

Questions for Parliamentary Candidates

(REVISED JULY 1895.)

SIR,

In connection with your candidature for this constituency, I should be obliged if you would be good enough to answer the following questions, and return the paper to me.

I am, yours faithfully,

Name of Elector

Address of Elector

QUESTIONS.

Will you press at the first opportunity for the following reforms :—

I.—A DEMOCRATIC BUDGET.

1. The further taxation of unearned incomes by means of a graduated and differentiated Income Tax ;
2. The total abolition of the duties on tea, cocoa, coffee, currants and other dried fruits, and the substitution for them of direct taxation ;
3. An increase of the scale of graduation of the Death Duties, so as to fall more heavily on large inheritances ;
4. The appropriation of the unearned increment by the taxation and rating of ground rents and values ;
5. The nationalization of mining rents and royalties ?

II.—A LABOR PROGRAM.

6. The fixing of " an Eight Hours Day " as the maximum for all public servants ;
7. An Eight Hours Bill for Miners, without local option ;
8. The legal limitation of the hours of work of railway servants to eight per day or forty-eight per week ;

ANSWERS.

QUESTIONS.

9. A general Eight Hours Bill to be applied with necessary adaptations to the various industries by Home Secretary's order ;

10. The direct employment of labor by all public authorities whenever possible, and, whenever it is not possible, only "fair houses" to be employed, sub-contracting to be prohibited, and Trade Union rates of wages to be paid ?

III.—SOCIAL REFORM IN TOWN AND COUNTRY.

11. The extension of full powers to Parish, Town, and County Councils for the collective organization of the (a) water (b) gas and (c) electric lighting supplies, (d) hydraulic power, (e) tramways and light railways, (f) dwellings for the people, (g) sale of coal and coke, alcoholic liquors, and such other public services as may be desired by the inhabitants ;

12. The transfer of the complete control of the police, and the canals and navigable rivers to the County Councils ;

13. The grant of power to all local bodies to retain the freehold of any land that may come into their possession ;

14. The grant of ample compulsory powers to all local authorities to acquire land to be let out—*not sold*—in allotments and small tenancies, instead of the creation of landowners by any system of land purchase at the public expense or under State guarantee ;

15. The grant of powers to Parish Councils to build and let cottages ;

16. The regulation and control of all local (non-ecclesiastical) charities by Parish, District, and County Councils ;

17. The relief of the existing ratepayer by

(a) Imposing, for local purposes, a municipal death duty on local real estate, collected in the same way as the existing Death Duties ;

(b) Collecting rates from the owners of empty houses and vacant land ;

ANSWERS.



QUESTIONS.

ANSWERS.

(c) Securing special contributions by way of "betterment," from the owners of property benefited by public improvements ;

18. The further equalization of the poor and other rates in London ;

19. The Unification of London Government under the County Council, and the reclamation of London's misappropriated endowments ;

20. The reform of leasehold tenure by giving security to all tenants for their "goodwill" and improvements, instead of the enfranchisement of leaseholds ?

IV.—THE CHILDREN AND THE POOR.

21. The extension of the prohibitions on the employment of children in industrial occupations to the age of 14 years ;

22. The control by School Boards of all State-subsidized schools ;

23. The provision of free meals for necessitous children, out of public funds, in all such schools ;

24. The establishment of Training Colleges for teachers at convenient centres, under full public control and free from sectarian influences ;

25. The creation of a complete system of public secondary education ;

26. The institution of universal State pensions for the support of the aged and infirm as a substitute for the present Poor Law relief ?

V.—DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL MACHINERY.

27. An amendment of the Registration Laws, with the aim of giving every adult man a vote, and no one more than one vote ;

28. A redistribution of seats with a view to make each vote of the same value ;

29. The grant of the franchise to women on the same terms as to men ;

QUESTIONS.

30. The admission of women to seats in the House of Commons and on County Councils ;
31. The second ballot at Parliamentary and other elections ;
32. The payment of all members of Parliament, and of Parliamentary election expenses, out of public funds ;
33. Triennial Parliaments ;
34. All Parliamentary elections to be held on the same day ;
35. Home Rule all round ?

ANSWERS.

Signature of Candidate

Address

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