



141.956



N.B.—Memoranda must not be placed over the Number.

DATE. 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1906.

Theresa Billington.

brim. base.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.



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Charges to pay £ s. d.

at Fleet St 9 45a Received here at 10-15  
TO Mrs Herbert Gladstone  
Home Secy Dept of Coms.

MINUTES.

I ask you to read my article in Evening News yesterday we are not shockbags you misapprehend our position Mrs Pethick Lawrence

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

27/6/06

J.F.H

27/6/06 C.J. 27.6.6.

H.O. UP

141.956

8

HOME OFFICE  
27 JUN. 1906  
C

N.B.—Memoranda must not be placed over the Number.

DATE. 25th June 1906

Theresa Billington

Crim. Case.

Bramley Labour Representation  
Committee forward copy resolution  
of indignation at sentence on  
Miss Billington, & demanding her  
release.

Act: B 27 <sup>6</sup>/<sub>86</sub>

MINUTES.

If they are interested, they will see decision of J.P. in the paper.

? day by  $\frac{1}{5}$ ,  $\frac{1}{6}$  &  $\frac{1}{8}$ .

F.H.

27/6/06.

JBS

CEJ

29-6-6.

M 2/7/06

W.A. Smith

[I have the [London] office have  
received similar representations  
containing also a demand for  
the instant dismissal of  
Asquith.]

M

3/7/06

141956  
141956  
8  
1 Henley Place

Bramley Leeds



25/6/06

Dear Sir

At a meeting of the Bramley Labour Representation Committee held this Monday evening the following resolution was unanimously agreed to & forwarded to you.

That this meeting expresses its indignation at the unjust & vindictive sentence of £10 or two months imprisonment passed upon Miss Billington at the Marylebone Police Court

for an assault upon the  
police, but in reality for  
seeking an interview with  
Mr Asquith, Chancellor of  
the Exchequer, to secure  
the withdrawal of his  
long opposition to the  
enfranchisement of women;  
and further this meeting  
demands the immediate  
release of Miss Billington

Yours Respectfully

W. Withey

See Bramley L.R.C.



141.956



9

N.B.—Memoranda must not be placed over the Number.

DATE: 25<sup>th</sup> June 1906

Theresa Billington

Crim. Case

Women's Social & Political Union  
forward resolutions protesting  
against sentence, & demanding  
Mr Asquith's resignation!

ackd. B 27<sup>th</sup> 06

MINUTES.

? Layby 9

J.F.H.  
28/6/06

Age.  
28.6.06.  
CJ  
29-6-6.

*Mrs*

VOTES for WOMEN.

Women's Social & Political Union.

LONDON CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

*All Communications  
to be addressed to the*

*Hon. Secretary:*

MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST,  
45, Park Walk, Chelsea, S.W.

*Hon. Treasurer:*

MRS. F. W. PETHICK LAWRENCE,  
87, Clement's Inn, W.C.

*Organisers:*

MISS BILLINGTON &  
MISS A. KENNEY,  
45, Park Walk, Chelsea, S.W.

*Hon. Auditor:*

G. SAYERS,  
Chartered Accountant,  
19, Hanover Square, W.



141956

*J. W. 25-190*

To the Right Honourable Herbert Gladstone,

Sir,

I enclose a Resolution which was put to a Mass Meeting in Raven's Court Park yesterday afternoon and carried by the Meeting with only four dissensions.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Pankhurst.

*J. W.*

# VOTES for WOMEN.

## Women's Social & Political Union.

LONDON CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

All Communications  
addressed to the

Hon. Secretary:  
LIVIA PANKHURST,  
45, Park Walk, Chelsea, S.W.

Hon. Treasurer:

F. W. PETHICK LAWRENCE,  
87, Clement's Inn, W.C.

Organisers:

BILLINGTON &  
KENNEY,  
Park Walk, Chelsea, S.W.

Auditor:

ERS,  
Chartered Accountant,  
19, Hanover Square, W.

141956/9



190

### Resolution.

"This Meeting expresses its indignation at the unjust and vindictive sentence of £10 or two months imprisonment passed upon Miss Billington at Marylebone Police Court, nominally for an assault upon the Police, but in reality for seeking an interview to demand from Mr. Asquith, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a withdrawal of his long opposition to the Enfranchisement of Women; and further, this Meeting demands the resignation from the Cabinet of Mr. Asquith, and the immediate release of Miss Billington."

---

25th June, 1906.

The Rt. Hon. Herbert Gladstone,

Sir,

The following Resolution was carried at a large Mass Meeting in Hyde Park yesterday, June 24th, under the auspices of the British Secular League, it was also carried at another mass meeting in Hyde Park yesterday

Yours sincerely

Alice Mary Toyne.

HOME OFFICE  
27 JUN. 1906  
RECEIVED

141956/9

Resolution.

.....

" This Meeting expresses its indignation at the unjust and vindictive sentence of £10 or two months imprisonment passed upon Miss Billington at Marylebone Police Court, nominally for an assault upon the Police, but in reality for seeking an interview to demand from Mr. Asquith, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a withdrawal of his long opposition to the Enfranchisement of Women; and further, this Meeting demands the resignation from the Cabinet of Mr. Asquith, and the immediate release of Miss Billington".

.....





Subnumber

Registration

141.956

15



DATE. 5<sup>th</sup> July, 1906.

Miss Kenny, Mrs. Knight & Mrs Sparborough.

8 un. bases.

5/7/06 1.)

Tottenham Branch of Independent Labour Party forward resolution protesting against the severity of the sentence, & calling for their instant release.

4/7/06 2.)

Similar resolution from Amalgamated Society of Tailors & Tailoresses

4/7/06 3.)

Resolution from Women's Social & Political Union

Ackd B 976

MINUTES.

10.7.06 4)

South-West-Manchester social democratic federation.

? Layby

G.F.H.

11/7/06

JSS

Ces

13.7.06

*mm*

SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION.

*Acad B 10 706*

OBJECT.

The Socialisation of the Means of Production, Distribution and Exchange, to be controlled by a Democratic State in the interests of the entire Community, and the Complete Emancipation of Labour from the Domination of Capitalism and Landlordism, with the establishment of Social and Economic Equality between the Sexes.

SOUTH-WEST MANCHESTER BRANCH.

Secretary E. HOLLOWAY,  
126, Rumford Street,  
Chorlton-on-Medlock,  
Manchester.



*July 9th 06*

*To the Right Hon. Herbert Gladstone. M.P.*

*Sir 14195/15*

*I am directed by the above organisation to inform you that the following resolution was carried unanimously at our Branch Meeting:*

*"This meeting expresses its indignation at the unjust and vindictive sentences passed upon women who are agitating for the Emancipation of Women."*

*Yours faithfully,  
E. Holloway  
Hon Sec.*

VOTES for WOMEN.

Women's Social & Political Union.

LONDON CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

All Communications  
to be addressed to the

Hon. Secretary:

MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST,  
45, Park Walk, Chelsea, S.W.

Hon. Treasurer:

MRS. F. W. PETHICK LAWRENCE,  
37, Clement's Inn, W.C.

Organisers:

MISS BILLINGTON &  
MISS A. KENNEY,  
45, Park Walk, Chelsea, S.W.

Hon. Auditor:

A. G. SAYERS,  
Chartered Accountant,  
19, Hanover Square, W.



141956  
ackd B 9/7/06.  
4th July, 1906. 190

The following Resolution was passed at a Meeting in Hyde park, July 4th, called by the Women's Social & Political Union.

Resolution.

That this Meeting expresses the deepest admiration for, and the warmest sympathy with, the three brave women who have been so vindictively sentenced to six weeks imprisonment for merely technical offences, and further it calls for their immediate release.

Chairman  
Christabel Pankhurst

1/10

141956

Ackd B 9/7/06.

Amalgamated Society of Tailors and Tailoresses,  
East London, Tailoresses' Branch.

141 956  
15

L. Solomin, Secretary,

31, Wilkes Street,  
Spitalfields, E.



London, July 7<sup>th</sup> 1906.

Dear Sir:

I beg to forward to you the resolution passed by the East London Tailoresses Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors & Tailoresses of the meeting held at King's Hall, 85 Commercial R<sup>d</sup>, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July:

The Meeting expresses the deepest admiration for, and the warmest sympathy with, the three brave women - Mrs Kenney, Mrs Knight and Mrs Sparborough who have been so vindictively sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment for merely technical offences, and calls for their immediate release!

By order of the E. L. T. Branch of  
the A. S. T.

L. Solomin Secretary

Mr Gladstone.  
Home Secretary.  
Whitehall.

144956  
Mum



53 Elmaw Road  
P. Tottenham.

A. Gladstone Esq. M.P.  
Home Secretary,

Ackd B  
9/7/06.

141956  
15

Per

I have been directed  
to forward you the following  
resolution.

This meeting of the Tottenham  
Branch of the Independent  
Labour Party indignantly pro-  
tests against the vindictive &  
excessive sentence of 6 weeks  
imprisonment passed on  
Miss Kenny, Mrs Knight &  
Mrs Sparrow, at the Marylebone  
Police Court for merely technical

offences, & further demands  
their immediate release."

Yours truly

E. W. Hoy.  
Sec.



141956



Subnumber

Registration

DATE. 21<sup>st</sup>. June 1906

Mr. Keir Hardie

Crim Case

Miss Teresa Billington - Suffragette

\*29. Mr. Keir Hardie.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has now had an opportunity of considering the papers relating to the case of Miss Teresa Billington, who was fined £10 with the alternative of two months' imprisonment at the Marylebone police court on Thursday last; and what decision he has come to in relation thereto. [Monday 25th June.]

Notes

Teresa Billington  
Marylebone Police Court  
21<sup>st</sup> June 1906  
assault  
Fined £10 or 2 mths

(Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June)

MINUTES.

Times - June 22. 06

? copy of question to  
magistrate for obs'ns & notes of evidence  
in the case

JBS  
22.6.6

ClJ  
22-6-6.

wrote Magistrate,  
22/6/6

Notes of evidence within. Mr  
Paul Taylor has seen S.O.S. about  
the case.  
to S.O.S.

JBS

THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE DISTURBANCE.  
Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) asked the Home Secretary whether his attention had been called to proceedings at the Marylebone Police Court and the extreme sentence of a fine of £10 or two months' imprisonment upon Miss Billington, and whether he would cause an inquiry to be made into the facts.  
Mr. TREVELYAN (York, W.R., Elland), asked the right hon. gentleman whether up to late that morning the police had been unable to deal with the riotous behaviour of women in Cavendish-square; whether this method of trying to promote the cause of Women's Suffrage had the outspoken disapproval of the advocates of the movement, and whether the police had sufficient means for the preservation of order.  
Mr. KEIR HARDIE asked was it in order to bring a charge of riotous behaviour against persons not present to defend themselves.  
The SPEAKER said it appeared to him the first and third questions were in order, not the second.  
Mr. GLADSTONE said he only received the letter of the hon. member for Merthyr Tydvil five minutes ago and had not the information to enable him to answer the question. As to the questions of his hon. friend, his attention had been drawn to the subject. Not being quite sure how far his answer might be in order, all he would now say was that the police had taken proceedings against certain women to whom his hon. friend had referred, and he trusted there would be no further renewal of disturbance. (Hear, hear.)  
Mr. KEIR HARDIE asked whether the sentence was not excessive for a trivial offence, and, as the matter was one of urgency, would the right hon. gentleman answer a further question on the motion for adjournment.  
Mr. GLADSTONE said he had no power to interfere with judicial proceedings except in so far as, after careful examination, he found it his duty to advise the exercise of the prerogative of mercy. He had no power to interfere, and could hold out no hope of being able to give any further answer at the adjournment.  
Mr. KEIR HARDIE asked if it was customary for a magistrate to deal with a charge within two hours of the alleged offence without giving the accused time to prepare a defence.  
Mr. GLADSTONE said it was customary for a magistrate to deal summarily with an offender if he thought proper to do so.

COPY MADE  
22 JUN. 1906  
TIME 2-30 PM

For report of Answer see 1/3.

The Times,

22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1906.

#### THE SENTENCE ON MISS BILLINGTON.

11.0 On the motion that the House do now adjourn, Mr. KEIR HARDIE referred to the sentence on Miss Billington and appealed to the Home Secretary to cause an inquiry to be made into all the facts of the case with a view to a remission of the sentence. Unless something of this kind were done, the object which the magistrate probably had in view in imposing such a heavy sentence—that of deterring others from pursuing a like line of conduct—would defeat itself. If the right hon. gentleman used the powers vested in him with a view to the revision and reduction of the sentence he would be doing an act of justice in itself and one which would meet with approval from large numbers of people outside the House.

Mr. GLADSTONE said that at present he had no additional information on the subject. He would give the question all the consideration it deserved, and he suggested that the hon. member should put down a question, when he would make inquiry into all the circumstances of the case.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE.—Will the right hon. gentleman be able to give an answer by Monday?

Mr. GLADSTONE said he would try to give an answer on Monday, but as he was not aware of the circumstances of the case at present, it was possible that he might have to ask the hon. member to postpone it.

Mr. BYLES (Salford, N.) supported the appeal of the hon. member. The punishment was a discredit to English tribunals and English judicial methods.

