

20.9.1912

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FROM . . .

T. SMITHIES TAYLOR.

Copy for.....

Spare copy

Copy sent to

Miss Gurnall

.....
..... File.

Capt. R. Crossley Williams, M. P.,
Secretary to Chancellor of Exchequer,
5 Ashby Road,
Holland Park,
London, W.

20. 9. 1912.

..... File.

..... File.

Re arrest of Mr. Mark Wills for inability to pay
Wills's Income Tax.

Dear Crossley Williams,

I am sorry that I was not able to see you today when I was in London. I wished to call your attention to this case, and to ask you to officially make sure that its details are promptly laid before your chief, Mr. Lloyd George. As you have possibly noticed in today's London papers, this case is attracting very considerable public attention. I think I may safely say that many men are noting, with alarm, that under the existing anomalies, and inconsistencies of the Married Women's Property Act, and the Income Tax Act, they may at any time be placed in a similar position to Mr. Wills. They are also becoming alive to the fact that the existing laws, still uncorrected by their paid representatives, enable a Government Department (in the name of, but presumably without, the knowledge of His Gracious Majesty) to override the Common

Contd.

From T. SMITHIES TAYLOR,
LEICESTER & LONDON.

To Capt. E. Geoffrey Williams, R.F.,

20. 9. 1914.

law, and their constitutional rights, as secured to them by the 'Habeas Corpus' and other acts, and by the King's coronation oath.

By these unconstitutional acts, (manifestly unjust in such a case as this) a Government Department can arrest, without trial, a man previously known to them to be unable to pay a debt for taxes on income over which by law he has no control.!

Such a proceeding in civil life would be punished as blackmail. I shall be glad if you will let me know that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has had this case properly placed before him. I enclose details, for which I can personally vouch. As an Englishman, I sincerely hope that the result will be an immediate order for Mr. Williams's release.

Yours sincerely,

T. S. T.

Enclose. Mr. Williams's release.