Now, mail guards... but no guns

SABOTAGE

PROBE INTO GPO ANTI-THEFT VANS

BY MIRROR REPORTERS

THREE super-safe rail vans were out of action just when they were needed for the treasure-train robbed in Thursday's £2,525,000 ambush.

This was revealed in London last night by Postmaster-General Reginald Bevis.

Without the special vans to beat, the robbers had a much easier job. And Mr. Bevis said: "I don't rule out the possibility that the vans were tampered with."

Scotland Yard men are investigating the possibility that the vans might have been sabotaged.

There are nine of the special anti-bandit rail vans in Britain.

Three are normally used on the Travelling Post Office run between Glasgow and London—the largest in Thursday's 3:15 a.m. hold-up at Sears Crossing, Buckinghamshire.

For five years, the vans had given no trouble. But between June 22 and August 1, all three went out of action.

 Faulty

Two had "hot axles"—in danger of seizing up because of faulty bearings. The third had a "hot tyre"—a metal wheel-rim worn down in one spot.

The vans were taken to workshops at Wigan, Lancs, at Swindon, Wiltshire, and at Derby. None was ready for Thursday's trip.

Last night, the Postmaster-General announced three new plans to guard the mails on the railways.

PLAN ONE: Security men to travel with each valuable cargo.

PLAN TWO: A loud-hailer alarm system.

PLAN THREE: More cooperation between signalmen and police.

And guns for the train guards.

—No," Mr. Bevis said. "The last thing we want is to see shoot-out matches on British Railways!"

£260,000

REWARD

It is waiting for the first person who "turns in" the gang who got away with more than £2,500,000 in Thursday's mail train raid. And it will be TAX FREE.

Two London loss adjusting firms, Hart and Co. and Topliss and Hardy, representing seven banks hit by the raid, have offered £200,000.

The Midland Bank has offered a further £50,000. And the Post Office another £100,000.

This is more money than the haul in the previous biggest Post Office robbery in Britain—the £250,000 mail van raid in London in 1952.

This is as big as the biggest pools prize ever won...£260,000.

Mr LAZZOLO PAINTS THE DUKE

Sitting with Prince Philip at his pad—Buckingham Palace.

He has seen the portrait and is pleased with it. The portrait, which shows Prince Philip wearing the dark blue coat of the Fishmongers' Guild, was commissioned by Welsh industrialist Colonel Benjamin Bradley for his associate's daughter, Miss Barbara Lazzolo. Mr. Lazzolo said: I had seven

John Smith

Mr. Lazzolo paints the Duke

Duke of Argyll weds in secret

By MIRROR REPORTER

THE big secret of the Duke of Argyll (above) came out yester-

day—he was married for the fourth time eight weeks ago.

His new bride is a childhood friend, 40-

year-old Mrs. Matilda Mortimer, an attractive, wealthy American, who lives in Paris.

The hush-hush wed-

ding was held at a register office "some-

where outside London" on June 15.

Divorce

This was thirty-eight days after the 60-year-

old Duke's last marriage ended in divorce, and will be the fourth of the most-publicised divorce cases ever known.

The Duke's 25-year-old son, the Marquess of Lorne, was at the cere-

mony with his father's solicitor and Mrs. Morti-

mer's godfather, Mr. Stephen Pethick.

Awards to the Duke for his new Duchess—

her own marriage to a professor at the Sor-

bonne in Paris, ended in divorce in 1948 to his Scottish home, Inverary Castle.

Flat

No one was told that the Duke and his pretty guest, who has three sons, were man and wife.

Four days later the newlyweds went off to honeymoon in Paris, where the Duchess has a flat.

They are due back at Inverary at the end of the month.

QUOTE last night from the Duke's ex-

wife: "I know the lady; but I cannot comment."

The Duke's ex-wife...

"I know the lady."