

W. McLaren

Cause  
S.P.

AL/309

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7, Fenchurch Avenue, E.C.

March 16th, 1906.

Dear Miss Palliser,

I am sorry that I shall be abroad on the 22nd, and cannot attend the Committee. I shall only be back on the 25th, but shall be at the Sheffield Meeting on the 26th.

I note your proposal as to Miss Watson, but it is not clear whether the travelling expenses, which are in addition to the salary, include merely railway fares, or whether they include all hotel living, and every other kind of expense, while she is travelling and working for the Society. If they do include all these, then the salary is in my opinion very much too high, and I think it ought not to be more than £100 a year. If, on the other hand, the travelling expenses are limited to Railway fares, then I have nothing to say, although I think the figure named is still somewhat large. It must be remembered that for three months of the year she is to be at liberty, and compared with what I know my wife pays for similar work, I think your scale is a high one.

I also greatly doubt the wisdom of her working in Surrey, Kent and Sussex, for these three counties, above all others, are thoroughly well worked from the Liberal point of view by my wife and her organizer, Miss Edwards, and I do not believe that Miss Watson will be able to make much headway among the Conservatives in those counties, and there is absolutely nothing she need do among the Liberals.

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I should be glad if the Committee will consider the question again in the light of these remarks, before arriving at their decision. //

I do not know to whom to write in reference to a point that may be of interest to the Committee in Edinburgh that is carrying on the litigation about the Women Graduates, but I wish you could kindly point out to whoever has it in hand that they should carefully examine the Charter under which the London University was enabled to grant degrees to women, and I think they will find in it an express prohibition against women being allowed to vote for the member for the University. That is to say that when degrees were given to women their right to be upon the University Council was restricted so as not to include the right to vote for Parliament. If this be so, and if no similar restricting words are in the Scotch Act, then it is fair to argue that Parliament took a different view as to the rights of the Scotch women from what it did as to the rights of the English women. The point is at any rate worth looking into.

Yours sincerely,

Walter S. M. Lane