

# Stand Up and be Counted!

## *Suffrage and gender in Ireland during the Decade of Centenaries and beyond*

# DOCUMENT PACK 4: Suffrage and Suffragettes

This document pack includes:

- Photograph of an anti-suffrage demonstration.
- Letters from suffrage groups in Ulster discussing changing their affiliation as a result of divisions over militancy.
- Newspaper report of meeting between Sir Edward Carson and members of the militant Women's Suffrage and Political Union (WSPU).
- Newspaper articles on campaign of arson in Ulster by suffragettes.
- Newspaper articles on the trial of WSPU militants Madge Muir and Dorothy Evans.
- Newspaper articles on Muir and Evans hunger strike.
- Newspaper articles relating to suffragette activity of Mabel Small.
- Correspondence between Mabel Small and her employer, the Belfast Municipal Technical Institute, relating to her suffrage activity.



**Photograph of an anti-suffrage demonstration (No date)**

**PRONI Reference: D1422/B/19**

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Belfast. We feel however that  
it is no longer possible for Irish  
Societies to maintain a neutral  
attitude, or at any rate for  
us to do so here. Many of us,  
myself included have very deep  
sympathy with the militant side  
but we know we could ask a  
militant speaker to come here  
again & the only work open to us  
is on the educative side.  
Even for a meeting of this description  
which we holding shortly further down,  
we have had great difficulty in  
procuring a hall!  
I enclose cheque for 10/6 our  
affiliation fee to you for this year  
Yrs Sincerely  
Robina L. Gamble

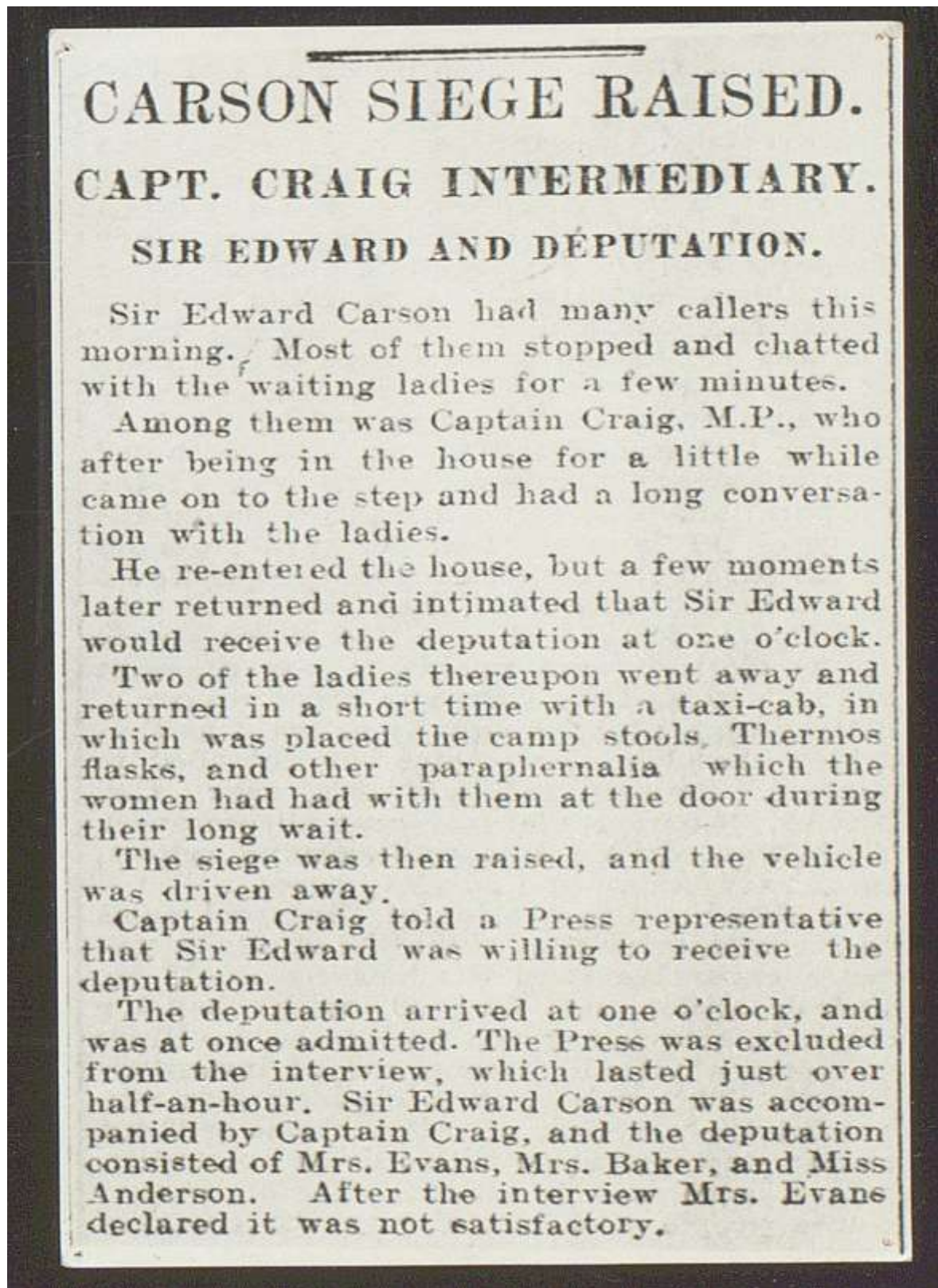
Letter from Robina Gamble to Mrs. Robinson, regarding changes to suffrage affiliation as a result of divisions over militancy (16<sup>th</sup> April, 1913). PRONI Reference: T3259/1/7

