

Men's Political Union for Women's Enfranchisement.

13, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

The Case of William Ball.

Official Brutality on the Increase.

Last December the 21st, Mr. William Ball, a Birmingham man, and a member of the Transport Worker's Federation, was sentenced to two month's imprisonment for breaking a Home Office window, in protest against the sentence passed on another Suffragist.

In gaol he demanded the treatment laid down by Mr. Churchill's regulation for political offenders of this kind. His demand was refused, and he adopted the hunger strike.

Twice a day for five-and-a-half weeks, the authorities, doctors and wardens of Pentonville Gaol fed him by force, Still he held out. Visitors, Letters, and examination by doctors from outside were refused him. Nothing could shake his determination to claim the rights granted to political prisoners like Dr. Jameson, and Mr, Ginnell, M.P. not even the collapse of his mind, under the prolonged and repeated torture broke his will.

On January the 22nd, Mrs. Ball was informed that he was in his usual health. She heard no more until February the 12th, when she received the following brief and inhuman note: -

"I regret to inform you that it is intended to certify your husband insane on Monday the 12th inst., and I am applying to a Justice to attend on Monday to make an order for his detention as a pauper lunatic, and investigate the case." H.M. DAVIES, Governor."

Could anything be more pitiless, more heartless, more devoid of common humanity? A man is driven mad by torture, and this is how his wife is informed.

A convicted swindler like Mr. Hooley is even allowed to pursue his profession in gaol. A working man, for a merely nominal political offence is tortured into insanity. We who demand the enfranchisement of women are thus treated under a Government that calls itself Liberal. The House Secretary, the Prison Commissioners, the Governors of Gaols

are the country's servants. We pay them large salaries; unenfranchised women out of their own pockets help to pay them; in the hope that they will maintain justice. And this is the way in which our paid servants fulfil their trust.

But no matter what their treatment may be, the members of the Men's Political Union,

like Mr. Ball himself, will not cease from their endeavour to secure full and equal citizenship for the women of our country, and we call upon all the men of the country who care for freedom, to join our Union, and fight without reservation against this or any other Government that is guilty of such atrocious acts.

HENRY W. NEVINSON.*

Chairman of Committee.

*Henry W. Nevinson, university lecturer in history and later journalist (earning a reputation for his excellent coverage of the Boer war) was co-founder of Men's League for Women's Suffrage. His writings include *Women's Vote and Men* (1913), *Essays in Freedom and Rebellion* (1921) the autobiographical works, *Changes and Chances* (1925-28).