

64 who want to serve H.K.

Cream of the crop in a battle of lobbying

THEY represent the cream of the crop — leading figures from all the major economic sectors and professions.

They have been lured to next month's historic election which will send 12 winners to the new-style Legislative Council.

The race is shaping up as the architects of the new Legco envisioned it — a group of powerful lobbyists championing the interests of their respective groups.

The chamber which will emerge after the September 26 election will have 12 seats reserved for nine functional constituencies ranging from finance to law.

Of the 25 candidates for the functional constituencies, five have been returned unopposed.

At least one candidate in each functional constituency has played a leading role in his own trade or profession. Many hold or have held top offices in their respective sectors.

For instance, Mr. Thomas Clydesdale, who is standing for the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, is the group's vice-chairman. Mr. David Li, standing for the banking sector, is the chairman of the Chinese Banks' Association. Both Mr. Martin Lee and Mr. Henry Litton, standing for the legal community, have chaired the Bar Association.

And Mr. Mak Ho-wah, running in the social services sector, is the chairman of the Social Workers' General Union.

Mr. Szeto Wah, president of the Professional Teachers' Union (PTU), was officially fielded by his 30,000-member union to vie for the teaching constituency seat.

leading office-bearers, even though the chamber did not give its formal endorsement.

The Federation of Hongkong Industries put forward its deputy chairman, Mr. Stephen Cheong, while the Chinese Manufacturers Association fielded one of its vice-presidents, Mr. Ngai Shi-ki.

The process was not as smooth in the labour movement sector. Mr. Tam Yiu-chung and Mr. Pang Chun-hoi who came from the Pro-Beijing and Pro-Taiwan union camps, respectively, were chosen only after lengthy debates and consultation among the labour bodies to secure balanced representation.

The contests are the hottest within the functional constituencies composed of the professional elite, such as social services, the legal community, teaching, medical and engineering.

The teaching functional constituency, the largest with 34,182 registered electors, got the highest number of candidates — five.

But the race which will probably draw the most attention is in the legal community where Mr. Martin Lee, Mr. Henry Litton and Mr. Edmund Chow are battling for a seat.

The rivalry between Mr. Lee and Mr. Litton, both popular personalities with lengthy reputations, promises to make the contest resemble the effect of diamond cutting diamond.

The social services race promises to be almost as interesting.

The director of the Hongkong Council of Social Service, Mr. Hui Yin-fat, and the union leader of the frontline workers, Mr. Mak Ho-wah, are equally strong candidates.

The social work secretary of the Caritas, Miss Joyce Chang, also has significant support from the voluntary agencies.



Reports:
Li Wing-on
Yau Sing-mu
Andy Ho
Agnes Lam.

The country cats versus city mice

The Legislative Council election in the New Territories electoral college constituency has been likened to a battlefield for "country cats" and "city mice" who have been struggling over district matters for the past four years.

The main key to success in the election will depend on which type of power dominates in the different constituencies.

It is understood that candidates with rural links will have a better chance in districts such as Shaikong and Yuenlong, where the orthodox and powerful rural committees will definitely have great influence.

Among the eleven district board members who have submitted their nominations, seven have close links with the Heungyeekuk or rural committees.

But, fierce battles are expected in constituencies

where new towns such as Shaikong and Tuenmun are included. These are places where rural leaders are still influential in local communities, but new settlers are, at the same time, building their power bases.

For instance, in the New Territories (East) constituency, four of the five candidates, including Pang Hang-yin, Stephen Wong, Wai Hon-leung and Liu Ching-leung, are members of the

Despite this, they are likely to be strongly challenged by the other candidate in the same constituency, Mr. Andrew Wong, who does not have rural connections, but is known to be supported by young elected board members in Shaikong.

In the case of New Territories (West) constituencies, it is understood that candidates with rural background will have less influence in Tuenmun, where there is a large number of new settlers, so candidates who are supported by pressure groups are more likely to gain votes.

One peculiar aspect of the nominations in the New Territories is that many of the candidates, who previously said they were not interested in standing for election made a last minute rush to file their nominations.

Sources close to the board members said they are two reasons to explain this.

The final decision of the Kuk's chairman, Mr. Lau Wong-fat, to stand for election from the Provisional Regional Council, which has made him the sole candidate for the council, has enabled other candidates from the NT (West) constituency to enter the election.