Mr. MADDISON (Burnley) said that, while hon. members held the view that the right hon. gentleman should inquire into this case, it should be clearly stated that if the ordinary procedure had been carried out in the Court for a similar offence there ought to be no difference whatever made. He described these women as "female hooligans," and, although the hon. member had spoken of these women as seeking an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he told the hon. member that he was simply playing with words. (Hear, hear.) These women had declared over and over again that the Chancellor of the Exchequer "has widows," and they had deliberately urged their comrades to go to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's house. It was a deliberate plan; they had been interviewed in the Press, and again and again they had said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not seen the end of it. Womanhood, indeed, had really been abominably outraged by this incident. (Cheers.) The hon. member for Merthyr would have served his cause very much better if at an earlier stage he had used his influence to induce these women to act in something like a decent fashion. No real working women would have disgraced themselves in the way these women had done. They were now in their proper place, a police-court.

Mr. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, N.E., Clitheroe), who thought the speech of the hon. member for Burnley entirely uncalled for, supported the appeal to the Home Secretary, and Mr. HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) spoke in a similar sense.

Mr. E. WASON (Cleckmannan and Kinross) said they ought not to attack the magistrate for having performed his duty. In his opinion, the sentence was not excessive. If the fine was paid these ladies would be released, and he believed that, if they promised not to repeat the offence, the fine would be paid for them.

Mr. SEDDON (Lancashire, S.W., Newton) said the hon. member for Burnley, in his vicious attack on these women, had been guilty of a misstatement. Two of these women were working women; one was a cotton operative and the other a school teacher. He would leave the hon. member to discuss with his constituents whether these women were hooligans.

Mr. J. WARD also appealed for clemency in this case. He did not think the excessive punishment would have the desired effect. If the Home Secretary were to try and modify, if not to wipe out altogether, the punishment that had been passed in this case, he believed it would have much better results than the sentence would.

The House adjourned at 25 minutes past 11 o'clock.

#### THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE DISTURBANCE.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) asked the Home Secretary whether his attention had been called to proceedings at the Marylebone Police Court and the extreme sentence of a fine of £10 or two months' imprisonment upon Miss Billington, and whether he would cause an inquiry to be made into the facts.

Mr. TREVELYAN (York, W.R., Elland), asked the right hon. gentleman whether up to late that morning the police had been unable to deal with the riotous behaviour of women in Cavendish-square; whether this method of trying to promote the cause of Women's Suffrage had the outspoken disapproval of the advocates of the movement, and whether the police had sufficient means for the preservation of order.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE asked was it in order to bring a charge of riotous behaviour against persons not present to defend themselves.

The SPEAKER said it appeared to him the first and third questions were in order, not the second.

Mr. GLADSTONE said he only received the letter of the hon. member for Merthyr Tydvil five minutes ago and had not the information to enable him to answer the question. As to the questions of his hon. friend, his attention had been drawn to the subject. Not being quite sure how far his answer might be in order, all he would now say was that the police had taken proceedings against certain women to whom his hon. friend had referred, and he trusted there would be no further renewal of disturbance. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. KEIR HARDIE asked whether the sentence was not excessive for a trivial offence, and, as the matter was one of urgency, would the right hon. gentleman answer a further question on the motion for adjournment.

Mr. GLADSTONE said he had no power to interfere with judicial proceedings except in so far as, after careful examination, he found it his duty to advise the exercise of the prerogative of mercy. He had no power to interfere, and could hold out no hope of being able to give any further answer at the adjournment.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE asked if it was customary for a magistrate to deal with a charge within two hours of the alleged offence without giving the accused time to prepare a defence.

Mr. GLADSTONE said it was customary for a magistrate to deal summarily with an offender if he thought proper to do so.

See a "Story of the Disturbance"



Answer to Mr Trevelyan



NEW SCOTLAND YARD,

S. W.

Certain women who have for some days assembled in Cavendish Square were this morning charged by the Police with disorderly conduct, and in one instance with assaulting the Police. They were taken before the Magistrate at the Marylebone Police Court, and as a result one woman was fined £10 or two months imprisonment; and the case of three others was remanded for a week on their giving surety for their good behaviour in the meantime.

21.11.1906

Mr Keir Hardie to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the proceedings at Marylebone Police Court this morning when Miss Teresa Billington was fined ten pounds or two months' imprisonment on a charge of assaulting the police? Whether the alleged assault was only committed this morning and as a consequence the accused was unable to make provision for being legally represented in the court? Whether the sentence was not extreme and whether in consideration of all these circumstances he will order a stay of sentence until he has had time to make an enquiry into all the facts?

Question for today



Mr. Trevelyan -

To ask the

Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware of the riotous behaviour of certain women in Cavendish Square which the Metropolitan Police have not yet been able to suppress, whether he is aware that this method of trying to promote the cause of women's suffrage meets with the deepest and most outspoken disapprobation of the mass of the advocates of that reform, whether women or men, and whether he will give instructions to the Metropolitan Police to preserve order.

Metropolitan  
Police District } The Examination of  
to Wit.


Lambert Warman  
for

taken on Oath this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June in the  
Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and six  
at the Marylebone Police Court, in the County  
of London, and within the Metropolitan Police District, before Me, the  
undersigned, one of the Magistrates of the Police Courts of the Metropolis  
sitting at the Police Court aforesaid, in the presence and hearing of

A woman who refused her name

who was charged this day before Me, for ~~that~~ using behavior  
whereby a breach of the peace might have  
been occasioned;

and also for that she did unlawfully  
assault and beat one Lambert Warman  
a Constable of the Metropolitan Police  
Force in the execution of his duty as  
such Constable.



Lambert  
Police Constable Norman 322 D: on oath sworn.

At 9 o'clock this morning I was in Cavendish Sq. A number of ladies (about 30) assembled and marched round the Square. About 9.30 they were joined by a number of others (including the defendant). A banner was unfurled "Votes for women" and carried at the head of them. They marched round the square about 70 strong. A lot of people collected and great obstruction was caused. I asked defendant to go up Cavendish Place.

She said "No I won't. I shall go round the square and make a demonstration at Mr Asquith's house"

I said I should arrest her if she did not go away.

She then slapped me in the face 3 times.

I took her into custody and in Cavendish Place she kicked me on the leg twice.



Inspector Walter Turrell. D. dis: sworn

At 9 am. 21 June I saw the procession round the Square. At 9.30 defendant & others joined them. They marched round the Square. Last witness accompanied them. I remained by Mr Asquith's house. I later saw the defendant in custody.

There was great obstruction. People overflowed the pavement into the road



Inspector James Bucknham. D. div: Sworn.

I saw defendant and others join the other ladies. There were at least 50. I told defendant she could not hold a meeting there and had better go to the Park. She said she should not go but would hold a meeting at her squibs house. She then rushed away and formed up the procession which marched round the Square.

I authorized her arrest for assault.

The Defendant being found guilty of assaulting Constable Lambert Warman was sentenced to pay a fine of £10 and in default of payment to be imprisoned for two months.



141.956



N.B.—Memoranda must not be placed over the Number.

DATE. 22nd June 1906.

Yeresa Bellington

Crim Case

Mr Herbert Leather petitions for remission of sentence

ackd C 23<sup>rd</sup> 06

MINUTES.

? refer to S of S answer in the H. of C.

adid  
2.7.6.

? layby  
JTSS



Ellersdale.

Jolly Lane.

Swinton

Manchester.

14/1956  
~~22/1956~~

June 22/06.

The Right Hon. H. Gladstone M.P.

Dear Sir:



In venturing to  
ask complete and immediate  
clemency on behalf of Miss T.  
Billington, sentenced in a London  
Police Court on Thursday morning  
the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, to two months'  
imprisonment, I would point out  
that Miss Billington has served  
the Board of Education for several  
years as a teacher, and as a  
colleague it is within my  
personal knowledge that she,  
faithfully and conscientiously,  
inculcated that love of freedom

and justice which is the  
foundation of the national progress.

In accordance with these principles

I beg to suggest that Miss  
Billington is carrying out her  
present line of action.

Contrary to general supposition  
Miss Billington is by nature  
thoroughly refined and with the feeling

that imprisonment would utterly  
blast a splendid character I  
appeal with confidence to the  
ultimate veto for good or ill.

I am

Yours Sincerely,  
W. B. Deather.



Subnumber

Registration ✓

141,956

3



DATE. 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1906

Theresa Billington

Crim. Case

Mr G. Paul Taylor, Marylebone  
Police Court, forwards copy of  
note of statement of Miss  
Billington.

Act. D 23.6.06

MINUTES.

to S. of S.

In reply to the question on 7, say

I have now seen the evidence in  
this case. It was clearly proved that  
Miss Billington was, with other  
women, causing an obstruction in  
Cavendish Square: & that when a police  
officer asked her to move away from  
the Square, she [resisted] slapped him  
in the face three times <sup>after she was arrested</sup> & kicked him  
twice. Miss Billington did not deny  
these charges, nor question the evidence.  
In these circumstances the Magistrate had  
no choice but to convict - & I  
think that his sentence - a fine of

ten pounds - or two months imprisonment  
was a reasonable and proper one -

[add to this Soff's  
decision]

CEJ  
23.6.06.

MJ  
23/6/06

Perhaps it wd be better to be "resisted".  
Then add - "I have since received an  
appeal for leniency from the Chancellor of  
the Exchequer. In consequence of this  
appeal I have reduced the fine to  
£5 or in default one month's  
imprisonment."

After the second "appeal" I sh<sup>d</sup> like  
to add "with the concurrence of the  
Magistrate". Send a copy after hours  
to Mr Taylor in the morning & ask if  
he has any objection. But of course  
I don't want to press him.

Reply from Mr Paul Taylor within,  
and copy of answer given

MJ

24/6/06

Mr Troup.

M.W. 26.6.6.

Remission warrant  
dated 24 June 06

Swan Dept. have seen the pt  
Edid  
5.7.6.



June 25. 1906

Dear Mr. Walter

I have no objection  
whatever to the words you  
refer to "with the concurrence  
of the learned Magistrate" being  
used. On the contrary I  
am obliged to Mr. Gladstone  
for inserting them in his  
reply.

Yours very truly  
G. Paul Pugh



I have now seen the evidence in this case. It was clearly proved that Miss Billington was, with other women, causing an obstruction in Cavendish Square; and that when a Police Officer asked her <sup>to move</sup> away from the Square, she slapped him in the face three times and, after she was arrested, kicked him twice. Miss Billington did not deny these charges nor question the evidence. In these circumstances the Magistrate had no choice but to convict, and I think that his sentence - a fine of £10 or two months' imprisonment - was a reasonable and proper one.

I have since received an appeal for leniency from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In consequence of this appeal I have, with the concurrence of the learned Magistrate, reduced the fine to £5 or in default one month's imprisonment

Any further communication on the subject of this letter should be addressed to

THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE  
OF THE METROPOLIS,

*New Scotland Yard, S.W.*

And the following No. quoted :-

490752/3.

*New Scotland Yard, S.W.*

25th June, 1906.

Sir,

With reference to the Question to be asked in the House of Commons to-day by Mr. Keir Hardie regarding the Woman Suffragist Movement,-

I have to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State, that the history of the movement, so far as the streets of London is concerned, commences in March last when a number of women commenced to assemble daily outside 10, Downing Street, with the object of securing an interview with the Prime Minister,

On the morning of the 9th March, about 30 women, who had been refused the desired interview, formed a barricade around the door upon which they repeatedly knocked demanding admission.

They refused to leave when requested, and announced their determination to remain until they saw the Premier.

The efforts of the Police to induce them to desist

The Under

from

Secretary of State,

&c. &c. &c.

from causing disturbance were unavailing, and eventually three who continued to knock violently at the door and appeared to take the lead in the annoyance were taken into custody and removed to Cannon Row Station. On the personal intercession of Sir.H.Campbell-Bannerman, however, these women were not charged on this occasion.

In consequence of the <sup>apparently supposed</sup> ~~declared~~ opposition to the movement by <sup>some</sup> ~~a~~ Members of the Cabinet, the band of female agitators recently transferred their attentions to Mr.Asquith's house in Cavendish Square, which they have closely invested, compelling him to resort to escape from the <sup>stable</sup> ~~rear~~ <sup>at the rear</sup> entrance at least on one occasion. On the morning of the 21st instant the women arrived in Cavendish Square before 9 o'clock and commenced to march and countermarch round the Square within the enclosure. A flag was hoisted on the arrival of a second contingent, and, as persons were being pushed off the foot paths, and much inconvenience was being caused to householders in the Square and to passers-by, the women were cautioned against a continuance of the demonstration there, and advised to proceed to Hyde Park or elsewhere. All remonstrances or cautions

given



given by the Police were, however, totally disregarded and one of the leaders declared her intention of leading them to Mr. Asquith's residence. By this time the Square was completely obstructed by crowds of persons and vehicles, and it became necessary for the Police to actively intervene. At this stage one of the suffragists in extreme excitement slapped Police Constable Warman in the face three times and kicked him twice on the leg, whereupon she was taken into custody and charged,-- and three other women who persisted in attempting to gain admittance to Mr. Asquith's house were subsequently arrested and similarly charged.

There have been various meetings reported to have been held within the Metropolis in support of the cause advocated by these women, but no interference on the part of the Police has become necessary.