April 29<sup>th</sup> 1913

THE NEST,  
CULTRA,  
HOLYWOOD,  
CO. DOWN,  
IRELAND.

Mrs Heron begs to let  
Mrs M<sup>rs</sup> McCoubrey know  
that she has joined  
the local, Holywood  
branch of the Non-  
Militant Suffrage  
Society & therefore would  
be obliged by being  
disjoined from the  
Belfast Society.

Letter from Mrs Heron to Margaret McCoubrey regarding opposition to militancy (29<sup>th</sup> April, 1913)  
PRONI Reference: T3259/1/6



Newspaper report on suffragettes, including interview with Sir Edward Carson (9<sup>th</sup> March 1914) PRONI Reference: T2125/32/23

## SUFFRAGIST HEROICS DOORSTEP MILITANT AND ULSTER.

### SAYS THE "TRUCE" IS RAISED

#### LIVELY SCENES IN ULSTER HALL.

"War" upon Sir Edward Carson and the Unionist authorities in Ulster was declared last evening at the demonstration in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, under the auspices of the Women's Social and Political Union. The gathering, as originally organised, was to have been addressed by Mrs. Pankhurst, but the enforced absence of the militant leader, who is again under lock and key under the provisions of the "Cat and Mouse Act" had a markedly adverse effect upon the meeting.

The attendance in the body of the hall was very thin, and although the gallery accommodation was more fully availed of, the turnout was not exactly encouraging. A considerable section of the audience, moreover, was non-sympathetic, and their opposition made itself manifest through more than one outlet.

Notwithstanding some ominous rumours, the antagonistic element, whose ire was roused by the new relations of the W.S.P.U. to the Ulster Unionist leaders, were not violently hostile, although their tactics at times was distinctly disconcerting. At one juncture a liberal dissemination of electric snuff had its inevitable effect, but even more objectionable was the poisoning of the atmosphere with some highly malodorous essence of the sulphuretted hydrogen type. The doors of the hall had to be flung open for a period, and the members of the audience moved from the back, where the offence was the greater, nearer to the platform.

Mrs. "General" Drummond, the speaker at this juncture, made a bad shot when in sarcastic vein. She attributed the opposition to students from the University. A gentleman in the gallery rose and indignantly denied the impeachment. The speaker, who at a later stage, declared that

**A SUFFRAGIST NEVER APOLOGISED** for anything, said she was glad to hear it, but she had been told there were students in the hall.

There were only three speakers, the chairman (Mr. George McCracken), Mrs. Drummond, and Miss Dorothy Evans. All the speakers had their say, but each was subjected to periodic interruptions. Any reference to Sir Edward Carson or Captain Craig, M.P., was the signal for an outbreak of cheering, while once the opposition element took up the singing of the National Anthem, an interlude which evoked the comment from Mrs. Drummond that they should not use a non-party meeting for party purposes. The chairman and Mrs. Drummond, the latter a particularly voluble lady, devoted their speeches in the main to arguments in favour of female enfranchisement, denunciation of the Government for its treatment of the Suffragists, and defence of the militant tactics. A remark by Mrs. Drummond, making an analogy between the militant tactics of women and the Ulster resistance movement led to a prolonged interruption and considerable uproar.

#### MIXED GEOGRAPHY.

A member of the audience challenged the statement as a lie. Mrs. Drummond retorted that she would make the gentleman "sit up," and proceeded to read as vindication of her assertion copious extracts from Hansard of questions addressed to the Chief Secretary by Captain Craig in reference to outrages in Clare and other parts of the South and West. (A Voice—"That is not in Ulster. What has that got to do with Ulster?") The speaker's Irish geography was obviously a little mixed.

Later at question stage the same point was taken up, and the chairman had to inform Mrs. Drummond that the counties in which the outrages occurred were not in Ulster, she would substitute the word "Ireland," then declared the speaker. Cries of "Apologise," only evoked the defiant declaration—"Suffra-

gists never apologise for anything. We glory too much in our militancy."