Six with no race to run

WHILE most candidates now face a tough battle for a seat in the new-style Legislative Council, six aspirants had their place secured when nominations closed yesterday.

The new Legco members have already set their priorities.

Businessman Mr. Ho Sai-chiu said as a representative for the commercial sector, he would fight for free trade and low taxes to ensure that entrepreneurs could have a favourable environment to continue their operations.

He will also consider the interests of workers.

Mr. Stephen Cheong, the spokesman of the Federation of Hongkong Industries, said he would help provide an environment that could allow industries to survive, grow and prosper.

And he pledged that he would look after the macro-interest of the whole community.

This liberal attitude was welcomed by veteran unionist Mr. Pang Chun-hoi who said a stable and contented workforce was essential to the maintenance of Hongkong's thriving economic life.






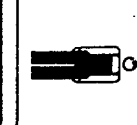


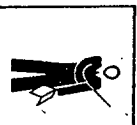

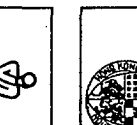

Mr. Pang, a leader of the pro-Taiwan Trades Union Council and Mr. Tam Yiu-chung of the pro-China Federation of Trade Unions, were both unopposed in the labour constituency.

"As there are only two employee representatives in the new-look Legco, I will take the initiative to contact other elected members to convince them that any improvement in labour welfare may not necessarily have ill effects on Hongkong's economy," Mr. Pang said.

The unopposed winner in the financial constituency, Mr. David Li, said he would help speed up the banking reforms which were required to accommodate a healthy and sound banking system in Hongkong.

Mr. Lau Wong-fat, chairman of the Heungyeekuk, said he would like to be a spokesman for both indigenous inhabitants and new urban residents in the New Territories.

Functional Constituencies:

 Commercial (I) Bill Bissau 63 toy exporter Thomas Clydesdale 51 professional accountant	 Commercial (II) Ho Sai-chiu 48 building contractor	 Industrial (I) Stephen Cheong 44 textile company managing director	 Industrial (II) Ho Yau-wing 53 interior design contractor Ngai Shi-ki 80 industrialist	 Labour Tam Yiu-chung 38 trade union director Pang Chun-hoi 64 retail	 Financial David Li 46 banking chief executive
 Social Services Hui Yin-fat 48 social work director Mak Ho-wah 34 social work coordinator Miss Joyce Chang 43 social work secretary	 Medical Dr. Chin Hin-wong 57 medical practitioner Dr. Leong Che-hung 46 medical practitioner	 Teaching Martin Lee 54 primary school principal Ko Gwa-yee 45 secondary school principal Wan Shi-wai 25 primary school teacher Taka Yip 50 secondary school principal Chan Yau-hung 47 headmaster	 Legal Martin Lee 40 47 barrister Henry Litton, QC 51 barrister Edmund Chow 60 solicitor	 Engineering, Architectural, Surveying and Planning Dr. Raymond Ho 46 engineering consultant Tam Yiu-chung planning Cheung Hoi-han 68 engineering consultant item senior partner Tso Liang-ta 61 electrical engineer	 INDIRECT elections in the urban constituencies seem to provide a convenient ladder for professionals and businessmen to climb further up the political ladder. The nominees for the urban electoral colleges are predominantly executives, professionals and business personnel from the educated middle class. Many of the electoral college candidates are indeed qualified to stand in some of the functional constituencies, which are by nature of this indirect election system reserved mainly for the established and organized. Of the 25 candidates from the urban electoral colleges, about 80 per cent made their ambitions known a month ago. However, until August 12, more than half way through the nomination period, only one district board member, Mr. Desmond Lee, had registered his nomination. There are two main reasons for this phenomenon.

Ladder for professionals

The first obvious reason is that many interested board members had difficulty in getting enough nominations.

According to an elected Kuntong District Board member, Mr. David Lee Kwokwing, at least six of his fellow board members have decided not to nominate anyone so as to avoid "unnecessary clashes."

Another more intricate factor for the delay in submitting nominations is a strategic one.

The most competitive urban electoral college is Hongkong Island (East), in which six candidates will fight for a seat. South Kowloon is a close second with four contenders.

The relatively more "peaceful" urban constituencies are Wongai-shan and Shamshuipo, having two candidates each.

Mrs. Elsie Elliott Tu and Mr. Hilton Cheong-Leen, on the other hand, may give their Urban Council colleagues a difficult time in picking one of them.

HK STANDARD 21 AUGUST 85