

AL/2702

14. XI. 06

Dear Madam,

Miss Polliser is at Oxford today & I will therefore venture to send you to reply to your letter. Several valuable leaflets bearing on the point are now out of print & being in some ways out of date, will really require partial re-writing - In the meantime I enclose one or two things somewhat a propos. One reply (to those who ~~do~~ complain that working women do not form Trade Unions as much as men) is that women feel that without voting-power Trade Unions have very little power & that there is, comparatively, therefore less inducement to them to form them than for men to do so. Another is that Trade Unions among men thrive best where workers are well-paid & least well where the wages are low & the competition (from overcrowding) most severe. It appears to be the same with women, only that the adverse conditions are more frequent with women. Mirably, the men are in many instances using their voting-power to obtain legislation the effect of which is to improve their position at the expense of that of women-workers (this after unconsidered). It can also be shown that subsequent to each Reform Bill.

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intended
legislation for the benefit of the newly enfranchised class
has been undertaken. i. g. -
after the: -

Reform Bill of 1832
(infranchising the ^{lower} middle-class)

Reform Bill of 1868
(infranchising workmen in
the towns)

Reform Bill of 1884
(infranchising the agricultural
labourer)

Causes: -

Free Trade & complete reform
of the fiscal system, intended to reduce
the cost of living for ~~the~~ household
of small means.

Repeal of legislation
against Trades' Unions.

Rural Sanitation
Technical Education
County & Borough ^{+ District} Councils + special
consideration of the rights of
agricultural labourers, & deal fully with
a long way

It is difficult without writing a long way
some questions, but the points I have mentioned may be
of some use pending your further consideration of the subject,
when no doubt many more valuable ones may occur to you.

Yr. faithfully
J. Sterling.