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SUFFRAGETTE FELONIES.

THE sentence of five years' imprisonment upon the suffragette who threw the hatchet at Premier Asquith's carriage and the other lady who set fire to the Theatre Royal, Dublin, is not too severe. The consequences of a panic in a crowded theatre, let alone a serious fire, might have been most lamentable. To allow any mitigation of punishment for such crimes as attempted murder and arson on the ground of political opinion, sex or social position would be to encourage such atrocious actions. The prisoners have done infinite harm to their cause by showing their absolute unfitness for any part in the government of the country. The suffragettes cannot complain if they are judged by the actions of their members who make themselves conspicuous by their crimes and tacitly allow it to be inferred that these crimes have their approval or that the criminals have their sympathy. If their ideas of women's rights include murder and arson for political motives, their unfitness for political life is obvious.

BOY SCOUTS ON GUARD.

SOME active work in the defence of England has been found for the Boy Scouts and the work promises to be of value in two ways. First, it is expected that they can render effective service in keeping watch on the coast and forming lines of communication with London; and, second, it will engender in the boys a sense of responsibility for their share in the defence of the country. The Boy Scouts of the County of Kent started on August 3 to carry out a big scheme of mobilization and communication prepared by Commander James Galloway, a retired officer of the British Navy, and other officers. The operations were to last three days, and, owing to the general public holiday on Monday, a large number of boys were able to participate.

The boys were sent off to watch the south-eastern coast of England in sections extending from New Romney round the Forelands to the Isle of Sheppy, and their duty was to pass information between the coast and London and between towns in the County of Kent, and to form lines of communication with adjacent counties. Stations have been established at half-mile intervals, with three scouts posted at each.

In time of war, with an attack by warships on the coast, and the resulting cutting of communications,

it is believed that this human chain would be invaluable. The practice will probably be made annual and extended to other counties.

PANAMA CANAL TOLLS.

THE United States Senate has by a vote of 44 to 11 decided to exempt American shipping from Panama Canal tolls. Some of the senators (by courtesy called honourable senators) showed in the debate a standard of honour worthy of a New York police grafter.

When Senator Burton moved to strike out that section which would exempt American coastwise traffic from payment of tolls, Senator Brandegee opposed it on the ground that it was not good business. He said he did not believe the United States had the right under the British treaty to exempt American vessels, but that that was not the reason he opposed the free toll provision. "The fact that we had a diplomatic note from Great Britain is absolutely immaterial and irrelevant to me," he said.

Senator Lodge declared the United States, if compelled to go before The Hague court with the question of its rights to exempt American ships, would surely lose its case, "no matter how good it was." The only alternative, he said, would be to refuse to go to The Hague or else to drop the free toll provision and accept his plan of a governmental rebate or subsidy equal to the amount of tolls.

The one "honourable" gentleman declares a solemn contract between nations immaterial and irrelevant. The other acknowledges the obligation, but proposes to evade it by a contemptible subterfuge. It is only fair to the people of the United States to recognize that there are some members of the Senate with higher conceptions of national honour. Senator Works declared Senator Lodge's proposition "pure unadulterated evasion and Senator Root expressed the opinion that the United States did not have any right of sovereignty at Panama which would exempt the canal from the provisions of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. He said the canal strip had been acquired from Panama in 1903 subject expressly to the provisions of the treaty with Great Britain.

"I know of no higher rule of ethics," he added, "than that which requires nations to observe good faith in relation to their treaties."