Every possible effort has been used by the Police to quietly disperse the various assemblages of the suffragists, and, in the performance of an obviously difficult duty, the Officers engaged have invariably shown the utmost forbearance towards these unruly and excited women,

but

but, on the extreme occasion mentioned, the disturbance  
reached a point when there was no alternative but to  
arrest the ringleaders.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

E. A. Henry

From Proof of Debates for June 25, 1906

Miss Billington's Case.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydfil I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has now had an opportunity of considering the papers relating to the case of Miss Teresa Billington, who was fined £10 with the alternative of two months' imprisonment at the Marylebone police court on Thursday last; and what decision he has come to in relation thereto.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have now seen the evidence in this case. It was clearly proved that Miss Billington was, with other women, causing an obstruction in Cavendish Square, and that when a police officer asked her to move away from the square, she slapped him in the face three times, and, after she was arrested, kicked him twice. Miss Billington did not deny these charges nor question the evidence. In these circumstances the Magistrate had no choice but to convict, and I think that his sentence—a fine of £10, or two months' imprisonment—was a reasonable and proper one. I have since received an appeal for leniency from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In consequence of this appeal I have, with the concurrence of the learned Magistrate, reduced the fine to £5, or in default one month's imprisonment.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.) asked whether, seeing that Miss Billington was acting on the advice tendered by the President of the Board of Trade in this matter, the Home Secretary would not use his influence to get a rehearing of the case. There was sufficient evidence to prove that this lady did not commit the assault complained of, but rather resisted an assault committed upon her.

No answer was returned.



7, KENSINGTON GARDEN TERRACE,  
HYDE PARK, W.

141956/3

141,956

June 23. 1906

Sir

Referring to your  
letter of yesterday's date  
and to my interview with  
Mr. Adstone yesterday  
afternoon I now enclose  
as suggested copy transcript  
of Mr. Shortland's writing  
note of Miss Billington's

statement. As I am not  
sitting to-day and as I  
understand the Home  
Secretary desired to have  
it as soon as possible I  
have made the copy in  
my own handwriting - which  
I trust Mr. Gladstone will  
find easy to read.

I am Sir  
your obedient servant.

G. Paul Taylor.

# Independent Labour Party,

OLDHAM BRANCH.

Secretary :

~~JOSEPH SHAW,~~

~~82, South Hill Street.~~

36 Latimer St  
Oldham  
June 26/06

Dear Sir.

The following resolution was passed at a Mass meeting held in Oldham last night:

" This meeting protests against the heavy sentence imposed upon Miss Billington & expressing its conviction that the punishment is out of all proportion to the offence, demands her immediate release, and further expresses the opinion

that the women are  
justified in their efforts  
to obtain the vote."

Yours truly

Herbert Lees

Reply to the Election J.P.

The Hon Herbert Gladstone

106 Peckham Rd

S.E.  
June 22/06.

Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>

H. Gladstone, M.P., Esq.  
Home Secretary.

(The disorder in  
Cavendish Square)

For the "Daily Telegraph",  
"Daily News" and "Evening News"  
honestly publish Miss Kenney's  
statement, which runs:— "A  
policeman took Miss Billington  
by neck and arm and dragged  
her away; then he thumped her,  
she said 'you brute how dare  
you hurt me like this'—"



The accounts do not state  
that P.C. Norman "322"  
(swearing to tell the whole-  
truth) mentioned that part

Was not the lady justified  
in doing what she did in  
self-defence; and did  
the magistrate listen to  
police only? It is stated so!  
This question

occurs to many, and some  
think the punishment 7 weeks  
too long and crave your kind  
intervention for justice sake to  
mitigate it! If the facts be as  
the public understands,  
Yrs. Mo. respectfully  
H. Whiteman

# VOTES for WOMEN.

## Women's Social & Political Union.

LONDON CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

All Communications  
to be addressed to the

Hon. Secretary:

MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST,  
45, Park Walk, Chelsea, S.W.

Hon. Treasurer:

MRS. F. W. PETHICK LAWRENCE,  
87, Clement's Inn, W.C.

Organisers:

MISS BILLINGTON &  
MISS A. KENNEY,  
45, Park Walk, Chelsea, S.W.

Hon. Auditor:

A. G. SAYERS,  
Chartered Accountant,  
19, Hanover Square, W.

### Resolution.

"This Meeting expresses its indignation at the unjust and vindictive sentence of £10 or two months imprisonment passed upon Miss Billington at Marylebone Police Court, nominally for an assault upon the Police, but in reality for seeking an interview to demand from Mr. Asquith, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a withdrawal of his long opposition to the Enfranchisement of Women; and further, this Meeting demands the resignation from the Cabinet of Mr. Asquith, and the immediate release of Miss Billington."

Resolution passed at Highbury Corner by a great-  
mass meeting last night - Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> with 8  
dissentients.

Passed also in Finsbury Park some evening after  
an amendment had been asked for in vain

9. P. L.

INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY MIDDLESBROUGH.

June 22nd 1906.

Dear Sir,

At a meeting of the above Branch to-night I was instructed to convey to you the following resolution:-

"This Meeting of the Middlesbrough Branch of the Independent Labour Party views with indignation the harsh and unjust sentence of £10, or two months imprisonment passed upon Miss Billington, and also, her brutal treatment by the police whilst she was seeking by constitutional means to secure the elementary rights of Citizenship for women; strongly condemns Mr Asquith for refusing to meet a deputation of women representing a large number of taxpayers of this country desirous of putting their case before him as Chancellor of the Exchequer; and finally calls for Mr Asquith's resignation from the Government and the immediate release of Miss Billington."

I am, Yours obediently,

MARION COATES HANSEN,

Hon. Secretary.

141956/3

23 JUN. 1906

Copy from receipt of shorthand  
written note of statement of  
accused (Miss Billington).

"I desire to say I have refused to  
give any information to the police  
or question any of the witnesses  
because I declare that I refuse  
to acknowledge the authority of  
this or of any other Court in the  
land to try women. At the present  
moment the laws which you have  
to administer here have been wholly  
made by men and according to the  
first principles of English justice  
it is unfair and unjust that  
women who have no voice in making  
the laws should be tried by them. I  
shall therefore continue my protest  
till such time as women have votes.  
I shall continue to refuse to acknowledge  
the authority of the laws that have  
been made by men for the women of  
this nation. Until such time I declare  
that according to the principles of your  
own law you cannot judge me. You  
have no authority to judge me or any  
other woman and on that ground I  
shall refuse to acknowledge your  
sentence."



Copy statement of  
Miss Billington



141.956



N.B.—Memoranda must not be placed over the Number.

DATE.

Yeresa Bellington

Crim Case.

Anonymous correspondent fds. newspaper extract on question asked in the House of Commons as to Bellington.

MINUTES.

? day/ly

J.F.H.

25/6/06

eye.  
25/6.

Mr H. M. Lewis. Private.



141956



The Home Secretary.

Home Office.

London - -

141956

141956  
4

#### QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

The lively incidents of the morning led to questions in the House. Mr. Keir Hardie was indignant, Mr. Trevelyan cynical, so cynical that Mr. Keir Hardie reproved him by raising visions of women M.P.'s.

Was it in order, he asked the Speaker, to bring a charge of riotous behaviour against persons not present to defend themselves? Amid laughter the Speaker admitted that it was "somewhat out of order."

Mr. Gladstone refused to interfere in the case of Miss Billington. He hoped there would be no further renewal of the disturbance.

Late at night Mr. Keir Hardie again came forward with questions, but Mr. Gladstone suggested a question on Monday, when he hoped to have inquired into the case.

Mr. Maddison's employment of the term "female hooligans" provoked cries of protest from the Labour benches. "These women," he said, "have over and over again stated that 'the Chancellor of the Exchequer has windows.' Their action is an abominable outrage. They are not working women. Working women would not have thus disgraced themselves."

*This is done invariably  
by the Juvenile Law. A "Victim"  
may not come in the "Cathedral".*



6



141,956



N.B.—Memoranda must not be placed over the Number.

DATE. 24<sup>th</sup> June 1906

Yeresa Billington.

Crim. Case

East Ham Branch of Independent Labour Party protest against vindictive excessive sentence & call for remission

Acta C 26<sup>th</sup> 06.

MINUTES.

Sec  $\frac{1}{8}$

Independent Labour Party.

East Ham Branch.

1419 ~~5~~ 6

160 Rosebery av  
Maur Park  
Essex.  
24.6.06



Dear Sir,

At a meeting of the above

the following resolution was  
passed:—

"That, in the opinion of this  
meeting, the sentence passed upon  
Mr. Billington at Marylebone  
Police Court is vindictive and  
excessive, and further <sup>it</sup> calls for  
the remission of the sentence."

I am, Sir,

Yours &c

Benj. E. Trayner

Hon. Sec.

The Secretary of State for  
Home Affairs.



141.956

5



N.B.—Memoranda must not be placed over the Number.

DATE. 25<sup>th</sup> June 1906.

Yeresa Billington

Crim Case.

South Leeds Socialistic Union  
protest against unjust & vindictive sentence.

MINUTES.

See  $\frac{1}{8}$

141956

South Leeds Socialist Union.



27/6/06

A. J. Gladstone Esq.  
Home Secretary  
Brit House Commons

141956  
5

Sir,

Kindly note the following which is the voice of a representative gathering of Leeds Citizens. We appeal to the Democratic principles of the existing Government, to set right a most palpable act of injustice to a Brit. Subject.

This meeting expresses its indignation at the unjust & vindictive sentence of £10 or two months imprisonment passed upon Miss Billington at Manlybone Police Court, nominally for an assault upon the Police, but in reality for seeking an interview to demand from Mr Asquith, Chancellor of the Exchequer a withdrawal of his long opposition to the enfranchisement of women & demands the immediate release of Miss Billington.

Yours faithfully  
Albert Marshall  
Secy.



147.956

10



N.B.—Memoranda must not be placed over the Number.

DATE. 27<sup>th</sup> June 1906

Theresa Billington

Crim. Case

(1) Cheltenham Women's Suffrage Society  
(2) Hyde Ind: Labour Party  
Protest against sentence.

Ack B  
27.6.06

MINUTES.

? day these by

JFH

30/6/06

CJ

2.7.06.

27.6.06

Lowmandale,

Leckhampton,

Cheltenham.

Sir,



141956

May I earnestly request you to reconsider the sentence passed upon Miss Billington? You may remember that she refused to question the witnesses on the ground that she did not acknowledge the authority of the court. Her failure to deny the charge or to ask questions should not therefore be construed into an admission of guilt. Her speech made this perfectly clear. Independent witnesses declare she was first struck. In any case it is impolitic

to make a martyr of her. The disturbances the police are endeavouring to put down will only be increased in that way.

Yours faithfully

Theodora Mills

(Hon. Sec. Cheltenham

Women's Suffrage Society)



141956

INDEPENDENT LABOUR ~~CLUB~~ Party

Communications to be  
Addressed to the Secretary.

ESTABLISHED 1891.

Labour Club.  
Hoviley Brow, Hyde.



141956/10  
Hyde,

June 26<sup>th</sup> 1906

Dear Sir

At a general meeting of the above held here last night, the following resolution was carried unananimously. Copy of which I was instructed to forward on to you. That the meeting expresses its indignation, at the unjust and vindictive sentence of £10 or two

months imprisonment passed  
upon Mrs Bellington at  
Marylebone Police Court,  
nominally for an assault  
upon the police, but in  
reality for seeking an  
interview to demand from  
Mr Asquith the Chancellor  
of the exchequer a withdrawal  
of his long opposition to  
the enfranchisement of  
Women, & further this  
meeting demands the  
immediate release of  
Mrs Bellington."

Yours faithfully

Wm Lloyd Garrison  
Lee



141,956



N.B.—Memoranda must not be placed over the Number.

DATE. 28th June 1906

Yeresa Billington

Crim Case.

Warrington Branch of Independent Labour Party fd resolution expressing indignation at unjust & vindictive sentence. Demand resignation of Mr Asquith from Cabinet & release of miss Billington

Recd B.30 606.

MINUTES.

9 1/2  
2:7.  
JBS

141956



141956

# Independent Labour Party.

WARRINGTON BRANCH.

SECRETARY :  
**TOM JONES,**  
10 Brookland Street.

Head Office : 10 Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

June 28th, 1906.

Dear Sir,

*I beg to inform you that the following resolution was unanimously passed at our last meeting, held on June 25th, at Friars' Gate Room, and I am instructed to forward you a copy of same.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*T. JONES.*

## RESOLUTION.

This meeting expresses its indignation at the unjust and vindictive sentence of £10, or two months' imprisonment, passed upon Miss BILLINGTON at the Marylebone Police Court, nominally for an assault upon the police, but in reality for seeking an interview to demand from Mr. Asquith, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a withdrawal of his long opposition to the enfranchisement of women ; and further, this meeting demands the resignation from the Cabinet of Mr. Asquith and the immediate release of Miss Billington.

*To Right Hon Herbert Gladstone  
Home Secretary*

REGISTER  
H.O.  
UP

141.956  
12

HOME OFFICE  
2 JUL. 1906  
C

N.B.—Memoranda must not be placed over the Number.

DATE. 26 June 1906

Theresa Billington

Crim. Case

Mr Percy Alden, M.P. forwards  
letter <sup>from Mrs H. Martyn</sup> alleging misconduct on part  
of police and requests official  
answer.

Act: see within

MINUTES.

Miss Martyn has already written S of S direct - her ls.  
is placed within; it comes from the same address as the ls. to  
Mr Alden.

The "Poor Law Guardian" and "University Graduate" referred to by  
Miss Martyn as having been interviewed by him are no  
doubt Miss Baldoch (ls. from her within, with the comment of  
the Commr. Police that the statements made are without  
foundation) and Miss Martyn herself.

refer to the answer in the House (see 1/3) and  
say that [S of S has nothing to add thereto]  
adid  
2-7.

