperial Rome.