

# QUESTIONS FOR London Vestrymen.

(REVISED SEPTEMBER 1894.)

SIR, or MADAM,

In connection with your Candidature for the office of Vestryman, 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.

## ANSWERS.

### I.—A DEMOCRATIC BOARD.

1.—Will you vote for evening meetings of the Vestry or District Board, so as to afford facilities for the attendance of Vestrymen and Ratepayers whose occupations leave them no spare time during the day?

2.—Will you vote for granting the use of the Vestry Hall, or other suitable public building, at a nominal charge, for any public meeting convened by twenty ratepayers?

3.—Will you insist on the publication of detailed reports of the sanitary condition of every part of the district, complete returns of all local charities, and the admission of the press and the public to all Board meetings?

4.—Will you use your influence in favor of a systematic official canvass of the whole parish each year, in order to ensure that no qualified person be omitted from the register of electors?

### II.—PROPER TREATMENT OF WORKERS.

5.—Are you in favor of making the Vestry employees weekly servants with a minimum wage of 24s.?

## QUESTIONS.

## ANSWERS.

6.—Will you insist upon the appointment of a Vestry Committee to which any aggrieved employee shall have the right to appeal?

7.—Will you insist that in all work carried out by the Vestry the Trade Union rate of wages shall be paid, and the hours of work shall be limited to a maximum of eight per day, or 48 in each week?

8.—Will you, in every possible case, prefer the direct employment of labor by the Vestry to the intervention of a contractor?

9.—Whenever it is found necessary to employ a contractor, will you insist upon the insertion, in all contracts for supplies as well as for works, of clauses stipulating, under adequate penalties, which shall be rigidly enforced:

(a) against sub-contracting or sweating;

(b) for payment of Trade Union rate of wages and observance of Trade Union hours and conditions, for each trade, as specified in a schedule to the contracts?

(c) that, whenever possible, the working day shall be eight hours only?

(d) that, in all clothing contracts, the whole work shall be done in the contractor's factory, and none given out?

10.—Will you take care that no printing work is given to any firm not on the Fair list of the London Society of Compositors?

11.—Will you support all Vestry employees in securing freedom to join the Trade Union of their occupation, or (if none such exists) to form a union for themselves?

12.—Will you insist upon the Vestry making an earnest endeavor, by co-operating with the Board of Guardians and the County Council, to find, in all periods of depression and distress, temporary useful and honorable employment for those out work, by the arrangement of the public works in such a way as to increase employment at these periods?

13.—Are you in favor of granting a week's holiday every year, with full pay, to all the permanent employees of the Vestry,



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## QUESTIONS.

and will you take care that all workmen are allowed reasonable sick pay in case of illness or accident ?

14.—Will you support the maintenance of a permanent public registry of the unemployed men and women in the parish ?

15.—Will you vote for the provision of accommodation in the Town Hall or other public building for the weekly meetings of Friendly Societies and Trade Unions doing public work in the district ?

### III.—SANITARY AND OTHER REFORMS.

16.—Will you support the fullest application of the law against insanitary property, without respect of persons, and the provision of efficient and adequate sanitary inspection ?

17.—Will you vote for an immediate increase in the number of Sanitary Inspectors, and for a systematic house-to-house visitation in order to ensure that every house is in a sanitary condition ?

18.—Will you require the registration of Tenement Houses, with a view to secure more effective sanitary supervision ?

19.—Will you insist on a complete registration and thorough inspection of all workshops, and the regular visitation of all out-workers ?

20.—Will you vote for the immediate provision of baths and wash-houses in any districts at present unprovided with them ?

21.—Will you support an effort to ensure the regular, frequent and strictly gratuitous collection of dust, particularly in the poorer districts ?

22.—Are you in favor of the provision of open spaces and of tree-planting in the streets ; of the adoption of noiseless pavement ; of the erection of seats and shelters ; of providing public drinking fountains ; and of public lavatory accommodation for each sex ?

23.—Will you support the exercise of all powers of the Vestry and County Council for compelling the Water Companies to give a constant water supply ?

## ANSWERS.

24.—Will you insist upon the proper inspection of all the private slaughter-houses in the district, pending their abolition and the establishment of Municipal Abattoirs?

IV.—MUNICIPAL AND TAXATION REFORM.

25.—Will you resist any attempt at the dismemberment of the County Council, or any proposal to depart from the plan of the direct popular election of its members?

26.—Will you press for the early Unification of London, by the union of the City Corporation with the County Council?

27.—Are you in favor of abolishing such compulsory Church Rates as still exist in London?

28.—Will you support the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts?

29.—Are you in favor of placing the water supply in the hands of the County Council, either by purchase of the existing companies (not at monopoly price) or by the establishment of an independent supply?

30.—Do you favor a similar policy in regard to the Gas Supply, the Tramways, and other monopolies?

31.—Will you seek to put into operation any powers the Vestry may possess for rating unoccupied land and houses?

32.—Are you in favor of, and will you attempt to pledge the Vestry to support, the taxation of Ground Values for the relief of the occupiers?

33.—Will you vote for immediate application to the Local Government Board to confer on the Vestry all powers given to Parish Councils by the Local Government Act, 1894?

*Signature of Candidate* .....

For list and particulars of other Tracts write to the Secretary of the Fabian Society, 276 Strand, W.C. Printed lists of questions to be put to candidates for the Guardians, School Board, County Council, or Parliament, will be sent free. Complete set of 53 Tracts, price 2s. 3d. post free; or, bound in buckram, 3s. 9d. post free.