JBS

that [the statements <sup>made by</sup> Miss Martyn's  
letter are not in accordance with  
the sworn evidence given in Court,  
which Miss Billington, through every  
opportunity was given her, did not  
attempt to contradict.

Remission warrant  
will be required.

Remission Warrant  
dated 24 June 06

1/3

S of S.

CTJ

3.7.06

3/7/06

MM

3/7/06

Wrote Mr. Percy Alden, M.P.  
4-11-06.

Ack'd  
Official and  
Telephone  
5247 CENTRAL

To S J S  
New.  
30.6.6.

141956

1, WOBURN SQUARE,  
W.C.

June 26th, 1906.



141956  
2

Dear Sir,

I have received the enclosed letter from one of my constituents.  
On the face of it it seems to be <sup>altogether</sup> incorrect, but I forward it in order that  
I may have an official answer to return to him.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

Pring Alden

P.S. I referred to the  
matter in the lobby.

Rt. Hon. Herbert J. Gladstone, M.P.,

11 Marden Rd.

S. Tottenham. N.

141956  
12



Dear Sir,

As an Englishman interested in the credit of his country I have been privately investigating the truth about the disorderly scenes in Cavendish Square.

I have interviewed numerous eye witnesses and as a result am convinced that it is my duty to bring before my Parliamentary Representative what I believe to be a scandalous miscarriage of justice.

The eye witnesses I have interviewed

have included a University Graduate,  
a Poor Law Guardian and others on whose  
reliability I can place the greatest  
confidence. As a result I can make the  
following assertions.

- I Miss Billington was hindered by  
the police, for no reason, from walking  
down a public highway.
- II The police were in Cavendish Square  
with a prearranged resolution to arrest her.
- III Miss Billington was struck in the  
face by a policeman before she struck  
anyone.
- IV An hour after her arrest she still  
bore on her neck the finger marks of  
the police.
- V Friends petitioned to counsel her  
about her trial but were refused.
- VI At her trial though the Magistrate



knew there were many eye witnesses in  
the Court. no evidence was called  
except that of the police.

VII Respectable working women were spoken  
to obscenely by the police.

I feel it my duty to urge you to ask in  
Parliament if these statements are true  
that the matter may be thoroughly  
investigated and feel sure that your  
sense of justice will lead you to assist  
in freeing an outraged woman from  
unjust imprisonment.

I am Sir

Yours faithfully

G. H. Martyn.

10 P. Alder Sq. N. 1.



25. vi. 1906

NEW SCOTLAND YARD,

S. W.

141956

According to  
the notes of evidence  
in T. the kicking  
was after her  
apprehension  
A.J.

Dear Waller,

The Court. desires  
me to say that there ~~is~~ is  
absolutely no foundation  
for the statements made in  
the letters retained herewith.

Yours sincerely

George Edward

As regards the enacts the  
Supt. reports definitely that both  
the slapping & the kicking took  
place before the apprehension in <sup>the</sup>

Dear Sir,

As an eye witness of what happened in Cavendish Square, will you give me the opportunity of telling the facts as they happened.

A small procession of Women Suffragists were walking around Cavendish Square unmolested by the police. They were joined by Miss Billington on the side of the Square furthest removed from No. 20. The moment Miss Billington joined them, the police barred the way and told them to clear off. The women who were walking peaceably and were therefore within their right, refused; Miss Billington tried to force her way on. A policeman struck her in the face, and she retaliated by one slap in his face with her open hand. Another policeman whose number I noted, and am prepared to give, caught her by the throat until her face became purple and an official standing by said "don't maul them." I followed to the Police Court. There was no further trouble. Miss Billington followed quite quietly.

I am, Sir,

Yours etc.,

(Signed) Minnie Baldock.,

10, Eclipse Road, E.

Guardian of the Poor. West Ham Union.

23

I was in Cavendish Square yesterday  
Thursday at about 9.20 - just as I  
entered the Square I saw about  
10 police & 3 in spectors waiting  
about. I saw the door of No 20  
opened & a maid beckon an inspector  
in. he was gone some little time  
& then came out. I mention this as  
I am sure what happened afterwards  
was the result of an arrangement  
between Mr. Aspinth & the police.  
While watching this I walked along  
quietly & as I was passing of  
No 20 - a police man caught me  
by the arm - & asked me what I  
wanted & what I was doing. I said  
what is that to you - I am ~~not~~  
walking about waiting for friends  
he said move on - get along & gave  
me a fairly hard push - as I did  
not want to be mauled about - or  
taken up before the demonstrators  
arrived - I walked on further -  
presently I saw a line of police  
me & a lady speaking to them -  
I did not know it was Miss Billington  
at the time - nor did I hear what  
was said - but I distinctly saw a  
policeman hit her in the face when  
she took a step forwards. & the lady  
then either pushed or slapped him  
I could see which ~~was~~  
directly she did that the police man  
bit her by the throat & was apparently

choking her - a fat woman  
in the crowd interfered & had  
her wrist ~~the~~ <sup>twice</sup> ~~cut~~ by the policeman's  
nails - (I saw this woman - spoke  
with her afterwards - Miss Billington  
was led <sup>over</sup> near Mrs Aspinth's home  
when she was so treated - I think  
I may here state that I only met  
the members of the women political  
& social union the day before -  
~~so~~ I do not believe ~~to~~  
know this I sympathize with it -  
after Miss Billington was taken off  
I saw a number of women about  
100 - with a banner came up to  
the front of Mrs Aspinth's home  
I then joined them - and heard  
Miss Kenney - (to whom I had been  
introduced the evening before) ask  
the inspector to allow her to ring  
Mrs Aspinth's bell so that she  
could ask if he wd see her  
The inspector pushed her back &  
said he wd not allow her - ~~and~~  
that Mrs A. wd not speak to her  
She remarked how could he know  
that unless he allowed her to ask  
Then a police man said ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~will~~  
~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> ~~not~~  
a woman ~~not~~ see a person like her  
He said she would talk about  
there and find out - and she

walked about. Then the police  
began to hustle her & tell her  
to move off - but she said she  
had a right to walk about  
she liked to walk about there  
& she wd walk about - then upon  
they arrested her & pushed her  
& took her women off to the  
police station where he was <sup>informed</sup>  
they wd be held at 12 at the  
Magistrate's police court -  
Thereby giving us no time to  
get a solicitor legal advice or  
to summon witnesses &c.  
I may also say - that the department  
who were accused of obstructing  
traffic - were too few to do that  
in a large square like Cavendish  
square - and that it is untrue  
that they did so obstruct traffic  
and that Miss Kersey did not  
obstruct the <sup>traffic</sup> ~~traffic~~ nor did her  
reputation - there were so many  
police men in such number of her  
that they obstructed themselves.

Alice Toyne

2 Hare Court. Temple



141,956  
13



Subnumber 13  
Registration /

DATE. 2nd July 1906

Yeresa Billington

Crim Case.

Poplar Branch of Independent Labour Party protest against harsh sentence & brutal treatment by police.

Actd B.3706

MINUTES.

? lay 1/13  
Actd  
47.

141956  
Duffin

108 St Leonards St  
Bromley by Bow  
London E  
2. 7. 06



Dear Sir

141956  
13

I am directed to forward you a copy of the following resolution carried unanimously at this branch. That this (The Bore of Poplar Branch of the Independent Labour Party) protests against the harsh sentence inflicted upon Miss Billington & further expresses its disapproval of the brutal manner in which she was handled by the Police

I am Sir

Yours Respectfully  
Anglo Gibson Jr  
Secretary



4  
RISING  
0.  
UP

141.956

HOME OFFICE  
6 JUL 1906  
C

N.B.—Slips must not be pinned over the Number.

14

DATE. 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1906.

Mrs. Sparborough, Mrs. Knight & Miss Kenney.

6 rem. bases.

Marblebone Police Court  
4<sup>th</sup> July 1906  
Causing a disturbance  
3 fine tickets or 6 weeks.

Questions in the House with regard to the case of Mrs Sparborough, Mrs Knight, and Miss Kenney; and letters from Mr G. Paul Taylor, Magistrate at Marblebone Police Court.

MINUTES.

? layby.

ABS

6.7.6

Ces

7.7.6.

## The Suffragettes.

MR. SNOWDEN (Blackburn): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware of the sentence of six weeks imprisonment by the magistrate at Marylebone on three women for an alleged disturbance in Cavendish Square, and if he is also aware that one of the women is sixty-four years of age and of very respectable character, and if he proposes to take any action in the matter.

MR. GLADSTONE: Yes, Sir. I am aware of this case, and I have been in communication with the learned magistrate. I find that the three defendants were urged by him to give him an assurance that they would not repeat their conduct, and that on their refusal to do so he ordered them to enter into their recognisances in £50 each to keep the peace for twelve months, and to find a surety each in the same amount. They will only be obliged to go to prison for six weeks if they decline to enter into these recognisances and to find these sureties. Hitherto they have refused, but I am informed that they are well able to do so if they choose. In these circumstances I do not propose to take any action in the matter.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Do not two of the defendants deny that, although they were in the square, they committed any offence?

MR. GLADSTONE: That is not a question for me.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: I shall raise the question on the adjournment.

X ADJOURNMENT X

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—  
(Mr. Whiteley.)

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) called attention to the prosecution of women advocates of woman's suffrage at Manchester and at the Marylebone Police Court. He asked whether the Home Secretary was aware that among the magistrates who sat on the Bench at Manchester was Mr. James Kendal, who was the chief steward at the Liberal demonstration from which the women were ejected. That was he thought a most improper proceeding. Surely in a case of this kind a person who was largely responsible for the disturbance which led to the trial, should not occupy a position on the bench, when the case came on. He also said, with reference to the women who had been sentenced in the Marylebone Police Court, that they indignantly denied that they had been guilty of a breach of the peace. They were charged with having committed a technical offence which they denied. With regard to the sentence passed on Miss Kelly, he said nothing except it was too heavy; with regard to the sentence passed on the other two women, they were offered the alternative of being bound over to keep the peace for 12 months or of going to prison for six weeks. They did not admit that they had committed any offence, and therefore being bound over to keep the peace would have been an admission on their parts of having been guilty of an offence they did not commit. With regard to one of these women, a woman of 64, all she did was to call out "Featherstone." He thought, under all the circumstances, the Home Secretary ought to reconsider the question, and consider the desirability of

releasing these two women. There was a case in that morning's papers, in which a respectable woman had been wrongly arrested on a charge of soliciting. In that case it was made clear that the woman was wrongly treated, and if in a case of that kind an obvious mistake was made it was clear that in a case such as that to which he had alluded there ought to be a full and fair inquiry.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): Joined in the appeal of the Member for Merthyr to the Home Secretary to reconsider the action taken by the magistrate in this matter. He believed the Chancellor of the Exchequer had no desire for more protection against these people than any other citizen, and he was glad to know that he protested against their being prosecuted, and believed that had the right hon. Gentleman had his way there would have been no prosecution. He pointed out that no great electoral reform had ever taken place without violence, and that these women were only following the royal road which men had taken before them to secure electoral reforms. Many men who took part in pulling down the railings of Hyde Park in the sixties looked back with great glory to their achievement, and the same thing happened with regard to the claim to speak in public squares, when the President of the Local Government Board suffered imprisonment for endeavouring to secure the right of the people to speak in Trafalgar Square. He then suffered as these women were suffering to-day from a vindictive prosecution. He begged the right hon. Gentleman to reconsider the position.

MR. C. DUNCAN (Barrow-in-Furness) Reminded the House that during the Boer war many meetings were held to protest against that war, and they were never prosecuted or imprisoned. This sentence was a brutal one and repugnant to his sense of justice.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (MR. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.) said that, having considered this case fully, it appeared to him that the magistrate had acted with great discretion. The magistrate did not sentence these ladies. He bound them over in their own recognisances in £50 to keep the peace for twelve months. They could come out of prison any moment they liked by entering into their own recognisances. That being so, he had nothing to add to what he had said at question time.

MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said he thought the magistrate had behaved with exceeding kindness to the women, and he had listened with the utmost indignation to Mr. Keir Hardie's words about "Featherstone." They all knew what was meant, and they knew the repeated and dastardly attack that had been made upon the present Chancellor of the Exchequer by the Labour Party and those women. He said these women were guilty of an abominable libel in this reference to Featherstone which they hurled at the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Under all the circumstances he considered the sentences were very lenient.

And, it being half-past Eleven of the Clock, MR. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at half-past Eleven o'clock.

141.956

From "Times",

July 6<sup>th</sup> 1906.14195<sup>6</sup>  
14

## WOMEN AGITATORS.

Mr. SNOWDEN (Blackburn) asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he was aware of the sentence of six weeks' imprisonment passed by the magistrate at Marylebone on three women for an alleged disturbance in Cavendish-square, and whether he was also aware that one of the women was 64 years of age and of very respectable character; and whether he proposed to take any action in the matter.

Mr. GLADSTONE.—Yes, Sir; I am aware of this case, and I have been in communication with the learned magistrate. I find that the three defendants were urged by him to give him an assurance that they would not repeat their conduct, and that on their refusal to do so he ordered them to enter into their recognizances in £50 each to keep the peace for 12 months, and to find a surety each in the same amount. They will only be obliged to go to prison for six weeks if they decline to enter into these recognizances and to find these sureties. Hitherto they have refused, but I am informed that they are well able to do so if they choose. In these circumstances I do not propose to take any action in the matter. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. KEIR HARDIE said he would raise the question again.

