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WRONGS OF THE WOMEN OF LONDON

Pitiful Stories Told to Prime Minister Asquith.  
WORK FOR PITTANCE; HAVE NO REDRESS  
Many Slave Fourteen Hours a Day—Last Court Ball a Failure Opinion of Critics.

London, July 15.—The recent meeting between Prime Minister Asquith and the women representing Sylvia Pankhurst's East End Suffrage Club is unique in English history, for never before have women workers of the lowest social class told their wage grievances to so high a personage. The average wage of women throughout the country, Mrs. Julia Scurr told the Prime Minister, is but seven shillings a week. Many women she said, supported children and parents on this, although the immigration board has held that a woman cannot live in London on less than 17 shillings and six pence a week. To small wages and the severity of the struggle was attributed the large number of suicides among married working women of the city, Mrs. Scurr said the poor law attached harsh and humiliating terms to the relief given and was thoroughly hated by the indigent. In justifying the demand of the working women for suffrage, the delegates told the Prime Minister that there did not seem to be any other way of making their wrongs known to the public. Women are still sent to prison for inability to pay their taxes, and few of those who suffer from drunken and brutal husbands can afford the luxury of a divorce. One of the suffragists, Mrs. Hughes, opened her argument by laying on the Premier's table a brush that retails at ten shillings. "For my share in making that, I get two pence," she explained, was two pence for filling 200 holes with bristles, and her husband got two pence, halfpenny for finishing the brush. To support her home required fourteen hours work a day. Another delegate said she was rearing a family of six children under the age of thirteen on her husband's pay of 25 shillings a week as a dockerman. A pitiful story was related by a woman, who had started work in a jam factory at the age of eleven. When left a widow with two children, she shared her small room with an unfortunate girl whose baby had been born in a workhouse. As the widow's wages could not feed them all, the girl drowned herself and baby in the Thames. Mr. Asquith in reply said that it would be perhaps difficult to get substantial and intelligent reform in the East End unless the women themselves had a voice in choosing the members of Parliament. But their problem was such that it could not be solved by any short cut. He promised to consider their case fully. Although the Premier treated the delegates as non-militant and attacked the East London Federation which they represented, has never repudiated militancy. Nor have the delegates. Last Court. The last court of the season at Buckingham Palace appears to have been a disappointment to many who attended in the expectation that Mary Blomfield's precedent in interrupting the previous court by a suffragette demonstration would be followed up at the next court with more excitement. On the occasion of the court, almost everybody entitled to tickets. One guest who found amusement in the precautions taken, said: "Everybody, even the male guests, had to run the gauntlet of inspection, and one lady was told she must leave her fan in the cloak room, as it was so massive in the hall that it might be used as a weapon. Several people said their bouquets were peered into, and one middle-aged dame, who came in rather old-fashionedly wide skirts, declared that they were obviously pressed against the detectives to see that they concealed no axe." The King and Queen were remarkably isolated, so there could be no repetition of the previous incident, when Miss Blomfield beseeched His Majesty to stop the forcible feeding of women prisoners. As to the ball following the court, society critics said that it did not go any too well. "Political feeling is running so high just now, that it was quite a case of sheep and goats," said one. Prince Arthur of Connaught, who was looking rather bored, is said to have drawn the Queen's attention to the fact.

YOUTHFUL PRISONERS TELL ABOUT RECENT BURGLARIES

Busy session of Police Court — William Alexander gives evidence on Perley and Howell breaks — Harry McCann sent up for trial.

