

FROM . . .

T. SMITHIES TAYLOR.

Copy for.....

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(Missies)

25.4.1912

25. Copy sent to

Miss Mary Barrowman,
993 Sauchiehall Street,
Glasgow.

.....
Barrowman File.
Mrs Lethick.
.....
74 File.
..... File.

Dear Madam,

Replying to yours of 24th inst.

I had heard rumours re Holloway Hunger Strike, but knew nothing until yesterday when I visited Mrs. Taylor. There has been one in which Mrs. Taylor took part, but it is now over.

She was not forcibly fed, and is bright and well.

She has not met your sister as Mrs. Taylor is in the infirmary, due to influence, (which I wish I could apply to others,) and against her will.

All the older ladies, such as Miss Bennett and others, were when the Hunger Strike broke out at once released.

As you will see from the enclosed copy of mine to Men's Society for Women's Rights, dated 23/4/12. (in confidence) I have been doing my best to show up the lying methods of the Government and its officials re priviliges to Political Women Prisoners.

Contd.

Continuation Sheet No. 3

From T. SMITHIES TAYLOR,
LEICESTER & LONDON,

To Miss Mary Barrowman.

25. 4. 1912.

I wrote to the Governor on Tuesday to say that as I had received no reply to my prepaid telegram, I had sent the correspondence to the Chief Commissioner, H.M.'s Prisons, Whitehall, and should attend with Mrs. Taylor's sister, Dr. Elizabeth Wilks, M.D., and my Daughter at 8 p.m. yesterday to visit Mrs. Taylor at the end of 1 month. I also reported fully to Mr. G. Lansbury, M.P., and arranged to see him at the House of Commons, if necessary.

I went up quite prepared to make a stir if I met with any more foolery! However I was promptly admitted and never had so much official attention paid to me before!

We had a very bright cheerful interview for half an hour instead of 15 minutes!

I came away more than ever convinced that if the Suffragettes have done nothing else, they have secured an immense improvement in prison methods.

The prisoners are most anxiously looked after. The Wardresses are most lady-like and kind. The Matron is a charming motherly person, and the Doctor is most kind and considerate.

I have still failed to learn all that the rule means, but I understand that food parcels up to 11 lbs may be sent in weekly that prisoners may send out letters once a fortnight. Have 6 books each.

Contd.

Continuation Sheet No. 3

From T. SMITHIES TAYLOR,
LEICESTER & LONDON,

To Miss Mary Barrowman.

35. 4. 1912.

Visits once a month. & that perhaps letters may be received. In any case I think a letter (prepaid) addressed to the Matron would at any time obtain information as to the well-being of a prisoner.

For some reason Mr. Hankinson has been forbidden to visit again, but I have not heard from him.

There has of course been a lot of smuggling due to woman wit, but I am quite sure he has not taken any part.

You are certainly doing the authorities no injustice. That would hardly be possible !

The Home Secretary and his Chief Officials not only fail to volunteer information, but employ lying methods to mislead.

They seem off their heads, and evidently are afraid of the pluck, determination and resource of these brave voteless women.

I suggest asking, ~~d~~emanding and worrying to any extent. There is no other way.

Yours sincerely.

TJ-T-
CMT

Enclos. Copy of mine to Men's Soc. for Women's Rights. Dated 23/4/12.
" " " " G. Lansbury Esq., M.P., Dated 25/4/12.

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