11.0 On the motion that the House do adjourn,

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) called attention to the prosecution of women advocates of woman's suffrage at Manchester and at the Marylebone Police-court. He asked whether the Home Secretary was aware that among the magistrates who sat on the Bench at Manchester was Mr. James Kendal, who was the chief steward at the Liberal demonstration from which the women were evicted. With regard to the prosecutions in London, he thought it was stretching the law of nuisance too far to forbid a deputation to approach a private house, and he asked for a revision of the sentences.

Dr. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey) joined in the appeal. The women had only followed the course men had taken in promoting various reforms, and the sentence had the appearance of being a vindictive one.

Mr. C. DUNCAN (Barrow-in-Furness) characterized the sentence as brutal.

Mr. GLADSTONE said that, having considered this case fully, it appeared to him that the magistrate had acted with great discretion. (Hear, hear.) The magistrate did not sentence these ladies. He bound them over in their own recognizances in £50 to keep the peace for 12 months. They could come out of prison any moment they liked by entering into their own recognizances. That being so, he had nothing to add to what he had said at question time.

Mr. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said these women had been guilty of uttering an abominable libel respecting the Chancellor of the Exchequer in reference to the Featherstone riots, and the sentence pronounced upon them by the magistrate was most lenient.

The hon. member was still speaking when the House stood adjourned at half-past 11 o'clock.

Put with papers

JBS



7, KENSINGTON GARDEN TERRACE,  
HYDE PARK, W.

14/9/06  
14

July 4. 1906

Dear Chamberlains

As I am not  
sitting L. now (my only  
free day this week) and as  
it is possible that Mr. Platt  
may be mentioned in the House  
about my decision in relation  
to the women suffrage, I think  
it best to let you know in  
the Home Secretary's information

exactly' Act occurred. After  
giving the matter abundant  
consideration prior to and sub.  
sequently to my calling on you  
at the H. O. I formed the opinion  
that the proper and only  
satisfactory course was to make  
the dependent paid parties for  
<sup>good behaviour</sup>  
the ~~from~~ <sup>my</sup> ~~commemorative~~  
and Statutory power 34 Edward III  
c. 1. - In the event of their refusing  
to give me an assurance not to  
repeat their conduct. This  
though pressed by me to do so -

They refused, through their  
counsel and individually  
in the witness box. Referring  
to my visit to you at the H. O.  
I may say that on further  
consideration I had and have  
not the shadow of a doubt as  
to my power to take this  
course.  
The defendants absolutely declined  
to give me an assurance though I am  
informed I need to do so by  
their solicitor, and there can

be no doubt whatever they  
are well able to find justice  
if they wish to do so. Mr.  
Gladstone will therefore I am  
sure readily understand that  
any talk of a "cess and  
conditional" sentence of 6 weeks  
imprisonment" in a technical  
sense is a grotesque distortion  
of the fact. These words I repeat  
because I see from the papers  
they were used by a lady speaker  
in the Park this afternoon at a  
meeting held after the police  
court proceedings had terminated.  
They took and all adopted a most  
defiant attitude imperatively calling for  
firm treatment.

Paul

14195<sup>6</sup>  
14



July 5. 1906

Dear Mr. Waller

They were charged under section 54. subsection 13 of the Public Act 283 vic. c. 47.

"Every person who shall use any threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour with intent to provoke a breach of the peace, or whereby a breach of the peace may be occasioned"

the penalty is not exceeding 40s (and of course not a magistrate might allow)

in default imprisonment. not exceeding 1 calendar month. If however the sum adjudged

to be paid on conviction amounted to a sum including costs of more than £5 the

alternative imprisonment might be imposed. (see Summary Jurisdiction Act. 1879

42843 vic. c. 49. s. 5).

I found the charge fully proved

but did not proceed to conviction upon  
it inasmuch as I deemed it a case  
in which I should exercise my power  
under my commission and the statute  
of Edward III. c. 1. of ordering them to be  
brought over for their good behaviour. This  
course I considered admissible for several reasons,  
but chiefly for this that they had openly  
refused <sup>to give me their undertaking</sup> to obtain  
Cavendish's pardon and in my opinion there  
was under the circumstances just ground  
for fearing a repetition of their conduct  
already found by me to constitute the  
offence with which they were charged,  
and I was convinced that had they  
simply been fined with a without cost  
they would either have paid the fine  
and repeated their conduct or they  
would have declined to pay the fine

and gone to prison. On either assumption  
the course I took was entirely in the  
interest of the dependants as well as in  
that of public order, for the following  
reasons. 1. They are not convicted of any  
criminal offence, binding over a person being  
not in the nature of a punishment  
but to prevent the apprehended danger  
of a breach of the peace.

2. They are not called on to pay  
either by themselves or their sureties  
one penny beyond the bail fee (two  
shillings)

3. They are not kept a moment  
in custody <sup>against</sup> their will.

This (3) is on the assumption that they  
can find the bail. (I in £50 each).  
As to this I have not the shadow of a  
doubt, and in Mrs Pettit's Lawrence's  
any or led by position of whom there was



I think would in court. Led come forward  
and offered bail they would have been  
at once released. They can at the present  
moment be released upon tendering any  
person as bail worth £50. They were represented  
by counsel) and Widdow (C.O. Humphrey  
(Co) of great experience and I am informed  
were present by their Widdow to find bail  
and Widdow refused to do so. No time  
was asked for by their counsel but I  
caused inquiry to be made <sup>some days later</sup>  
and before they left for Holloway. (I think that is the  
in the day and was again informed by the  
gavels that they absolutely declined. They  
were present by me individually in the  
witness box to give their assurance not to repeat  
their offence in which case as they were locked  
they would not be required to give their own  
undertaking without any penalties whatever  
and that they absolutely declined to do.  
This is really a case in which the patent  
prohibitory contumacy has been displayed by their  
Depth and me in which I am convinced have  
led the parties before me on a reasonable conscience  
would be of no avail whatever <sup>and I doubt indeed</sup>  
unless they find penalties to be imposed to prevent  
the passing of the checks. If so I believe to be the case  
they are well able to put penalties but decline to do so

14195-6  
14



I think would in court. Led come forward  
and offered bail they would have been  
at once released. They came at the present  
moment to release upon tendering any  
sum as bail worth £50. They were represented  
by counsel and Shillors (C.O. Humphreys  
& Co) of great experience and I am informed  
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and ultimately refused to do so. No time  
was asked for by their counsel but I

caused inquiry to be made <sup>some days later</sup>  
and before they left for Holloway. (I think that is the prison)  
in the day and was again informed by the  
gables that they absolutely declined. They  
were present by me individually in the  
witness box to give their assurance not to repeat  
their offence in which case as they were told  
they would not be required to give their own  
undertaking without any penalties whatever  
and that they absolutely declined to do.  
This is really a case in which the greatest  
prohibit contumacy has been displayed by the  
Defendants and me in which I am concerned having  
led the parties before me on 2 occasions <sup>convening</sup>  
would be of no avail whatever <sup>and I doubt indeed</sup>  
unless they <sup>find</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>impossible</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>present</sup>  
the peace of the sheet. If as I believe to be the case  
they are well able to put penalties but decline to do so

July 5. 1906

Dear Mr. Waller

They were charged under section  
54. subsection 13 of the Public Act 2 & 3 Vic. c. 47.  
"Every person who shall use any threatening, abusive  
or insulting words or behaviour with intent to  
provoke a breach of the peace, or whereby a  
breach of the peace may be occasioned"  
The penalty is not exceeding 40s (and if  
committed with a malicious intent  
to default imprisonment not exceeding 1  
calendar month. If however the sum adjudged  
to be paid on conviction amounted to a sum  
including costs of more than £5 the  
alternative imprisonment might be  
conferred. (see Summary Jurisdiction Act. 1879  
42 & 43 Vic. c. 49. s. 5).  
I found the charge fully proved



they ought to be allowed to think &  
enjoy the alternative they deliberately choose.  
I hope the statement is clear and that  
you would have much difficulty in making  
out my writing. Finally (as regards the  
legal aspects), it is not necessary that  
there should be any formal complaints  
demanding justice when the parties are  
before the court on another charge, though  
this is an unimportant point.

Yours very truly

Paul Taylor

HOME OFFICE  
6 JUL 1906141956  
14

## WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS AND MR. ASQUITH.

### DEFENDANTS IMPRISONED.

The hearing was resumed yesterday at the Marylebone Police Court of the charges against Miss Annie Kenney, Mrs. Adelaide Knight, and Mrs. Sparborough of disorderly behaviour in front of Mr. Asquith's house in Cavendish-square.

Mr. Grain stated that he had acted on the suggestion of the Magistrate as to the advisability of asking the defendants if they would give an undertaking not to behave in that manner in the future, but Miss Kenney and Mrs. Sparborough refused to give any such undertaking. He asked that Inspector Darby might be recalled as to his statement that Miss Kenney carried a whip, which she emphatically denied.

Mr. Grain then put into the box the defendant Mrs. Knight, who stated that she was the wife of a clerk living in New City-road, Plaistow. She confirmed Miss Kenney's statement of what occurred in the square, and denied that she rushed at Mr. Asquith's door and struck it with an umbrella. Owing to an infirmity she was unable to rush. She walked to the door and mounted a step, using her umbrella to assist her.

Cross-examined by Mr. Muskett, witness said that she firmly believed that Mr. Asquith's refusal related only to Miss Kenney, and that was why she persisted in going up to the door.

Mr. Muskett—Do you seriously say that?—Yes.

Do you refuse to give an undertaking not to repeat this offence?—Yes, certainly I do. I shall not barter my freedom.

Mrs. Sparborough, another defendant, also gave evidence. She said she only came on the scene when Miss Kenney was being taken away. She saw two servants and other people on the balcony of Mr. Asquith's house, and when Miss Kenney and Mrs. Knight were arrested they clapped their hands.

Mr. Grain—What was the result of that?—I put up my hands and said: "You ought to be ashamed of yourselves. This is the way you sent the soldiers to Featherstonehaugh." A policeman told her that she ought to be ashamed of herself to mix up with those women who "only wanted half a pint of gin." (Laughter.)

Mr. Muskett—What did you go there for, you a woman of sixty?—Because we see the misery and wrong you men have done for years, and we want to alter it.

You feel very strongly on the subject?—Yes; and so would you if you lived at Bow and saw the misery there.

I doubt if that could be altered in this way.—I think women can undo tangles better than men, and men have made a mess of it.

Why did you call out "Featherstonehaugh"?—The name came into my mind at that moment.

Do you know anything about Featherstonehaugh?—I read afterwards that it was not Mr. Asquith who sent the soldiers.

The witness also declined to give any undertaking not to go to the square again.

The Magistrate said he had received a letter from this defendant, and therefore felt some little interest in her case. He reminded her that she was not asked to forego the pleasure of agitating for this reform in Hyde Park meetings and the like; that was the way that a great many public measures had been advocated in the first instance. "Don't you think," he added, "that you are rendering your views unpopular by going to Cavendish-square and acting in this manner?"—I have no wish to go to Cavendish-square.

#### EVIDENCE FOR THE DEFENCE.

The Magistrate—Then why do you allow yourself to be influenced by other people? You are 64 years of age and are much more competent to form a correct judgment than people of 22 or 23.

Mrs. Baldock, of West Ham, gave evidence on behalf of the defence, and, in reply to the Magistrate, said they refused to take Mr. Asquith's intimation not to see them from anyone else except Mr. Asquith himself.

What is it that induces you to believe that you are furthering the ends of your—it may be a desirable—object by holding demonstrations in Cavendish-square?—For a number of years this object has been agitated for in a ladylike manner, but all the efforts to bring the subject to the front have been futile.

Witness added that as political leaders had declined to take notice of their letters and requests they decided that they must see them personally. Mr. Asquith was a salaried public servant and ought to receive deputations.

Mrs. Poyno, the wife of a barrister, deposed that she went to Cavendish-square on the morning in question, having heard there was to be a deputation to Mr. Asquith. She arrived before the procession, and while quite alone on the pavement looking up at the number of the house she was pushed off the pavement by a young policeman.

The Magistrate—What is the object of this evidence?—To show the conduct of the police.

Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, treasurer of the Women's Social and Political Union, said she was in the chair at the Executive Committee meeting which decided to organise the procession to the square.

Asked to state why they desired to interview Mr. Asquith, the witness remarked that when the Prime Minister received a deputation on the subject he said that their arguments were irrefutable, and that he was in sympathy with their movement. The Prime Minister said that his Cabinet was not united, and she added that they had been told by others that Mr. Asquith was one of the opponents and that they must convert him.

Replying to the Magistrate, the witness said that she approved of the action of Mrs. Sparborough in calling out the word "Featherstonehaugh."

Chief Inspector Darby, recalled, said he may have mistaken the woman who carried the whip. Miss Billington had told him that it was she and not Miss Kenney who carried the whip.

Entering the witness-box, Miss Billington said she only stated that she had had the whip at Northampton. It was not in her possession at the square.

Addressing the Court for the defence, Mr. Grain said he thought it was unreasonable that Mr. Asquith should have asked the police to prevent these women from coming to his house.

Inspector Darby, interposing, said Mr. Asquith had done nothing of the kind, and further had asked that the women should not be prosecuted.

