

4196

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FROM . . .

Copy for.....

T. SMITHIES TAYLOR.

1. 7. 1912.

To/ The President, Treasurer, Executive &c.,  
of the Walthamstow Leyton & Woodford  
Liberal & Radical Assocs.

Sirs,

Copy sent to

As a life long Liberal, and happening to be in London  
professionally during last week, I attended your meeting at  
Woodford on Saturday last.

I was readily admitted, but I noted how the women and their  
tickets were carefully and several times examined:- Treatment

which I had hoped no self-respecting Englishwoman would accept.  
Before the meeting commenced, the audience was informed that in  
case of any interuption the Stewards had been fully instructed  
what to do.

I must therefore assume that they were in your employ, and that  
you are responsible for their actions.

I listened to the Chairman's claim that you represented real  
Liberalism and progressive democracy, which as a Liberal, I was  
naturally glad to hear.

But after he had mentioned Mr. Lloyd George as the greatest living  
Liberal and Democrat, (although he still tells us that "Taxation  
without Representation is Tyrany" while he refuses to give votes  
to all present taxpayers, women included), I rose in disgust, at the

Contd.

Continuation Sheet No. 1.

From T. SMITHIES TAYLOR,  
LEICESTER & LONDON,  
1. 7. 1912.

To The President, Treasurer,  
Executive &c.

first opportunity, to leave the meeting, and told the Chairman why. I should in any case have wished to leave quietly, but I was attacked by a number of hooligans whose action alone caused the riot, and against whom I never struggled.

They smashed my silk hat, caused me to lose my umbrella, and swept from my face my gold specs., and trampled upon them beyond repair. Thus dazed and unable to see I was pushed violently on to the end of a horse trough, and only escaped a wetting by grasping the two edges by my hands.

I appealed to two Constables who however took no notice.

In this plight I was very kindly received by the crowd outside, and furnished with a motor cap.

This is not the Liberalism for which I hope I shall always fight, but sheer black guardism, and fear of hearing the truth.

The foul language used to me by your Stewards would never be tolerated in the ranks of my Company.

I must at least congratulate you on having the decency to exclude ladies from your meetings, I suppose in case they should overhear it!

I shall be glad if you will forthwith send me a cheque in settlement of the following claim for damages, but without prejudice <sup>to my right</sup> to take proceedings for assault or otherwise, as I may be advised.

Contd.

Continuation Sheet No. 2.

From T. SMITHIES TAYLOR,  
LEICESTER & LONDON.

To The President, Treasurer,  
Executive &c.

1. 7. 1912.

£1.1.0. Silk Hat, not new. 15/-

Silk Umbrella, new. 11/6

Gold Spectacles with  
special lenses. 2/10/-

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£3.16.6.

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Yours faithfully.

Capt.

Wm. Home Leicester (Oxms) <sup>Journal</sup> <sup>Refisher</sup> 1. July. 1912

To the President  
the Treasurer & Executive of  
the ~~Woodford~~ Walthamston League & Woodford  
Liberal & Nat Assoc  
4196

#15 #18

Sir,  
as a life long liberal, & happening to be  
in London professionally during last week  
~~I purchased a 2/6 ticket for your meeting~~ <sup>I attended</sup>  
at Woodford on Saturday last.

~~for which I wrote my name & rank.~~  
I was <sup>really</sup> admitted ~~without~~ but I noted how  
the women's <sup>other</sup> tickets were carefully & several  
times examined; - treatment which I  
had hoped no ~~English~~ self-respecting Englishman  
would accept.

Before the meeting <sup>commenced</sup> the audience was  
informed that in case of any intimation  
the stewards had been <sup>fully</sup> instructed what to do.

I must therefore assume that they were in  
your employ & that you are responsible for  
their actions.

I listened to the chairman's claim that  
you represented Real Liberalism &  
Progressive Democracy, which as a  
liberal I was naturally glad to hear.

But <sup>at the first opportunity</sup> after he had mentioned Mr. Lloyd George  
as the greatest living liberal & democrat.  
Although he still tells us that "taxation  
without representation is tyranny"

while he refuses to give votes to  
all present taxpayers (women included)  
I rose to <sup>in disgust</sup> ~~at the first opportunity~~ <sup>to</sup> leave the meeting <sup>in</sup> &  
disfust ~~to~~ (in order to prevent  
disturbance) told the chairman why  
I should in any case have wished to  
leave <sup>quietly</sup> ~~but~~ I was attacked  
by a <sup>member</sup> ~~crowd~~ of hooligans, whose action  
alone caused the riot, & against whom  
they <sup>never struggled</sup> smashed my silk hat, caused me  
to lose my umbrella & swept from  
my face my gold specs. & trampled <sup>upon</sup> them  
to beyond repair. [Thus dazed & unable to see  
I was pushed violently <sup>to the</sup> end of  
a horse trough, & only escaped a  
wetting by grasping the two edges by  
my hands.

I appealed to two constables who however  
took no notice.

In this plight I was very kindly received  
by the crowd outside & furnished with  
a motor cab by a gentleman living  
near.

This is not the Liberalism for which  
I hope I shall always fight, but these  
shame blackguardism & fear of hearing  
the truth.

The foul language used to me by  
your Stewards would never be tolerated  
in the ranks of my company.

I must at least congratulate  
you on having the decency to  
exclude ladies from your meetings, & <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~  
case they should overhear it.

I shall be glad if you will forthwith  
send me a cheque in settlement of  
the following claim for damages.)

£ 1. 1. 0 silk hat - not new.	15/-
Silk umbrella, new.	11/6
Gold spectacles with special lenses.	2. 10. 0

but without prejudice to my <sup>right</sup> ~~right~~ to ~~take~~ <sup>take</sup> proceedings  
for assault. <sup>take proceedings</sup>  
Yours faithfully  
for assault or otherwise as I may be  
advised. <sup>insert</sup>

Onht.