#### THE DOORSTEP MILITANT.

The war ultimatum was reserved for Miss Evans, the closing speaker, who recounted the recent vigil outside the door of Sir Edward Carson's London residence, and the subsequent interview with the Unionist leader. For four and a half days, she proceeded, the deputation kept up their vigil outside Sir Edward Carson's house, and at the end of that time an appointment was made with the Ulster Unionist leader. They had to submit to a long delay, but Sir Edward was very much more reasonable than some other politicians—the Prime Minister, for instance—had shown themselves to be. Sir Edward Carson preferred to see the women rather than call in the police to remove or arrest them. But his answer to their question was entirely unsatisfactory. He began by saying that he was not in the least offended by their "resistance," for as a fighting man himself he could see the force of their tactics, but he added that he was not prepared to give them a guarantee that he would stand out for the rights of Ulsterwomen under the Imperial Government. He said he looked upon the Ulster Provisional Government as something different, because it was only a larger extension of local government. That was a quibble—a wriggle—worthy of the Government of the day, because it was not a sincere thing. The Provisional Government was not local government at all; it was Imperial government; and if Sir Edward Carson and his colleagues had embraced the principle of equal suffrage in that Government they were committed to the principle of equal rights for men and women under whatever Government was eventually put over Ulster.

#### WAR ON SIR EDWARD.

Sir Edward Carson was no friend of women unless he was prepared to stand and champion their rights as strongly as he championed the rights of men; and as he was no friend of women, then he was their enemy, and would be fought as any other politician was fought who had the power and did not use it to get them their rights. Sir Edward Carson, in refusing to champion the women's cause, had declared war on them, and they in turn declared war on Sir Edward Carson. (Cheers and counter cheers, and a Voice—"God help you.")

When the uproar had somewhat subsided, Miss Evans said—"I can quite understand Ulster Unionists not wanting the women to hear what I have to say. It is a poor day for men politicians when the women open their eyes and see clearly what they are being used for. So the Women's Social and Political Union remove the truce we have held over this part of Ulster."

Again applause and protests mingled in the general din, and the chairman and Mrs. Drummond both appealed for order. "Don't tell lies about Sir Edward Carson," shouted a man in the balcony, and there was a renewed outburst of cheering.

Miss Evans, proceeding, said she wanted them to be perfectly clear what they had to expect and what they were called upon to do. The women were called upon to demand their rights from their party, whatever that party might be, and if they did not get the same guarantees as the men they were called upon to come out and fight that party. They knew that there would be trouble in Ulster, perhaps from the Unionist party. But, to use a colloquialism, they could bet their bottom dollar that there would be.

#### TROUBLE FROM THE WOMEN.

The civil war that was absolutely certain was one between the women and the powers that be, and if the people of Ulster found themselves inconvenienced, or if they suffered financial loss from the militant policy of the women, they would ask themselves this question—"What have I ever done to get for the women their rights and liberties? If I and my party have never done anything to help the women, can I complain if I get some of the blows when they are fighting their own battle, and those people who hated militancy because it would hurt them, not in their own bodies but in their pockets, had only one

Newspaper article relating to suffragist meeting at Ulster Hall (No date).

PRONI Reference: T2125/32/23

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Newspaper article regarding an attack on *Abbeylands* (28<sup>th</sup> March 1914). PRONI Reference: T2125/32/18



The campaign of arson began with the attack on Abbeylands, the Whiteabbey property of Sir Hugh McCalmont, on 27 March 1914. The report on the damage appeared in *The Irish News* (28 March 1914) and the photograph in *The Belfast Evening Telegraph* (27 March 1914).

The attack on Orlands, a mansion near Kilroot, had all the hallmarks of a Suffragette outrage. The militant women left no room for doubt that they were the perpetrators. In what had been reduced to a shell were found postcards with various Ulster Suffragette slogans. *The Belfast Evening Telegraph*, 9 April 1914.

Image of *Abbeylands* following an arson attack by suffragettes published in the local press (29<sup>th</sup> March 1914). PRONI Reference: T2125/32/18

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**LATEST SUFFRAGIST  
OUTRAGE.**

**HOW NOT TO GET VOTES.  
ORLANDS REDUCED TO  
RUINS.**

**BELONGED TO BISHOP HENRY.  
THE USUAL SILLY MESSAGES LEFT.**

Orlands—one of the finest old mansions along the County Antrim coast, situated near Kilroot, between Carrickfergus and Whitehead—has been reduced to ashes. The outrage was perpetrated by Suffragists, who left two copies of their official organ and a number of postcards in an exposed position near the central avenue. The Suffragist papers, on the outside of which appear hieroglyphics in ink that have not yet been deciphered, contain several lewd contributions on "The God Property," and give prominence to articles elucidating the policy of destructiveness that has been the fundamental plank in the militant campaign both in Ulster and elsewhere. The postcards had written on them in large round capital letters the following sentiments:—

