

ly not be sustained and orders a new trial. Had the views of the lower court prevailed, four of these men whose sentences were but for one year each would have served their full time before the higher court had found that on account of substantial error the conviction could not be sustained.

Even with the order of the Circuit Court allowing release on bail, there was danger of such injustice. Bail in the cases of these six men was fixed at \$10,000 for those sentenced to one year and \$60,000 for one sentenced to six years. But for the fact that friends were found able to furnish this heavy security, they would have been left to serve as convicts with the question of their guilt or innocence still in doubt. However innocent they may have been, however strong the grounds on which a new trial might be demanded, lack of money or of friends with money would nevertheless have surely forced them to undergo the penalty of guilt. However one may view this case the fact cannot be hidden that a poor man subjected to prosecution in our courts is in greater danger of suffering injustice than a wealthier one.

S. D.

### Taxation and Suffrage.

Dr. Anna Shaw urges women to refuse to make income tax returns on the ground of "no taxation without representation." This has been compared with Mrs. Pankhurst's militant policy, but the comparison is unfair. Mrs. Pankhurst's militant acts have injured not only the participants, but others—even some friends of the suffrage movement. Dr. Shaw's proposed action can injure only those who willingly follow her advice, and these, one may safely assume, will act with full knowledge of possible consequences. But if "no taxation without representation" is a valid reason for opposing a tax, it applies to many legal voters as well as to disfranchised women. Present methods of choosing representatives, and lack of control over them after election, make so many votes ineffective as to deprive large bodies of voters of representation. Election of single representatives from districts deprives of representation all whose views on public questions are not held by the successful candidate. In a district electing a Democrat all Republicans, Progressives, Socialists and members of other parties or groups fail to secure representation—to say nothing of Democrats of a different brand than the party candidate. The same is true in a district electing a Republican, Progressive or Socialist. Until proportional representation will be secured ensuring to each party

or group representation in proportion to its numbers there will be almost as much taxation without representation after equal suffrage has been secured as before. All women and men are not only entitled to a vote but to an opportunity to vote effectively.

The phrase "no taxation without representation" owes its popularity to its supposed connection with the resistance of American colonists to the Stamp Act. One must hold a poor opinion of the revolutionary fathers to imagine that they would have tamely submitted to an unjust tax if they had had representation in the Parliament that imposed it. If Benjamin Franklin, who addressed Parliament in opposition to the measure, had been allowed a vote and had cast it against the tax as he certainly would have done—what difference would it have made? The tax would have been robbery just the same. The colonists would certainly not have been deluded into submission. It is not believable that they would have solemnly proclaimed, "We will submit to robbery provided it be done by act of a parliament in which a few members will represent us."

In view of the fact that there are better methods available for gaining representation, Dr. Shaw's advice ought to be rejected on grounds of expediency. Whether it may be ethically justified depends entirely on the government's moral right to levy the tax. If the principle is correct that every one should pay in proportion to his or her ability for services rendered by government, then the income tax is honestly due, vote or no vote, and resistance, for any reason, would be wrong. If the principle quoted is incorrect, if a person's right to all that he honestly earns is such that it is robbery even for the government to forcibly take any, then the tax is wrong even when imposed by vote of one's own representatives. In that event every tax levied on labor and its products is robbery. In that case no other moral objection can be urged against Dr. Shaw's advice than the one that it may be wrong to endanger a just cause through arousal of prejudice against it. Such prejudice may result from unwise insistence on a moral right. Her advice may be "magnificent but it is not war."

S. D.

### Unearned Increment.

That the land question lies close to the heart of British politics is evident from the continued comment of the English press on the recent sale