

THE SUFFRAGETTES IN SHIPLEY

To the Editor of the Yorkshire Post

Sir, - May I point out one or two inaccuracies in your report of our Shipley Glen demonstration on Sunday last? It is true that there was a great disturbance at one of our platforms, from a gang of ruffians who booed and caterwauled incessantly for the first half-hour, and pelted us with various missiles, but their conduct was not endorsed by the many thousands who had gathered to listen to us, and who much resented this outbreak of hooliganism. Finding it impossible to gain a hearing in front of the lorry, owing to this gang, we turned round and addressed the crowd at the back, which consisted mostly of serious responsible people anxious to hear us. Though our voices could not carry far in the surrounding din, we were able to make ourselves heard by those immediately nearer us, and our three speakers addressed three separate audiences from different corners of the same lorry - and event probably unprecedented in the annals of public speaking. Your report states that I could not gain a hearing until I had admitted that the military in Dublin Theatre was wrong (though I attributed all blame therefore to the Government), but the fact of the case is that I had at that time already been speaking for over an hour, and was interrogated on this point in answer to my own demands questions. I also said I was very glad the point had come up, because the papers in reporting the incident had carefully refrained from stating that, at the time it occurred, the audience and nearly all left the theatre after the "first house," and had not yet assembled for the "second house," so the danger was (purposely) reduced to a minimum, and the act was one of suggestion and symbolism rather than of deliberate intent. Hoping you will kindly publish this explanation, I am Sir, yours, etc.

WINIFRED SUTCLIFFE GREAVES, Press Secretary, Bradford Branch, W.S.P.U. Ingle House, Shipley. July 22. 1912