"VOTES FOR WOMEN."  
"WHY WAS NOT CARSON IN THE DOCK BY THE SIDE OF DOROTHY EVANS!"  
"COERCION AND BRUTALITY WILL NOT STOP MILITANCY."  
"APPLY TO SIR E. CARSON FOR DAMAGES."  
"SIR E. CARSON THREATENS TO DESTROY LIFE. WOMEN ONLY DESTROY PROPERTY."  
"JUSTICE AND FAIR PLAY FOR WOMEN, OR MILITANCY MUST FORGE AHEAD."  
"YOU HAVE BETRAYED IRISH WOMEN. THEREFORE WE WORK WHILE YOU TALK.—TO SIR EDWARD CARSON."  
"DEEDS, NOT WORDS."  
"MILITANCY HAS BEEN FORCED ON WOMEN."  
"A REPLY TO CARSON'S BETRAYAL OF IRISH WOMEN."  
"CARSON TALKS—  
"REDMOND TALKS—  
"SUFFRAGETTES ACT!"

In fixing upon Orlands as a residence that would be easily susceptible to fire, the authors of the outrage were well advised. The woodwork consisted, to a large extent, of pitch pine, though the doors—on many of which was carved the monogram of the original owner—were of polished oak. Once the fire was well kindled it spread with extraordinary rapidity, and before long the interior was entirely enveloped, and no human agency could avert the disaster that followed. The outbreak was first observed at five o'clock by some men working in the International Salt Mines. At this time rain was falling in torrents, and the wind was raging with the violence of a hurricane. A thick haze hung over the Lough, and through the blackened atmosphere the sparks  
**SHOT UP LIKE SIGNAL ROCKETS**

Newspaper article regarding destruction of property by suffragettes in Co. Antrim (9<sup>th</sup> April 1914). PRONI Reference: T2125/32/28

**BELFAST SUFFRAGISTS IN COURT.**  
**USUAL LIVELY SCENES.**  
**MAGISTRATE ADJOURNS.**

In the Belfast Police Court this afternoon—before Messrs. Garrett Nagle, R.M., and D. A. Black, J.P.—the female Suffragists, Miss Dorothy Evans and Miss Maud Muir, were brought up on remand charged with having, on 3rd April, at Belfast, had in their possession certain dangerous or noxious things with intent thereby or by means thereof to commit or for the purpose of enabling certain other persons to commit certain of the felonies mentioned in the Act 24 and 25 Vic., c. 97, an Act relating to malicious injury to property. They were also charged with having had in their possession or under their control an explosive substance under such circumstances as to give rise to a reasonable suspicion that they did not have it in their possession or under their control for a lawful object.

Mr. J. R. Moorhead, Crown Solicitor, appeared to prosecute, and the accused were represented by Mr. G. M'Cracken. A number of sympathisers with the Suffragist movement were in court.

Head-Constable Baird, having taken his place in the witness-box, to be examined by Mr. Moorhead, there was an immediate interruption when Miss Evans made a voluble speech, in which she denied the right of the court to try her and her colleagues.

Mr. Nagle pointed out that the women were represented by Mr. M'Cracken.

This remark of the magistrate had no effect upon the lady, who very strongly objected to the charge having been brought under the Explosives Act, while Sir Edward Carson and the Craigavon party were not interfered with. Mr. Nagle (she said) might as well have two matches in his pocket, or any other member of the public.

Miss Muir then made a noisy demonstration.

Mr. Nagle—I can't listen while all this noise is going on. Let the accused be removed round here (pointing to the witnesses' bench).

Forcibly escorted by Head-Constable Baird and other constabulary officers, the two women were transferred as directed.

The women supporters in court keeping up a running fire of interruptions, the court was ordered by Mr. Nagle to be cleared. Many of the Suffragists refused to go, but the physical powers of the police prevailed, and a certain amount of silence was obtained.

Mr. Moorhead—There will be another charge later on, I believe, to include the local sympathisers with these people, and enable them also to face the music.

A noisy demonstration continued to be kept up both inside and outside the court.

Mr. Nagle said he would adjourn the hearing for an hour—until 2.45 p.m.

When the sitting was resumed.

During the cross-examination of a witness by her solicitor, Miss Evans, who was standing immediately behind him, was observed to seize a large law book with the apparent intention of throwing it at the magistrate, but it was immediately wrested from her by police and solicitors.

Shortly afterwards she made a feint and grasped a light walking cane, which she had observed in her vicinity, but this also was taken off her.

Next she struggled violently with the police on either side of her, the proceedings being meanwhile interrupted.

The accused were remanded till Tuesday.

