

## Shotgun Troth, Dowry or Dole

A petition, bearing the names of a million Britishers, asks the House of Commons that pensions be provided for all spinsters who have reached the unproductive age of 55.

Why not? The government owes everybody a living. Why discriminate against these unfortunate females? Since raids on the public treasury are the vogue, should any group for any reason deny themselves the privilege of loot?

Let's rationalize their claim. They should have been married these many years, and no doubt most of them were at one time very desirable mates. They couldn't all have been homely. But whom should they have married? The poor unfortunates on the dole? One can starve more

cheaply than two. Or, would you have every seamstress and every chambermaid share her wage with some unemployed man for the privilege of having a husband?

This is, or should be, the argument of the spinsters for their bill; England, you have laws that do not give our men the opportunity to find work and live the normal lives of happily married husbands and fathers. Therefore we have also been deprived of the right to wifedom and motherhood. In our old age we are lonely and helpless. Assume the blame for your wicked laws—and support us.

—F. C.

Ses: "Land Question," pp. 32-3.  
"Thou Shalt Not Steal," p. 5.  
"Progress and Poverty," p. 357.