



14. vii. 36.

AL/1205

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your letter. I do not know that I have much to say that can assist you in your work.

With regard to the question as to why we have no more women in Parliament, I think it is well to remember that history shows that a considerable time always elapses before the representatives of a newly enfranchised class find their way into the House of Commons. It was a considerable time after the vote had been given to the wage-earners in this country that more than a handful were elected to the House of Commons.

I think it depends to a large extent on the attitude of the women electors. I doubt if at the present time they give adequate support to the women candidates.

I am not prepared to accept the statement that women are prepared to stop war. I am afraid experience shows that women are as susceptible to war propaganda as men.

I should, myself, welcome a greater number of women in the ranks of the Labour Party in the House of Commons. I have not noticed any great inclination on the part of Conservative women members to take a different line from the rest of their colleagues either on peace or social reform.

Yours sincerely,

C. R. Butler

Miss Vera Leslie.