Newspaper article relating to the trial of suffrage activists Maud Muir and Dorothy Evans (8<sup>th</sup> April 1914). PRONI Reference: T2125/32/19



Newspaper extract - photograph of Maud Muir and Dorothy Evans during their trial (8<sup>th</sup> April 1914). PRONI Reference: T2125/32/22



**Newspaper extract - photograph of supporters outside court during the trial of Maud Muir and Dorothy Evans (21<sup>th</sup> April 1914). PRONI Reference: T2125/32/22**

**THE ATTACK ON THE OLD  
TOWN HALL.**

**TWO MONTHS FOR A  
SUFFRAGETTE.**

**FIRMNESS OF SIR ANDREW NEWTON-  
BRADY.**

Arising out of the attack on the Old Town Hall on Thursday night, when a window was broken by a suffragette, a case was heard on Saturday in the Custody Court, before Sir Andrew Newton-Brady, R.M., when a young woman named Mabel Small appeared in the dock, wearing a green costume and carrying in her hand a bunch of daffodils. The charge against the accused, who was described as a teacher in the Technical Institute, was that of maliciously damaging the window. Her address was given as 43, Marsden Gardens.

Constable Heslip stated, in answer to Mr. Spiller, that when he was on duty at ten minutes past eleven o'clock on Thursday night near the Old Town Hall prisoner stopped him and asked him to direct her to Chichester Street. He did so, and as he saw her looking round at the windows of the building he became suspicious, and, hiding in a doorway, saw her come back in about ten minutes and throw a stone through one of the panes of glass. He immediately ran out and arrested her, and she told him that she was caught too soon, otherwise she would have smashed more.

Prisoner—How long did it take you to reach me from where you were?  
Constable—Less than half a minute.  
Were you near to me?—Very near by.  
Did I struggle any or attempt to escape?  
—No.  
Did you find anything on me?—In your handbag were four half-bricks.  
What was found on them?—Different labels.  
What was the message on the labels?—They were different.  
At the request of the Resident Magistrate the constable here produced the bag and bricks, which were handed up to the Bench for inspection, and when Sir Andrew Newton-Brady was reading the labels prisoner asked him to read the messages out loud.  
Sir Andrew—No, it is not necessary.  
Prisoner—I think it is.  
Sir Andrew—Well, I think it's not, and I Am the Judge.

Prisoner—It certainly has to do with the case.  
Sir Andrew—Call the next witness.  
Robert M'Quiston then entered the witness-box and proved the value of the window was £1 17s. The building was owned by Lord Londonderry.  
Prisoner—Is there no other joint owner?  
Witness—I could not say.  
Prisoner—I was told the owners of the building were the Corporation.  
Witness—I could not say.  
Prisoner—And that the tenants were Lord Londonderry and Sir Edward Carson.  
Witness—I could not say. I am here merely to prove the value of the glass.  
This concluded the evidence, and when prisoner was asked had she anything to say she replied that she had a great deal, and she commenced to open out sheets of foolscap paper which contained her statement.  
Sir Andrew Newton-Brady said he would listen to anything that was pertinent to the case, but not to anything else.  
Prisoner then began with the words—  
Firstly, I deny your right to try me. Who put you there to judge women? The laws were made by men.  
Sir Andrew (interrupting) said—You know perfectly well the risk you were taking when you—  
Prisoner—Allow me.  
Sir Andrew—No, I won't listen to you. I assume you knew the consequences of this act of which you were guilty—  
Prisoner—It's my privilege to have a word to say.  
Sir Andrew—You will be sentenced to two calendar months' imprisonment. Remove her.  
Accused, who clutched the rail of the dock and attempted to proceed with her address, was hurried out to the cells.

Newspaper article regarding court case following an attack on the Old Town Hall involving Mabel Small (April 1914)  
BCT/3/1/7

*attach to paper  
on Miss Small's file*

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, BELFAST.

The Belfast News-Letter, 1st June, 1914.