Tells of Robberies.  
William Alexander, a boy, gave evidence that on the Sunday the robbery took place, he with the two defendants and Louis Doyle were together when some one of the party proposed that they go into Mr. Perley's house. They went into Mr. Perley's yard. Witness left the others and went out on the street and later saw Goodspeed and McDonough climbing over a fence into Canterbury street, witness went round and met them and they had a hard scuffle with them and he saw in it, the loot was hidden under some rocks in a field.  
The Howell Break.  
Regarding the break into J. Major Howell's store on the corner of St. James' and Carmarthen streets, witness said that he was with the two defendants and George Miller. It was in the afternoon of July 5th. Miller and witness walked round the block and when they returned they met the two defendants with Doyle and they had a quantity of gum and candy they also had books, tobacco and cigarettes. The party divided the stolen property and went to the old breakwater in Courtenay Bay where they deposited the loot and had only been there a few minutes when Policeman Ward put in an appearance. They all ran away and left the goods behind them.  
In answer to E. S. Ritchie, who was defending the prisoners, witness said that he was not giving the evidence with the hope that he would not be punished and that he felt he was just as bad as the others. There was no other boys connected with the raids, other than those above mentioned.  
George Miller, another boy, gave evidence that he was with the others when Howell's store was broken into and that he met McDonough and Goodspeed in an alley and one of the two told him that they had been into the store. They gave him some of the stolen goods to carry. The prisoners were remanded.  
CUT DOWN TREE CITY TO TAKE ACTION.  
Montreal, July 14.—The Board of Control today inspired the city attorneys to enter immediate action against the Montreal Public Service Corporation for having cut down a tree the property of the city on Viau avenue. The controllers expressed the opinion that certain corporations were altogether too free with city property when they wanted to erect poles.

SOLDIERS IN GERMAN ARMY MAL TREATED

Unceasing Attacks of the Press Alleviating The Conditions

RECRUITS VICTIMS OF THE OFFICERS

Over 490 Cases Last Year — Light Punishment For Offenders — Wine Growing Industry Failing.

Berlin, July 14.—The unceasing criticism of press and parliament is slowly reducing the number of cases of mistreatment of soldiers by their officers, but a recent report shows that 490 non-commissioned officers and officers were convicted of such offenses last year. This was a reduction of ninety cases from the figures of five years ago. These 490 convictions by no means indicate, however, that only that number of private soldiers were brutally handled during the year. A recent case, and one by no means unusual, was the conviction of a non-commissioned officer of the Third Bavarian Regiment, who was charged with no less than ninety offenses against the men under him. One soldier was lamed by being struck on the knee cap with a gun butt, and there were dozens of cases in which recruits were choked and struck in the face. It is not long since a captain was forced to leave the service after his third conviction for mistreating recruits. The charges against him covered brutal treatment in 140 cases. Complaints of these conditions, made in the Reichstag, have from time to time moved the minister of war to declare that the government was equally concerned and was doing its best to put a stop to them. Figures have been quoted to show that cases of mistreatment are gradually growing less common, and it has been declared that the government desired that punishment of the offenders be exemplary. With all credit to the minister of war, it must nevertheless be said that sentences in the majority of these cases are extremely mild and by no means calculated to discourage brutal officers from a repetition of their offenses. The non-commissioned officer just mentioned was sentenced to three months and fifteen days' imprisonment and degraded. This is a really severe sentence, but it is at the same time a most unusual one. Not only is imprisonment for such a term rarely meted out, but degradation is still rarer. The following case is typical of the nearly ten cases occurring on an average each week. A non-commissioned officer of the Third Guard Field Artillery Regiment commanded a recruit platoon. He was not satisfied with the recruit's work and started expressing his dissatisfaction by striking the man over the head with a

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trifle. He then forced him to march up and down in the stables and to do setting up exercises, including the famous "knee-bend," until the recruit fell from exhaustion. He kicked him in the thigh and on the knees and otherwise mistreated him. The recruit was removed to the field hospital suffering from exhaustion. The court martial condemned the officer to five weeks' light arrest. It is not only certain officers who mistreat recruits. The latter, in the absence of officers, are subject to the older privates, and many cases of mistreatment involve these older men. In a recent case, one of these was sentenced to nine weeks' imprisonment for mistreating a recruit in such a manner that one of the victim's ears was ruptured, causing partial deafness. On the other hand, there is short shrift for the recruit who raises a hand to defend himself against even the most brutal assault from a superior. He is certain of imprisonment for a long term. The German wine-growing industry is in a bad way. Every year since 1906 there has been a shrinkage in the acreage of the vineyards, so that the total has fallen from 257,000 to 266,000 acres. As evidence of the growing distress of the vintners the fact is cited that the debts of the fifty cooperative societies of growers on the Moselle have increased from \$345,000 to \$2,000,000 within ten years. The causes of the decline of the industry are various: Increases in the costs of production, larger imports of foreign wines, defective German legislation, and crop failures from the ravages of insects and plant diseases. Many vineyards have been condemned and destroyed by the government as a preventive measure against the spread of the phylloxera.

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