

13th March, 1956.

My dear Fieller,

Many thanks for your letter. I will get Bailey's certificate around to you when it is back from Aberdeen. I am sure that Gaddum and Trevan will make good candidates, and that we shall have to continue to be active in putting up men of the right quality on the biometrical side, or the Institute will sink back to its old standards of civil servants and economists. I think and hope we have gone far enough to make sure that among the English-speaking group scientific statistics will not be extinguished.

The rule which I was instrumental in getting adopted, under which the number of new elections is fixed each year, has eaten up the supply quickly, and I conceive that the right remedy is to build up a head of candidature sufficient to make sure that there are always at least twice as many candidates as places to be filled. We are so depleted now that we ought for several years to put up more new certificates than the number to be elected. I have urged Darmois to get the same thing done in France.

I think it important that candidates are elected not at all only by the votes of their compatriots, and that foreigners have a right to choose among the British candidates as we have to choose among theirs. We have never yet touched the maximum eligible under our quota, but I should think it no hardship if we were to do so, for delay of one, or two, or three years in receiving this particular honour can scarcely damage the amour-propre.

Thanks for your support.

Sincerely yours,