#### SCENES WITH SUFFRAGETTES.

Exciting scenes took place earlier in the morning in the vicinity of the Liverpool shed owing to the presence of four Suffragettes, including Mrs. Baker, Miss Dorothy Evans, and Miss Mabel Small, who had apparently come down with the object of putting their views before Sir Edward Carson as he came ashore. They carried placards with the usual sentiment, "Votes for Women" on one side and the question, "Why is Mrs. Parkhurst in jail and Sir Edward Carson free?" on the other. At the outset it was evident that the appearance of the Suffragettes would lead to trouble owing to the hostile attitude of a large crowd of mill girls who had assembled at the quay, and the Suffragettes were warned by the police authorities of the risk they ran of exposing themselves to personal violence. With the object of preventing disorder the harbour police, under the direction of Superintendent J. A. Johnston and Inspector James Geelan, escorted them off the harbour estate, but ignoring the advice they returned to the danger zone, and were subjected to physical abuse at the hands of the irate mill girls, who proceeded to take the law into their own hands. It is understood that the Suffragettes explained their return by the statement that they wanted to suffer for the cause, and certainly their desire was fully realised. Miss Small was taken to a place of safety on three occasions, but she returned undaunted, with the result that the mill girls renewed their attacks, and but for the efforts of a number of Volunteers, who did their utmost to protect her, she would have suffered seriously. As it was the mill girls, now thoroughly incensed, dragged the hat from her head, pulled her hair, and disarranged her clothing, portions of which was practically torn to tatters. The harbour police and a number of members of the Royal Irish Constabulary again came to the rescue just as Miss Small was in a state of collapse, and she was conveyed to the ticket office in the Ayr shed, pending the arrival of the ambulance in which she was conveyed to the Mater Infirmorum Hospital. On arrival at that institution it was found that she was suffering severely from shock, but she was subsequently able to go home in company with a friend. A second Suffragette, who refused to give her name, stating that she had a right to be there and intended to speak to Sir Edward Carson, was also set upon by the belligerent mill girls, and she was taken inside the shed for protection and conducted to a place of safety, only to return to the scene as soon as opportunity offered. A third member of the party received a cut on the head. The unpleasant proceedings lasted for over an hour, but it must be conceded that the Suffragettes brought the trouble on themselves by ignoring the advice which was tendered to them with the best of intentions. The Harbour Police and Constabulary did everything in their power to cope with the situation, but they had to deal with a crowd of enormous dimensions and to regulate the traffic to and from the shed in the best manner possible under the circumstances, this task being in itself sufficient to occupy all the available force on duty.

Newspaper article relating to the suffragist activities of Mabel Small (1<sup>st</sup> June 2014).

PRONI Reference: BCT/3/1/7

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~~43. Marsden Gardens~~ 1/0 D. E. Bell  
4. Blage Gardens  
April 16: 14

To The Principal  
Dear Sir

As you will probably have seen an account in the papers of my arrest and imprisonment, I beg to inform you that, after four days' hunger-and-thirst-strike, I have been released under the Cat and Mouse Act, and shall be at my duties at the Technical Institute, on Monday as usual.

Yours faithfully Mabel Small.

Letter from Mabel Small to the Principal of Belfast Municipal Technical Institute (16<sup>th</sup> April 2014). PRONI Reference: BCT/3/1/7

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25th April, 1914.

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, BELFAST.

I acknowledge your letter received some days ago - of April, 16th.

Want to tell you that apart altogether from your letter this matter of yours has been discussed at the Technical Committee. The Members are very concerned about this business, concerned in various ways.

It has always been a rule in this Institute, and this holds for everyone, that no one can with justice to this *duties who done* Institution take up any work of a propoganda nature. This Institution requires the whole effort and thought ~~and work~~ of the members of the Staff.

Wherever any case has arisen in connection with the men that aim ~~has~~ been put before them.

If I remember rightly it stated in your Conditions of Service to the Institute that other duties may not be taken up.

Left in that particular form as occasionally teachers have taken up writing books relating to their subject or have engaged in experimental work in their branch. Every teacher wanted to give the fullest possible to duties or other work in connection with duties; they can do this better than if the Conditions said "No other work".

On the general question of damage to Corporation Property I do not want to say anything.

It is undesirable for teachers whose energies are engaged to their fullest extent to take up work of a propoganda character.

The matter was before the Committee on Thursday last. The Committee very much concerned about this.

Concerned that the name of a Member of the Staff should appear in Police Court Proceedings. It was decided to hold the matter over until next Thursday.

**Belfast Municipal Technical Institute - letter from the Chairman and Committee considering suffrage activities of Mabel Small (25<sup>th</sup> April 1914). Image 1 of 3. PRONI Reference: BCT/3/1/7**

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MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, BELFAST.

As far as I am concerned and as far as anyone is concerned everyone ~~is~~ entitled to liberty of conscience, and I think it would be very improbable that the Committee would desire to interfere with your conscience in any matter that you desire to have liberty to think upon.

Am quite sure that ~~my~~<sup>our</sup> employers would resent propaganda work of any kind and would say you cannot continue in our employment if your energies are expended in that particular way., for you cannot serve us efficiently if your energies are taken up in work of another kind.

If anything occurs which keeps you away from business I think they would be justified in taking that attitude.

I put it to you that it is an understanding in this place that everybody is required to abstain from propaganda work and to give their whole energy to the work of the Institute.

As far as possible are expected to use the holidays for regeneration of their efforts so that they may return to their work with full vigour .

I may explain what has been done, the general attitude. Want to explain that the whole case was brought up~~y~~ by Members of the Committee and the matter was adjourned. Adjourned in order that we might hear from you ~~at~~ our next meeting on this matter, on your probable attitude, and I am to tell you that depending on what ~~we~~ hear from you will be dependent any decision they may take. They have requested me to speak to you, to put plainly <sup>in</sup> general terms the position of the Institute to all its Officers.

