

AL/2711

SOUTH WALES CIRCUIT.

Cardiff Quarter Sessions

30 June 1908

Dear Madam

Re meeting in Poplar on 8 July.
I am writing by way of reply to your letter to Mrs. Ince, to explain again the character of the meeting, which I explained when I originally arranged it, but which evidently you are a little vague about.

The meeting is primarily a members' meeting of the Poplar Labour League and takes place on its premises. The P.L.L. is a Socialist body with a strong local standing, — it has been particularly associated with the career and personality of Will Crooks, — and is also the I.L.P. branch for Poplar, and

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much the strongest I.L.P. branch in the East-End. It meets weekly, and 2 of its meeting-nights every month are given to Discussions, of which I am chairman. These discussions are not a usual feature, in London, of I.L.P. branch activity: they are well attended by a very good class of active workers, including prominent trade-unionists and a number of women; and they supply a real seed-plot of opinion.

Now the importance of your getting the I.L.P. branches strongly on your side is a thing not needing emphasis. They are among the very best

recruiting-grounds open to you for supplying active workers. Only in London here, chiefly owing to the influence of the S.D.P. and their Adult Suffrage red-baiting, you have nothing like the influence with them that you ought to have. I therefore think that by attending one Discussion and putting your point of view you will do a very useful thing if you do it well.

The Order of events is as follows. The meeting begins sharp at 8.30. I do not take Minutes, but do take the names of any new members, and give out notices. At 8.35 I call on you to open the Discussion on ~~the~~ "Votes for Women". You will be well-advised to speak 40-45 minutes. I then ask for Questions and after 5-10 minutes of them comes

Discussion. Shortly after 10 I stop this, make (or don't make) a few remarks myself, and call on you to reply. We aim at finishing about 10.30.

Mrs. Ineson and I will send notes to a number of people outside the Branch to get them to attend the meeting, but you will understand that it is primarily a meeting of members of a Socialist body, and you must look forward ~~more~~ not so much to addressing a multitudinous concourse as to arguing the subject with a smaller gathering of more selected people, — mostly working-class, and often very uneducated, but nearly all keen, and people who carry weight in their trade-unions and so forth.

Yours sincerely
R. C. K. Ineson

Mrs. How Marlyn.