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Dr Clifford to the extreme length of supporting an ordinary Party Liberal against a fully accredited Socialist Labor candidate (Pete Curran) we had to admit that he was within his rights although we deplored his action extremely. I think therefore that there can be no question that Wells is in order in the course he has taken.

His letter, by the way, appeared on the day on which the Poll closed for the new Fabian Executive. Only 300 votes out of a total of 1800 have as yet been counted; but if these 300 may be taken as samples of the rest, Wells will come out high up on the list. No intimation has yet been received of any action being taken on his letter within the Society. As I have already said, I do not see that his case can be differentiated from that of Dr Clifford; and if the Society were forced to the final issue in the matter: that is, if it had to choose between excommunicating the S.D.P. and excommunicating H.G. Wells, it would probably excommunicate the S.D.P. Outside the S.D.P., I imagine, most Socialists, though they would not have written the letter themselves, are not by any means sorry that Wells was less scrupulous.

Yours faithfully,

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PS. The Fabian poll has now been ascertained - Wells is fourth on the list of 21: that is, above everybody but Webb, Pease & myself. We always head the poll; so this is practically first among the really open places.