(Statement)

It is so easy for words to be repeated, and with the greatest desire to convey the exact sense that you meant with the words to make mistakes, that I will ask you to give me a note between

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, BELFAST.

this and next Tuesday or Wednesday of what you have just told me now, making reference to what I have told you. The Committee have requested me to speak to you on this matter, Please put your statement in writing.

There is no one I am quite sure who is desirous of preventing conscious views.

The Committee is not anxious to see a member of the Staff figuring in the Police Courts. They are anxious that the work of the Institute should not be interfered with and any action of a member of the Staff which would interfere with the work of the Institute would be regarded most unfavourably by them as by me.

Further aspect of question referred to in newspaper reports - that your act was one which was taken with the object of damaging Corporation property.

The Committee recognise that you are an Officer of the Corporation, on Corporation property, and that there is no guarantee that this property will not be damaged.

When a person employed by the Corporation lays themselves out to damage the property of their employers - and this statement conveys the impression that you were doing so - the position of that person is an absolutely impossible one.

If an employee of the Institute associates with other persons who wish to damage the property of the Corporation, they are accessory to the damage of Corporation property.

Consider of accessory to damage to Corporation property and consequently to your employers

**Belfast Municipal Technical Institute - letter from the Chairman and Committee considering suffrage activities of Mabel Small (25<sup>th</sup> April 2014). Image 3 of 3. PRONI Reference: BCT/3/1/7**

Mabel Small  
(Allan Mitchell)

To the Chairman &  
Members of the Committee for <sup>Library &</sup> Tech. Instruction - Belfast.

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the Principal's wishes, I beg to lay before you my answers to certain considerations submitted to me by him, with reference to my action in breaking the window of the Ulster Unionist Council on April 9:-

1) "That it is generally understood, especially by men-teachers employed in the Technical Institute, that they should refrain from taking part in any propaganda, either inside or outside their work."

I have not understood this, nor can I discover anything in the wording of my agreement to lead me to imagine that such was intended. I have been requested to refrain from all discussion or attempt at propaganda in the classes, which request I have strictly observed.

2) "That my agreement binds me to enter into no work which can in any way interfere with my duties at the Technical Institute."

The Head of my Department is willing to answer for me that, so far I have not allowed my work for the Women's Social and Political Union to in any way

Letter from Mabel Small to the Chairman and Committee members considering her suffrage activities at Belfast Municipal Technical Institute (April 1914). Image 1 of 4. PRONI Reference: BCT/3/1/7

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- interfere with the punctual and faithful performance of my duties.
- 3) "That I shall not perform any work likely to be detrimental to my health, thus hindering me from the proper discharge of my duties."  
Again - I must refer you to Jim McKeown, who will tell you that, although hunger striking for four days in prison during the holidays, I was able to return on the first day of the term, and discharge my duties to his satisfaction.  
I may add that, whilst pursuing my policy of defiance of the Government, it was also a desire to be back at my duties in time, which actuated me in adopting the hunger and thirst strike.
- 4) "That my attack was directed against Corporation property, and could thus be interpreted as an attack upon my employer."  
It was made clear in court, during the proceedings, that those liable for the damage were the trustees of the property - viz: Lord Londonderry and Sir Edward Carson, against whom my attack was directed, as was shown by the message on the label affixed to the stone.
- 5) "That in remaining an active member of the Union, my position as paid employee of the Corporation is an anomalous one, as I should be aiding and abetting those who are attacking and destroying Government property."

Letter from Mabel Small to the Chairman and Committee members considering her suffrage activities at Belfast Municipal Technical Institute (April 1914). Image 2 of 4. PRONI Reference:

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[www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)

It is true I am a paid employee of the Government, but I am also a householder, and, whilst paying me for my services, the Government is extracting money from me in the form of taxes. Although granting the right to all new householders to have a voice in the administration of those taxes, it denies me the same right because I am a woman.

I therefore, declare that it is the Government which places me in that anomalous position, thus making an enemy of one who is serving it in the interests of the community.

6) "That the Committee object to any member of their staff appearing at police courts, or being imprisoned or mixed up with police proceedings." Again - I must put the blame for this deplorable state of affairs upon the Government.

Whilst women are forced into the attitude of rebels, such proceedings, though exceedingly painful to all concerned, are necessary in order to bring home to the minds of the general public the real position of women.

In conclusion, for the satisfaction of the Committee, I beg to give the following undertaking —

Letter from Mabel Small to the Chairman and Committee members considering her suffrage activities at Belfast Municipal Technical Institute (April 1914). Image 3 of 4. PRONI Reference: BCT/3/1/7

43. Mandew Gardens.  
Carr Hill Rd.  
Belfast.  
June 24<sup>th</sup>

Dear Mr. Forth,

As we are nearing the end of the term, and next week will be the last day of June, I am writing to remind you, and through you the Committee, that my promise to refrain from militancy applied only to the term, and that I reserved the right to do as I pleased with my holidays.

