

COPY SENT TO

E. Crawshaw Williams Esq., M.P.,  
5 Aubrey Road, Holland Park,  
London. W.

*Copy to  
WSPA London.*

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Sept. 10. 1918.

COPY SENT TO

J. Ramsay Macdonald Esq., M.P.,  
3 Lincoln's Inn Fields,  
London. W.C.

4228

COPY SENT TO

& Five Nottingham Members.

Re the arrest today of Mr. Mark Wilks for his  
inability to pay his Wife's Income Tax.

Dear Sir,

We the undersigned, and your constituents,  
desire to call your attention to the glaring incon-  
sistency now existing between the provisions of the  
Married Woman's Property Act, and the Income Tax Act.  
We should have hoped that some member of the House of  
Commons would have discovered this anomaly, and taken  
steps to correct it before now.

A case, (detailed on enclosed leaflet) has however  
arisen today, on which we desire your immediate  
action.

We understand that Mr. Mark Wilks has been arrested  
and committed to Brixton Prison, and without trial,  
on Wednesday Sept. 18th.

We should be glad if you will arrange to meet us at  
the earliest possible moment to discuss what can be  
done to correct so glaring an injustice, contrary to  
the rights of Free-born Englishmen.

Yours faithfully.

*Mr. J. J. Crawshaw  
Esq. 5 Aubrey Road  
Holland Park W.*

*CPDZ  
To Mr.*

Name.

Address.

*J. J. Crawshaw*

*2 Newark St. L.C.*

*Mr. Liu & Mr. H. H. ... to obtain further signatures  
H. H. ...*

Please reply to the first above named.

Enclos. Leaflet re Mark Wilks. —

## A Threatened Arrest.

Seeing that a warrant has been issued for my arrest and committal to Brixton Goal "during the King's pleasure" for my inability to pay my wife's taxes, I wish to place before the public the gross injustice of the case.

My wife, as a medical woman, has for many years earned an independent income, which, by the Married Women's Property Act, I am unable to touch. In 1908 and 1909, she refused, as a Suffragist, to make any return of her income either to the Inland Revenue or to me. She further refused to pay Imperial taxes while the Parliamentary Vote was withheld from her, and in consequence, the furniture, which is hers, was seized and sold.

In 1910, she claimed that such distraint was illegal, asserting that under the Income Tax Act, she, as a married woman, was exempt from taxation. The authorities then wavered in their claim, making it sometimes on her, sometimes on me, sometimes on us both conjointly, finally on me alone.

On my pointing out that her liability had already been established by forcible distraint upon her property, I was informed that for the future I should be held liable as that by the Income Tax Act the "wife's property for purposes of taxation is the husband's," although by the Married Women's Property Act it is entirely out of his control. Thus I am to be held liable for a tax on property which does not belong to me. I am now told I am to be committed to prison until such time as I shall pay the "Duty and Costs" over £37. It would be unjust to tax a wealthy man for money which he does not possess and cannot touch. But the injustice becomes intolerable in the case of one whose income like mine is utterly inadequate to meet such a charge.

Although I sympathise with the attitude of passive resistance adopted by my wife, I should not feel justified in taking such a course myself since I have the Parliamentary Vote denied to her. For that reason I have paid the tax on my own income as distinct from that of my wife. We claim that men and women should before the law alike be regarded as *persons*, having equal rights and equal liabilities. If this were the case such a miscarriage of justice could never have occurred.

Particulars about public protests proposed in case of my arrest will appear in "Votes for Women," "The Standard" (Women's Platform) and also in "The Vote."

You are requested to take part in these protests.

MARK WILKS,

47, UPPER CLAPTON ROAD,

N.E.

## UNJUST IMPRISONMENT OF MARK WILKS.

Seeing that the warrant issued last week for my arrest has been executed, and that I am now committed to Brixton Gaol "during the King's pleasure" for my inability to pay my wife's taxes, I wish to place before the public the gross injustice of the case.

My wife, as a medical woman, has for many years earned an independent income, which, by the Married Women's Property Act, I am unable to touch. In 1908 and 1909, she refused, as a Suffragist, to make any return of her income either to the Inland Revenue or to me. She further refused to pay Imperial taxes while the Parliamentary Vote was withheld from her, and in consequence, the furniture, which is hers, was seized and sold.

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**Meetings outside Brixton Prison each night at 8 p.m.**

**A Protest Meeting is to be held at Caxton Hall on Thursday, September 26th, when G. Bernard Shaw and other prominent men will speak.**

You are requested to take part in these protests.

MARK WILKS,

47, UPPER CLAPTON ROAD,  
N.E.