In giving judgment the Magistrate said it seemed to him that the defendants had adopted a most unreasonable attitude. He denied that the right of public meeting was involved in this case. Right of public meeting did not mean the right to meet anywhere in public, and still less did it mean the right to go to the private house of a man and behave in a manner which could only be intended to molest and annoy him. To say that it was necessary to take these steps in order to induce an eminent statesman to change his views was a statement which carried with it its own refutation. On the question of whether this was a disorderly crowd the Magistrate remarked that the word "Featherstonehaugh" had been shouted, and said it could only have been intended as grossly offensive to Mr. Asquith, and he was only surprised that a lady of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's education should say that she approved of such conduct. The defendants had declined to refrain from the sinister form of activity, but they must understand that although they defied the law they would not be allowed to paralyse the arm of the law. He ordered them to enter into their recognisances of £50 each to keep the peace for twelve months and to find a

surety in the same amount, failing which they must be imprisoned for six weeks.

Miss Billington subsequently told a Press representative that the three defendants had all declined to enter into their recognisances, and had determined to go to prison.

#### HYDE PARK DEMONSTRATION.

Following the police-court proceedings there was a demonstration of Women Suffragists in Hyde Park, between 150 and 200 persons assembling. The chair was taken by Miss Pankhurst, who declared that women suffragists were being treated villainously by the Liberal Government. Miss Billington said that in the sentence which had been passed upon Miss Kenney and her two comrades they had had another instance of how political bias could influence a man. If there had been a Tory Government in power and a Tory magistrate on the Bench the sentence would have raised such an outcry from the so-called Liberals as would have swept from one end of the land to the other. The sentences on the women were monstrous and absolutely unjust, and would not have been given in that particular police court had it not been that these women were agitating in a political way against the Liberal Government. She moved a resolution expressing admiration and sympathy with the three women who had been "sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment for a merely technical offence and calls for their immediate release." Mr. Montefiore seconded and the resolution was carried.

#### THE MANCHESTER DISTURBANCES.

The Manchester city stipendiary magistrate was occupied for several hours yesterday in hearing charges of obstruction and assault in connection with the Liberal demonstration at Belle Vue Gardens last Saturday week, when Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. John Burns, and Mr. Winston Churchill were the chief speakers. The defendants were John Wolfe Morrissey, member of the Liverpool City Council; Alice Morrissey, his wife; Adela Mary Pankhurst, of Manchester; and Maria Mitchell, a member of the Ashton-under-Lyne Board of Guardians. They are advocates of women's suffrage, interrupted one of the meetings, and were ejected from the gardens. Mr. Morrissey and Miss Pankhurst were alleged to have struck the police officers, and the former was so violent that he had to be carried part of the way to the station. A police witness admitted that when he took Miss Pankhurst into custody he told her that she would be better employed at the wash-tub, "and I still think so," he added amid laughter. Mr. Morrissey was fined 21s. and costs or 14 days' imprisonment for obstruction, the charge of assault being withdrawn. Miss Pankhurst was fined 5s. and costs for hindering the police. The other charges were withdrawn, and the remaining two persons were bound over in their own recognisances to be of good behaviour. Mr. Morrissey paid the fine under protest, but Miss Pankhurst announced her intention of going to prison.



Subnumber # 16

Registration ✓

141,956  
16



DATE.

Women's Suffrage

Misc Dom.

Resolutions from:—

- 1) Middlebrough Independent Labour Party
- 2) S. West Ham " " "
- 3) Women's Social & Political Union
- 4) South Leeds Socialist Union
- 5) Bradford Independent Labour Party
- 6) Grith Trade & Labour Council
- 7) National Union of Gasworkers & General Labourers.

Acad B

(see within)

MINUTES.

- 8) Independent Labour Party, Westminster Branch
- 9) Govan Branch Independent Labour Party

? lay by

JBS

19.7.6

Cej

20.7.06.

Hd 20/7/6

21/11/06  
-: Govan Branch Independent Labour Party :-



Ackd B 19 206 141956  
16



Secretary:  
J. D. FULTON,  
106 M'Lellan Street,  
Glasgow, S.S.

July 17th 1906

The Rt, Honourable Mr Asquith.  
Home Secretary.

Dear Sir,

I am instructed by the above Branch of the Independent Labour Party to forward the subjoined resolutions for your notice and consideration:-

### Resolutions

That this Meeting of the Govan Branch Independent Labour Party, expresses the deepest admiration for, and the warmest sympathy with, the three brave women - Miss Kenney, Mrs Knight, and Mrs Sparborough - who have been so vindictively sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment for merely technical offences, and calls for their immediate release.

That this Meeting demands that a Women's Suffrage Enfranchisement Clause be inserted in the Plural Voting Bill now before Parliament, and passed into law during the present Session.

Yours respectfully  
A. D.  
Pro. J. D. Fulton.

011221

# Independent Labour Party.

ackd 18/7/06

HEAD OFFICE:

10, RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.

SECRETARY

141956  
16

Westminster Branch

Reginald Harvey

ADDRESS

4 Graham St. Dulwich SW



July 16<sup>th</sup> 1906

Sir  
I am instructed to forward you the following resolution unanimously passed at a public meeting under the above auspices held on Tuesday Evening July 10<sup>th</sup>; and to ask you to give the matter your attention

- " That this meeting held under the auspices of the Westminster Independent Labour Party expresses its indignation at the imprisonment of Miss Kenney, Mrs Knight & Mrs Sparborough and calls for their immediate release. It further declares its sympathy with the reform for which they are working, and demands that a Women's Suffrage, Enfranchisement Clause be inserted in the Plural Voting Bill now before Parliament.

I am  
Yours faithfully  
Reg Harvey

Check  
Mical  
To 5 25  
Mick. 77.6.

# National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers

TELEPHONE NO.  
1953 CENTRAL.

Of Great Britain and Ireland.

OFFICERS:

Executive Council.

Federated with the General Federation of Trade Unions.

W. THORNE, Gen. Secretary  
G. ANGLE, Assistant Sec.  
PETE CURRAN } General  
H. PICARD } Organisers  
A. HAYDAY, Lon. Organiser

Registered Office—172, PENTONVILLE ROAD, KING'S CROSS,

LONDON, N. 16th July 1906

Enc.....

The Rt. Hon Herbert Gladstone, M. P.

Home Office, S. W.



141956  
16

Sir,

With reference to the sentences of six weeks imprisonment passed upon Mrs Knight, Mrs Sparbrook, and Miss Kenny for alleged obstruction in Cavendish Square, I may say that a number of meetings have been held protesting against the excessive sentences and asking that the ladies in question be immediately released. I shall therefore be glad if you would intervene in the matter and order their release, as I think they have already received sufficient punishment. I should like to add that Mrs Knight is one of my constituents.

Yours faithfully,

P. P. W. THORNE.

103



To the Right Hon H. Gladstone M.P.

32. Ripley Road  
Belvedere  
Kent  
17/7/06

Secretary of State for Home Affairs

Sir Ackd B 17706

14 19 56  
16



I was instructed by the British Trades & Labour Council to forward you the following resolution.

Resolved

That this Council expresses its sympathy with the Women Suffragists - who have been so vindictively sentenced for merely technical offences & asks for their immediate release, & also request that you will use your influence with the Government to get inserted in the Plural Voting Bill now before Parliament & Adult-Enfranchisement Clause

I am yours Faithfully  
L.S. Jovitt  
Secretary

British Trades & Labour Council

1 Marden Road,

S. Tottenham, N.

June 24<sup>th</sup> 1906.

141956

Dear Sir,

As an eye witness of most of the occurrences in Cavendish Square on the 21<sup>st</sup> I should like to say - that there were not enough people in the Square to cause any obstruction of the traffic - that Miss Billington was accosted by the police immediately she appeared before her intentions were known - just as though they had been lying in wait for her. She was assaulted by the police before she retaliated and caught by the throat in the most brutal manner - She was hurried to the

police station and I asked for permission to see her thinking she might like me to communicate with her friends, but was refused. I went to the Court where she was condemned on the evidence of the police, though there were those in the Court who could have given evidence on the other side. The sentence was appalling, it took me some time to realise she was condemned to 2 months' imprisonment as the magistrate knew very well that she would refuse to pay or have the fine paid for her.

Other women were rudely pushed about in the Square, though they were in no way connected with the Deputation - which made me

think that Cavendish Square will be classed with Regent Street, as streets which women cannot walk down with impunity. The former because the Chancellor of the Exchequer is either afraid or ashamed to receive a deputation of women who wish to ask him face to face a plain question which is immensely important to them.

Are Cabinet Ministers free to put policemen on the track of women against whom they think they have a grievance? and to persecute them as Mr. Asquith has Miss Billington. If so it shows us, women, still more the necessity of continuing

our fight for freedom, as what  
can we expect to become of our  
interests in the hands of <sup>men of</sup> Mr.  
Asquith's character? I think too,  
that unless Mr. Asquith is brought  
to reason by his colleagues in  
the Cabinet, the Liberal cause will  
suffer a serious blow, as every  
day more Liberal women are  
opening their eyes to the truth  
that apparently the Liberals  
intend to do nothing for them, in  
spite of what they owe them to their  
efforts at the last election.

Miss Billington's imprisonment is  
a disgrace to the Liberal party &  
to quote Miss Ashton "enough to  
drive the Liberal women into the  
Tory or Labour parties". I am  
yours sincerely Edith H. Martyn (A.R.C.S. B.S)

*Mund*

# Bradford Independent Labour Party.

Telephone 03253.

General Secretary:  
A. T. SUTTON.

CENTRAL OFFICE.

LABOUR INSTITUTE.

PECKOVER STREET, BRADFORD.

*ackd B 16/7/06.*

*July 13<sup>th</sup> 1906*



*141956 / 16*

Right Honourable Sir

I am requested by a largely attended meeting of the Bradford Independent Labour Party, held on Wednesday last, to convey to you the following resolutions:-

That this meeting expresses the deepest admiration for, and the warmest sympathy with, the three brave women - Miss Kenney - Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Sparborough - who have been so vindictively sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment for merely technical offences, and calls for their immediate release.

That this meeting demands that a Women's Suffrage Enfranchisement clause be inserted in the Plural Voting Bill, now before Parliament, and passed into law during the present Session

Yours Sincerely

*A. T. Sutton*

Sec<sup>y</sup>

To: H. Gladstone, Esq. M.P.

not ackd

South Leeds Socialist Union.



July 13<sup>th</sup> 06

Sir,

141956/16

I am requested to send you copy of the undermentioned resolution, in order to draw your attention to the fact that public opinion is being centred on this numerous acts of injustice. It is hoped that these occurrences on the part of the administrators of Justice will be taken up from the proper quarter.

"That this meeting expresses its deepest admiration for & warmest sympathy with, the three brave women - Miss Kenney, Mrs Knight & Mrs Sparborough - who have been so vindictively sentenced to six weeks imprisonment for merely technical offences & calls for their immediate release".

Yours etc  
A Marshall  
Secretary

H. J. Gladstone Esq MP  
London

VOTES for WOMEN.

Women's Social & Political Union.

LONDON CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

All Communications  
to be addressed to the

Hon. Secretary:

MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST,  
45, Park Walk, Chelsea, S.W.

Hon. Treasurer:

MRS. F. W. PETHICK LAWRENCE,  
87, Clement's Inn, W.C.

Organisers:

MISS BILLINGTON &  
MISS A. KENNEY,  
45, Park Walk, Chelsea, S.W.

Hon. Auditor:

A. G. SAYERS,  
Chartered Accountant,  
19, Hanover Square, W.



141956 - Ackd B 12/7/06.  
26

11 July 1906

The Rt. Hon. Herbert Gladstone Esq.

Sir,  
The following Resolution was  
carried at a large Mass Meeting in Hyde  
Park Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup>. It was also carried at  
a Mass Meeting in Battersea Park Sat. July 7.  
Yours sincerely Sylvia Pankhurst  
P.P. 9. 16.

carried at a large Mass Meeting in Hyde  
Park Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup>. It was also carried at  
a Mass Meeting in Battersea Park Sat. July 7.

That this Meeting convened by the Women's Social and Political  
Union expresses the deepest admiration for, and the warmest sympathy  
with, the three brave women, - Miss Kenney, Mrs. Knight, and Mrs.  
Sparborough - who have been so vindictively sentenced to six weeks  
imprisonment for merely technical offences, and calls for their im-  
mediate release: and further,

This Meeting demands that a Women's Enfranchisement Clause be  
inserted in the Plural Voting Bill now before Parliament, and passed  
into law during the present Session.



*Min*  
**INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY.**

SOUTH WEST HAM BRANCH.

*ackd B 12/7/06.*

11, Swanscombe Street, Canning Town, E.

OBJECT:—An Industrial Commonwealth founded upon the Socialisation of Land and Capital.

Secretary:  
B. GARDNER.

*141956  
17*



*July 9<sup>th</sup> 1906*

Right Hon. H. Gladstone, M.P.

Dear Sir

our Branch has instructed

me to forward to you the following resolution passed at our meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst.

“That this meeting protests against the vindictively heavy sentences of six weeks imprisonment passed upon Mrs Knight, one of our members, Miss Kenney, and Mrs Sparborough, for alleged obstruction in Cavendish Square, W., & asks that they be immediately released.”