I am sending you this reminder now, in order that the Committee may have time to fully reconsider the advisability of retaining me on the staff, and in case I might be called upon to resume militant action.

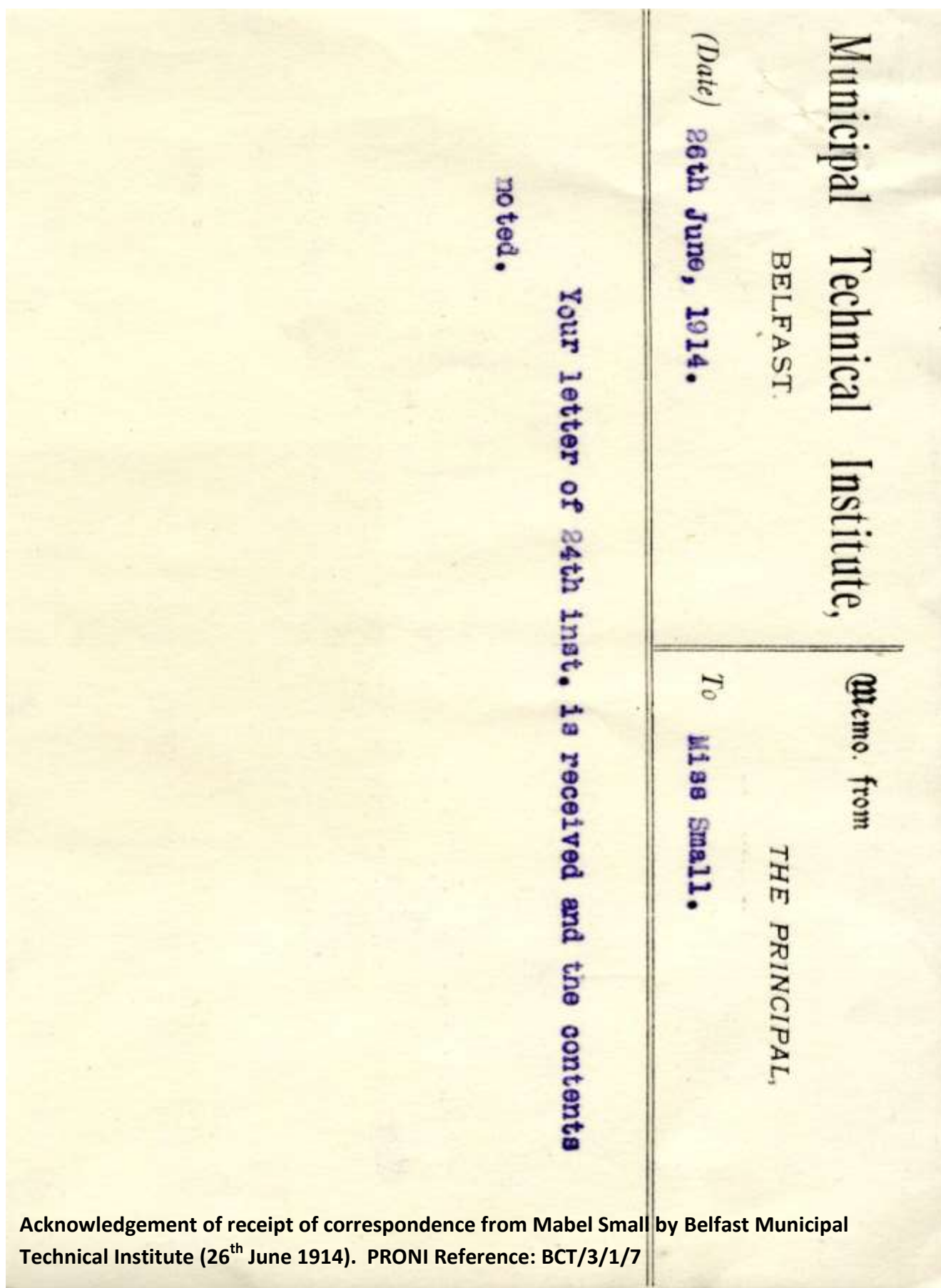
Assuring you always of the punctual performance of my duties, as far as lies in my power -

I am

Yours faithfully

M. Small.

Letter from Mabel Small to the Principal of Belfast Municipal Technical Institute (24<sup>th</sup> June 2014). PRONI Reference: BCT/3/1/7



Acknowledgement of receipt of correspondence from Mabel Small by Belfast Municipal Technical Institute (26<sup>th</sup> June 1914). PRONI Reference: BCT/3/1/7