

AEM/H/1887

2nd October, 1935

Dear Mr. Wilson,

You will be aware of the treatment meted out to me by two members of your party during the last week-end, namely, Mr. Eagles and Mr. Hunt, who, while pretending to visit Carlisle as members of the Conference arranged by the Temperance Legislation League, completely detached themselves from the party and made various inspections and visits to our houses and interviewed some of our employees, without any reference to me whatever

I have since been informed that another member of your party behaved in an extraordinary and inexcusable manner. I am informed that the manageress of one of my houses, namely, Mrs. Lang of the Blue Bell, Dalston, was summoned to the Central Hotel on Saturday evening, about 7.30 p.m.; there is some doubt as to was the particular individual who sent the telephone message to the Post Office at Dalston (the Blue Bell is not on the telephone), but the fact remains that on arrival at the Central Hotel, Mrs. Lang, who had not been apprised of the reason for her sudden call to

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Temperance Legislation League,
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H. B. Wilson, Esq.

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Carlisle, ^{was met by} Mr. Herson ^{at 10} took charge of her and escorted her to the drawingroom at the Central Hotel, and she was then asked to expound to the members present, which included Mr. Eagles and Mr. Hunt, the objects of the Scheme and her views on the Scheme generally.

I wish to record an emphatic protest against the conduct of these three members of the party which came to Carlisle last week-end. We have nothing whatever to be ashamed of either in the management of the Scheme or in the condition of our houses and every facility is afforded to members of the public and other authorised parties to be shown round the houses and the Scheme explained to them. This particular incident of summoning a member of my staff on a busy Saturday evening is inexcusable and I think you should be informed that in the event of other Conferences being held in Carlisle under the auspices of the Temperance Legislation League, these three gentlemen will not be welcome in Carlisle, and certainly will not be afforded any further facilities for making themselves acquainted with the Scheme, so long as I am General Manager.

Yours sincerely,

The Temperance Legislation League.

OBJECT: *To promote constructive licensing reform, and to secure statutory facilities for a controlling system of liquor trade management free from incentives which conflict with the objects of our licensing laws.*

Chairman of League: B. SEEBOHM ROWNTREE, C.H.

Chairman of Executive: THE VERY REV. J. G. SIMPSON, D.D. (DEAN OF PETERBOROUGH).

Vice-Chairman: CAPT. R. L. REISS.

Joint Honorary Secretaries { DAVID T. ADAMS, M.A.
{ H. BRAITHWAITE WILSON, B.A.

Honorary Treasurers { SIR JOHN MANN, K.B.E., London.
{ ALEX. GUTHRIE, J.P.

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 1649.

PARLIAMENT MANSIONS,

Orchard Street (off Victoria Street),

WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

3rd October, 1935.

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

I was out when your letter arrived, and so as you see Adams has answered it. At the same time I wish to take this opportunity of adding my own very sincere regrets and apologies that this very unfortunate incident should have occurred. I must assume a certain amount of the blame for having consented to Herron getting Mrs. Lang to address the Conference, but I must add that I did not know that he had rung her up without telling her what was afoot, and I assumed that she was acting with your authorisation since I did not suppose that she would have come otherwise. It was most unfortunate that on the Saturday evening itself I had to interview one of our supporters in Carlisle, and therefore was not able to be fully on the spot at the time. But as I say I was aware of the arrangement that Herron had made, but I was not aware that he had acted in the way he had done since I assumed, as I said before, that Mrs. Lang was fully aware of the circumstances and that she was acting with your authorisation. Otherwise you may be sure I would not have let Herron act as he has done.

With regard to Eagles and Hunt I can only fully concur with what we both said to you when we were in Carlisle and with what Adams has now written. You may be sure that we shall see that nothing of the sort occurs again, and I can only once more express my very deep regret and sincere apologies that these incidents should have occurred.

Finally, I wish to join myself cordially with Adams in the thanks to you for your help and co-operation. The members of the Conference were all very much impressed with what they saw, and I have received very appreciative letters of the arrangements which you and your staff so kindly made enabling them to see the system at work. I hope, therefore, that this very unfortunate incident, which will certainly be the last of its kind, will not spoil our friendly relations in the future.

Yours sincerely,

H. B. Wilson
Hon. Secretary.

A. E. Mitchell, Esq.,

The Temperance Legislation League.

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PARLIAMENT MANSIONS,

Orchard Street (off Victoria Street),
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3rd October, 1935.

My dear Mitchell,

I was horrified this morning on reading the letter which you sent to Wilson in regard to the objectionable practices of three members of the Conference at Carlisle. With regard to Eagles and Hunt I am, of course, in entire agreement with you and I shall have much pleasure in drawing Reiss's attention to it. But I am truly sorry about Herron, the more so as in a sense I was the unwitting cause of what seems to have happened. One or two of the members had asked me if they could see some member of the Advisory Committee, a very laudable desire, as I thought. This was just as I was leaving Carlisle. Wilson was out, and so I turned to Herron and asked him if he would try to arrange that. My meaning, of course, was that he should approach you with a view to getting into touch with the right sort of person. I gathered from Wilson that Herron had found Potts in the bar of one of the houses and had brought him along. That seemed to me all right, but that he should have had the effrontery to call the Manageress from Dalston seems to me quite outrageous, and altogether apart from your determination not to welcome him to Carlisle in the future, I would myself take steps to see that he was not invited in any party of ours.

Will you please accept my sincere apologies for my own part in having unwittingly caused the situation, and I am quite certain that when he returns Wilson, too, will wish to identify himself with this? Also may I thank you very much for all you did for us? My admiration for the way in which you are carrying out the Scheme in face of difficulties from many sides increases the more I see of Carlisle. Strength to your elbow!

Yours sincerely,

D. T. Adams
Hon. Secretary.

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