Yours truly  
B. Gardner

141956

Ackd B 11/7/06

Oakdene

Phillips Avenue

Middlesbrough on Tees July 9th '06



141956  
16

Sir,

At a meeting held last night in the Middlesbrough Market Place on behalf of Women's suffrage, at which over 1000 people were present the following resolution was carried with one dissentient and I was instructed to forward same to you:

"This meeting expresses its sympathy with the women, who are  
" suffering imprisonment for the sake of the vote, calls upon the  
" Government to extend the franchise to women and further calls  
" upon Mr Asquith either to abandon his opposition to women's  
" franchise or to resign his place on the cabinet.

yours respectfully

*Miss Constance Harrison*

Hon. Sec. Middlesbrough Independent Labour Party



Subnumber

Registration

141.956

17



DATE. 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1906.

Theresa Billington.

6 nm. base.

Receiver of Police states that he has received an application for the return of the sum of £5-0-3. being the proportionate amount overpaid on the fine of £10, subsequently reduced to £5. Asks whether this should be paid.

MINUTES.

? say yes -

JBS

13.7.6

CEJ

13.7.06.

Wrote Receiver.

14-7-06.

New Scotland Yard, S.W.

12th July 1906.

22,019/125.



141956  
17

Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State, that I have received an application from the Governor of Holloway Prison for the return of the sum of Five pounds and three pence, being the proportionate amount over-paid on account of a fine of £10 (or, in default of payment, 2 months imprisonment), subsequently reduced by the Secretary of State to £5 (or one month imprisonment), imposed at the Marylebone Police Court on the 21st ultimo on one Theresa Billington for assault on a Police Constable.

The sum of £9:-:3 was paid on the prisoner's behalf on the 26th. ultimo <sup>whereas</sup> ~~when~~ the proportionate amount payable, in view of the subsequently reduced penalty, should be £4 only. The amount recovered by the Governor has not yet been claimed from the Prison Commissioners but, before returning to him for amendment his Return of

The Under Secretary of State,

fines

&c., &c., &c.,

Home Office.

PP  
Pm

ER.

finer paid in Prison and the form A, relating to the  
case, I shall be glad to learn whether the sentence was  
reduced as stated, and, if so, whether <sup>The Secretary of State considers that</sup> a proportionate part  
of the fine should be repaid.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

*W. H. Murray*

---



Subnumber

18

Registration



141.956  
18



DATE.

Women's Suffrage

Misc Dom.

Resolutions from: -

20-7-06 Rochdale Branch, Independent Labour Party

MINUTES.

INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY,

ROCHDALE BRANCH.



aka B 20706

94 + 96 Yorkshire St.  
46, DRAKE STREET  
(Entrance - NELSON STREET)

12<sup>th</sup> July 1906

Dear Sir

141956  
18

At a meeting of the above branch held on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst., the following resolutions were adopted, a copy of which I was instructed to forward to you, viz.

1. "That this meeting of the Rochdale Independent Labour Party expresses the deepest admiration for, and the warmest sympathy with, the three brave women - Miss Kenney, Mrs. Knight, and Mrs. Sparborough - who have been so vindictively sentenced to six weeks imprisonment for merely technical offences, and calls for their immediate release."
2. "That this meeting demands that a Women's Suffrage enfranchisement clause be inserted in the Plural Voting Bill now before Parliament, and passed into law during the present session."

Yours truly  
W. Ashworth  
Secretary.

Subscriber

Registration

141.956

19



DATE. 26th July 1906

Knight

Mr W. Thorne M.P. states that Mr Knight would like to see his wife on Friday or Saturday on some very urgent private business.

MINUTES.

? say that the Gov<sup>rs</sup> of the prison is empowered to communicate to the pris<sup>r</sup> a letter which in the ordinary course she is not entitled to receive, if it relates to a matter of urgent importance; but that a visit cannot be allowed [during the [first two months] of a sentence <sup>of imprt.</sup> unless very special reasons are shown for doing so.

R. 72

This 9th? be "during the first month" - Mr Knight is a Surely pris<sup>r</sup>? A.J.

JTS

27.7.6

Sgs had a further conversation with Mr Thorne, who showed him that special reasons did exist. As the result, Sgs directed the Order to be granted, and it was sent to Mr Thorne at 12.0 today.

Mr Simpson trace and Put up <sup>hand.</sup>

MLW. 28.7.6



141956  
19



Recd  
Official and  
To's of's  
Muss  
27.7.6.

July 26th

Dear Sir Order put to Mr. Thorne  
at H of C 28.7.6 at 12.15.

Mr Knight The husband  
of Mrs Knight, the  
woman who was

sentenced to six weeks  
imprisonment in  
connection with the

woman suffrage  
movement. desires me

to ask you if you  
can grant him a

permitted to interview  
the wife. because  
he has some very  
urgent private business  
to take her He would  
like to see her  
Friday or Saturday  
if you grant permission

Yours truly  
W. Thorne

The  
Thorne seg

Subnumber 20  
Registration

141.956

20



DATE. 26 & July 1906

Sparboro

Crim. Case

*M. J.*

Mrs E. J. Cordery asks for permit for prisoner to see her husband.

Act. A 27-7-06

MINUTES.

say that S. of S. cannot make an exception in this case to the ordinary Prison rules respecting visits to ~~prisoners~~ prisoners.

ASS  
27.7.6

(If Mr Knight had special reasons, perhaps Mr Sparborough has also.)

~~Mr Sparborough is a voluntary prisoner  
and is in custody~~

Mr Sparborough is a voluntary prisoner  
whose term will be shortly expired.

S of S says: as above, giving reasons indicated by Mr Chalmers

31.7.6

Wrote Mrs. Cordery  
11/8/6

Any further communication on the subject of this letter should be addressed to—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,  
HOME OFFICE,  
LONDON, S.W.,  
and the following number quoted :—

141,956/20.



WHITEHALL.

1st August, 1906.

*Dust*  
Madam,

In reply to your letter of the 26th ultimo relative to the case of Mrs. Sparborough, I am directed by the Secretary of State to inform you that he cannot in this instance make an exception to the ordinary Prison Rules respecting visits to prisoners. <sup>I am to point out that</sup> Mrs. Sparborough is a voluntary prisoner whose time will shortly expire.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

*could terminate her imp. at any time by obeying the order of the magistrate and Herby Comy case the term of her imp will shortly expire.*

Mrs. E.J. Cordery,  
74, Devas Street,  
Bromley.

*E.J.*

74 Devas Street  
Bromley E  
July 26, '06



141956  
20

Mr. Herbert Gladstone

Dear Sir

I write on behalf of our 50  
Members of the Bromley Branch  
of the Women Social & Political  
Union to ask if you  
will grant a permit for  
Mrs Sparbro's husband to  
see her as she is 64 years  
of age and Mr Sparbro  
is 76 years and he is  
invalid & has a wish to  
see his wife who was

Attendance 5-6 Wks  
for going to the Prime  
Minister home to see him  
hoping to have a  
favourable reply for  
the old gentlemen

I am Sir

Yours obedient

W<sup>m</sup> J. G. G. G.

Don Secretary  
Bromley Branch

---



Subnumber

Registration ✓

141956

21



DATE.

31st July 1906.

Sir William Bull.

Crim case

Mrs Jane Sparborough - suffragist

\*18. Sir William Bull,—To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he is now prepared to recommend the release of Mrs. Jane Sparborough, one of the suffragists sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment on 6th July, in view of the fact that she is not a leader of the movement, and that her only offence appears to have been her reference to the word Featherstone under Mr. Asquith's window at a time when all the crowd had dispersed. [Thursday 2nd August.]

(Thursday 2nd August)

Newspaper report within

MINUTES.

? Day.

I am not prepared to make any recommendation in this case. The prisoner can obtain her own release at any time by obeying the order of the Court.

Cl J

1.8.06.

*[Signature]* 1/8/6.

The prisoner's sentence expires <sup>I think</sup> on the 14th inst

ind. 2.8.6

To Prison Commissioners to report the exact day on which the three women, Sparborough, Knight & Kenny are due for discharge & the particulars of commitment.

Cl J

2.8.06.

REFERRAL 2 JUL 1906

Index

10

PRISON COMMISSION:  
 3 AUG. 1906  
 32990  
 1-

(1) for discharge on  
 14 Augt 1906.

(2) Particulars of commitment  
 on the 25.6.06 did unlawfully in a  
 certain thoroughfare there to wit: -  
 Cavendish Square make use of  
 threatening, abusive, & insulting  
 behaviour, whereby a breach of the  
 Peace might have been occasioned.  
 To enter into a recognizance in the  
 sum of £50:- and one surety in the  
 sum of £50:- to keep the Peace & be of  
 good behaviour for 12 calendar  
 months now next ensuing, or in default  
 to be imprisoned for the space of 6 weeks.  
 Marylebone Police Court - 4.7.1906.  
 Similar commitment in each case.

4.8.06

GM

cut

H.O. REGISTRY  
 6 AUG. 1906  
 RECEIVED

The Supt. wishes to  
 to S. of S. ladies to be quietly  
 released a day before the  
 end of their sentence.

? Discharge Remit one day &  
 authorize the Governor to discharge  
 him about midday on the 13th. No  
 communication to be made to him  
 beforehand, & the fact of his  
 discharge to be kept strictly Confidential.

ALJ

6-8-06.

Write letter of discharge  
 ASD  
 7/8

July 29/06

Remission Warrant dated  
 13 August, 06.



From "Debates" for August 2nd, 1906.

---

Imprisoned Suffragist.

---

Sir WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is now prepared to recommend the release of Mrs. Jane Sparborough, one of the suffragists sentenced to six weeks imprisonment on 6th July, in view of the fact that she is not a leader of the movement, and that her only offence appears to have been her reference to the word "Featherstone" under Mr. Asquith's window at a time when all the crowd had dispersed.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I am not prepared to make any recommendation in this case. The prisoner can obtain her own release at any time by obeying the order of the Court, and in any case her sentence will expire on the 14th inst.

---

H.M. Prison, Belknap

11<sup>th</sup> August 1906.

SIR,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of

the 7<sup>th</sup> August No. 141956 authorizing the discharge

of Jane Sharborough, Annie Kenney & Adelaide Knight

and I have to report that (1) the prisoners will be discharged

on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> inst.

(1) Insert "the prisoner has been discharged this day;" or, "the instructions have been noted and the prisoner will be discharged on....."; or, as the case may require.

I am,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

G. S. Pitt  
Governor.

The Under Secretary of State  
for the Home Department,  
Whitehall,  
London, S.W.

Times 5 July 06.

14 1950  
6 AUG. 1906  
RECEIVED

WOMEN AGITATORS AND MR. ASQUITH.

At Marylebone, yesterday, ANNIE KENNEY, 25, of Park-walk, Chelsea, ADLAIDE KNIGHT, 35, of New City-road, Plaistow, and JANE SPARBOROUGH, 64, of Fairfort-road, Bow, again appeared before Mr. Paul Taylor to further answer the charge of behaving in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace outside the house of Mr. Asquith, in Cavendish-square, on June 21.

Mr. Muskett prosecuted for the Commissioners of Police; Mr. Wallis Grain defended.

Mr. Grain said that in reference to the suggestion thrown out by the magistrate on the last hearing there had been a consultation, with the result that Miss Kenney had refused to give any undertaking after these proceedings were over. Mrs. Sparborough had also refused to give an undertaking not to try and see Mr. Asquith, as she had done no wrong, and Mrs. Knight, he said, was prepared to take the consequences of her actions.

Mrs. Knight, the wife of a clerk, and a member of the Canning-town branch of the Women's Social and Political Union, said that on June 21 she was in the square. She saw Miss Kenney and asked her what the disturbance was about. She replied that she did not know, but the police had interfered with them. Miss Kenney said that she did not see why she should go away. They were told that Mr. Asquith would not see them. Miss Kenney said that they had no proof of that. The witness remonstrated with a policeman and told him that he had no right to stop people walking on the public path, adding that Mr. Asquith was a public servant and ought to see people. Miss Kenney asked to be allowed to pass to ring the bell. She was instantly pushed back by two policemen and told to go away, and was eventually arrested. The witness walked towards the door, but it was not true that she struck the door with her umbrella. She had to use her umbrella to get up and down the steps, as she was lame. It was impossible, therefore, for her to rush about as had been stated. She saw several people at the windows at the time. Miss Kenney was taken away, and they were laughing and clapping their hands. The witness went to knock at the door to know if any deputation had been received, as she was not aware if any one had been admitted. She was, however, prevented from going to the door. After she was arrested she went quietly to the police-station. Cross-examined.—The witness said that she knew that there was a deputation visiting the square that morning and she was to be a member of it. There were about 100 persons assembled there. Miss Kenney was very persistent to get to the door. She had been previously told that Mr. Asquith would not see her. Mr. Muskett asked the witness if she would give an undertaking not to go to the square and repeat this conduct. The witness.—I shall not part with my freedom for any one. To the magistrate.—She did not hear the name "Featherstone" used. She could not give any undertaking whatever.

Mrs. Sparborough, a member of the Bromley branch of the union, stated that she was in the square and came up just as Miss Kenney was taken away. She noticed two servants at an upper window, and a lady and some other persons on the balcony. They clapped their hands. She put her hand up and called out that they ought to be ashamed of themselves, adding that was the way they sent the soldiers to Featherstone. Continuing, the witness said that there were not more than a dozen people near at hand at the time; they had been driven away by the police. A policeman walked her off, although she had not been asked to go. The officer said to her, "What do you want, mixing yourself up with this lot? I know they want half a pint of gin before breakfast in the morning." She denied that, because she knew the women better. Mr. Muskett.—What do you want, a lady of your years, interfering in an agitation of this sort? The witness.—Because we want the vote. We see the misery you men have done for years and we want to alter it. Mr. Muskett.—But you will not alter it in this way. The witness.—You would have sympathy if you lived down at Bow-common and saw the misery there. I think women can undo tangles you men have made. Mr. Muskett.—Will you undertake not to go to Cavendish-square again for the purpose of annoying Mr. Asquith in any way? After some consideration the witness said, I shall do what the other ladies do.

Mr. PAUL TAYLOR pointed out that if she gave the undertaking it would not interfere with her liberty of action elsewhere. Did she not think, he added, that she might be putting the clock back and rendering their cause unpopular by this sort of thing? The witness.—I have no wish to go to the square.

Mr. PAUL TAYLOR.—If that is so, why do you, a lady of 64 years of age, allow your ideas to be influenced by other women much younger than yourself?—It seems to me if

I gave the undertaking it would be admitting that I had done wrong, whereas I do not admit that I have.

Mr. PAUL TAYLOR told her that an undertaking would not involve anything of the kind. The witness, however, said that she must adhere to her decision not to give the undertaking. The women who formed the deputation, she said, were poor, but highly respectable. They would be astonished, she added, if they knew the poverty and goodness of them. They were braver and better than she was, and many of them had done without their breakfast.

Mrs. Lucy Baldock, one of the organizers of the demonstration and the secretary of the Canning-town branch of the union, said that at no time did the demonstrators number 200, as was asserted. In cross-examination she said that the only money given to the women out of the funds of the union was sufficient to pay their fares. Replying to the magistrate, she said that she went to the square to see Mr. Asquith in spite of the fact that he had previously refused to receive a deputation, because they refused to accept written refusals.

Mr. PAUL TAYLOR.—You will not be satisfied unless you have the refusal from Mr. Asquith's own lips? The witness.—That is my position.

Mrs. Toyne, of Hare-court, Temple, said that she

took an interest in the women's suffrage movement, but she was not a member of the union. She was by herself on the morning in question in the square. On reaching Mr. Asquith's house she paused for a moment, recognizing the number. At once a policeman took hold of her, asked what she wanted, and told her to walk on. He gave her a push and she went off the pavement, and he told her again to go on. He had no reasonable excuse for treating her in that way. She saw the ladies at the house clap their hands and smile, and she regarded it as disgusting. There were not more than a dozen people there, and there was no boosing or disorder in her opinion. The only thing she heard called out was "Shame" when Miss Kenney was arrested. In cross-examination she said that she heard a policeman say "You jolly well know Mr. Asquith will not receive persons like you," and saw Miss Billington taken by the throat and held until she was blue in the face. In the witness's opinion the police acted unreasonably and did not show any patience.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, hon. treasurer of the Women's Union, stated that she was one of the deputation that met the Prime Minister in May. In his reply he said that they had made out a conclusive and irrefutable case, and he was in entire sympathy with their movement, but as the Cabinet were not united he would not be able to take any step or make any promises. They were also told that they must win over the members of the Cabinet who were not in agreement with them. She approved of Mrs. Sparborough's calling out "Featherstone."

Alfred Barrett, a Press photographer, gave evidence rebutting the statement that Mrs. Asquith was hustled by some of the women just outside her house. Three women, he said, stood in front of the doorway, and when Mrs. Asquith came out one of the women stood aside to let her pass. A short distance away Mrs. Asquith spoke to an inspector, and afterwards the police were ordered to clear the people away. The witness was the real cause of the first disorder when he began taking photographs of small boys and others hanging about. Miss Kenney did not carry a whip.

Chief-inspector Derby, recalled, said that to the best of his belief he was right. The whip was a short dog whip. Miss Billington had stated that she was the only one who carried a whip, and it was quite possible he might have made a mistake.

Miss Billington was called and denied that she or Miss Kenney carried a whip on the day in question. What she told the inspector was that she was the only one who carried a whip at Northampton.

Mr. Grain then addressed the Court, and complained that the police had acted with an excess of zeal on this occasion. He also protested against the attitude adopted by the Press, which, he said, was scandalous and disgraceful; the criticisms passed by the Press being such as would undoubtedly have prejudiced the fair hearing of the case if it had been heard by a jury. He then submitted that the prisoners had a lawful excuse in trying to ring Mr. Asquith's bell, and were justified in their action.

Mr. PAUL TAYLOR, in giving his decision, said that he was satisfied that there was such an obstruction of the square as justified the police in clearing it, and in his opinion the crowd that collected there was a disorderly one. The prisoners were distinctly told that Mr. Asquith would not receive them, both on this and on a previous occasion, but they insisted on going to his house, and in so doing they adopted what the magistrate thought was an unreasonable and unjustifiable attitude. This was not a case of interfering with the right of public meeting. No one had a desire to interfere with the full exercise of that right, or with the right of those ladies to propagate their views in the ordinary way, in Hyde Park or elsewhere, but it was certainly not right to go to a gentleman's private house and there behave in a manner which could only be intended to molest and annoy. The statement that it was necessary to take such steps in order to persuade an eminent statesman to change his opinion on a subject carried its own refutation, and he could not understand how any one could approve of such conduct. It was also a great surprise to him that a person of education like Mrs. Pethick Lawrence should approve of the word "Featherstone," which could only have been used in an extremely offensive sense. Such conduct could not be allowed, and it was just as well that people should understand that. The police had shown no desire to be vindictive. They had simply asked that the prisoners should give their word that they would not congregate again in Cavendish-square, but they absolutely refused to do so, and, finding as he did that the charge had been proved, he had to ask himself whether it was not necessary to take other means which the law allowed to prevent a repetition of these proceedings. He regretted that the olive branch held out by Mr. Muskett had not been accepted. The prisoners might defy the law and refuse to obey it, but he warned them that they could not paralyse the arm of the law in that way; neither he nor the police authorities would permit it. He sincerely trusted, however, that the prisoners would not regard him as a partisan, for he was far from that. Thousands of people believed in their policy, and would be glad to see it realized in legislation, but apparently the prisoners were doing everything in their power to prevent that end from being accomplished. He felt it his duty in all the circumstances to order each of the prisoners to enter into her bail in £50 and find a surety in a like amount to be of good behaviour and keep the peace for 12 months, and in default of their finding the surety they would have to go to prison for six weeks. The prisoners made no remark, and were at once removed from the Court.

Bail not being forthcoming, at a quarter to 6 the prisoners were taken in the prison van to Holloway Gaol.

At Marylebone, yesterday, ANNIE KENNEY, ADLAIDE KNIGHT, and JANE SPARBOROUGH, who were ordered to enter into their recognizances in £50 and find a surety in the like amount to keep the peace for 12 months, before going to prison, were served by the police with an order in accordance with the magistrate's decision. This meant that, if they renewed the disorder on their release from prison and were again arrested, they would render themselves liable to be called upon to forfeit the £50, or in default to undergo a further period of imprisonment. The term of six weeks they were now undergoing in lieu of finding the surety did not include hard labour.

6/7/06.

News of World  
8 July 06.



## PRISON, NOT VOTES.

### LADY SUFFRAGISTS ELECT TO GO TO HOLLOWAY.

### BABY BOY LEFT WITHOUT A MOTHER.

The martyrology of the women's suffrage movement has received several new names, the ladies electing to go to prison rather than give any guarantee of behaviour for the future. A painful feature of the affair is that one of the women is advanced in years, while another is the mother of a family, one of her children being a baby of eighteen months. Her husband is a clerk at Woolwich Arsenal. The three defendants, Miss Annie Kenney, 25, Mrs. Jane Sparborough, 64, and Mrs. Adelaide Knight, 35, surrendered at Marylebone Court to their bail charged with conduct likely to lead to a breach of the peace outside Mr. Asquith's residence, under circumstances with which our readers are familiar.—Mr. Grain, for the defence, said he had acted on the magistrate's suggestion, and had consulted defendants, all of whom declined to give an undertaking not to repeat their conduct.—Mrs. Knight, wife of a clerk, after affirming, described what took place.—Answering the magistrate, she declined to give an undertaking not to go to Mr. Asquith's house so long as he was paid out of public money.—Mrs. Sparborough denied being disorderly.—Asked by Mr. Muckett, who prosecuted, why she mixed herself up with such people, she replied:

So would you if you saw the misery and wrong being suffered. I think women can undo tangles better than men; you have made enough mess of it.

—The magistrate tried to persuade defendant, a respectable-looking woman of 64, to give an assurance, but she refused on the ground that it would imply that she had done something wrong. The magistrate said he had received a letter from this defendant, and therefore felt some little interest in her case. He reminded her that she was not asked to forego the pleasure of agitating for this reform in the Hyde Park meetings and the like, and added, "Why do you allow yourself to be influenced by other people? You are

#### A LADY OF 64 YEARS OF AGE

and are much more competent to form a correct judgment than people of 22 or 23."—Mrs. Baldock, of West Ham, gave evidence on behalf of the defence, and, in reply to the magistrate, said they refused to take Mr. Asquith's intimation not to see them from anyone except Mr. Asquith himself.—Mrs. Toyne, wife of a barrister and a sympathiser, who went to Cavendish-square from curiosity, was called. She declared that the conduct of the police was most unreasonable.—Mrs. Lawrence, a member of the women's executive, said the deputation waited upon Mr. Asquith owing to the Prime Minister's sympathetic speech.—Chief Inspector Darby was re-called to repeat that Miss Kenney carried a dog whip. Miss Billington told him last week that it was she who carried the whip.—Miss Billington was called. She admitted that she told the inspector that she carried a whip, but that was at Northampton. The whip had not been carried in London.—Mr. Paul Taylor said he was satisfied that there was substantial obstruction in Cavendish-square. There could be no doubt that the crowd was disorderly, and that the conduct of defendants was most unreasonable, as they knew Mr. Asquith would not see them. The right of public meeting was not in question. Defendants would be bound over in £50 each, and sureties in a like amount, to keep the peace for twelve months, or six weeks' imprisonment. All three women refused to find sureties, and decided to go to prison for six weeks. A demonstration was afterwards held in Hyde Park, whither the leaders were conveyed in a motor-car.

LONDON S.W

JUN 22 1866



The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> J. R. Staddon

~~House of Commons~~

S. W.

11 Downing St

54 Percy St., W.C.

June 22.

Dear Sir, - I sincerely hope that you will be firm in the matter of these shameless females arrested yesterday for rioting in Cavendish Sq. Thousands of decent people, of both sexes and all parties, are looking to the ~~A~~ authorities to put an end to the tomfoolery that has been going on at Hammersmith and elsewhere so long, comparatively unchecked. These creatures have forfeited all the consideration they see might otherwise give them.

Yours faithfully,  
Archibbbs.



Registration

141,956  
22



DATE. July, 1906.	Miss Kenny, Mrs Knight & Mrs. Sparboro'
6 mm. bases.	Walsall Branch of Independent Labour Party call for the immediate release of the prisoners, & demand Women's Suffrage.

Actd. B 1.8.06.

MINUTES.

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VB 4.8.06

141956

Dalsall Branch of the Independent  
Labour Party.  
Temperance Hall Dalsall



To the

141956

22

Right Hon. Mr. Gladstone M.P.

Dear Sir

I desire to call your attention  
to the following resolutions which were  
carried at the last meeting of the above  
Branch, on the 19th day of July/06

"That this meeting expresses the  
deepest admiration for, & the warmest  
sympathy with, the three brave women —  
Miss. Kenny, Miss. Knight, & Miss. Sparrow-  
shup — who have been so unctively sen-  
tenced to six weeks' imprisonment for  
merely technical offences, & calls for their  
immediate release.

This this meeting demands that  
a women's Suffrage Enfranchisement  
Clause be inserted in the Plural voting  
Bill now before Parliament, & passed  
into law during the present session.

Yours faithfully  
Edillon Clarke Hon Sec





FOR R.O.

141956

23



Subnumber

Registration

DATE.

4<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1906.

Miss Kenny, Mrs Knight, and Mrs. Sparborough.

6 m. Cases.

Birkenhead Branch of National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen & Clerks forward a resolution of sympathy with the prisoners.

H045/10345

Acld B 10/8/06.

MINUTES.

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also 10/8

age. 10/8.

JAMES MACPHERSON,  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

NATIONAL AMALGAMATED UNION

MARGARET G. BONDFIELD,  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

OF

SHOP ASSISTANTS, WAREHOUSEMEN AND CLERKS.

CENTRAL OFFICE,  
122, GOWER STREET,  
LONDON, W.C.

BRANCH

Birkenhead East

Secretary's Address

53 Woodville Rd



Aug 7<sup>th</sup> 1906

141956  
23

The Home Secretary  
Rt. Hon. Sir

At a recent meeting of the local branch of the above Union, the following resolution (which I was instructed to forward to you) was carried. "That the necessity of shop assistants expresses the deepest admiration for, and the warmest sympathy with, the three brave women, Miss Reddy, Miss Knight, and Miss Spurgeon, who have been so unjustly sentenced to six weeks imprisonment for a merely technical offence, and requests that a Women's Suffrage enfranchisement Clause be inserted in the Plural Voting Bill now before Parliament, and passed into law during the

JAMES MACPHERSON,  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

MARGARET G. BONDFIELD,  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

CENTRAL OFFICE,  
122, GOWER STREET,  
LONDON, W.C.

NATIONAL AMALGAMATED UNION  
OF  
SHOP ASSISTANTS, WAREHOUSEMEN AND CLERKS.

BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary's Address \_\_\_\_\_

190

*present session.*

*I have the honour to remain*

*Your Obedt Servant*

*William Cardew*

*Secy*