

Volume 9

Section I

1929

to

30 Dec. 1930

(fols. 1 - 371)

Volume 9

1929

(fols. 1-228)

Verses

[? between 1929
and 1940]

Dedicated To

(1)

The Right Honourable

George Lansbury,

M.P. For Poplar.

Poplar nailed flag to its' mast,
Where it floats still on high;
Its' foes cannot pull it down,
Although so hard do try.

If no speech can tell a tale,
One so full of glory;
Of its' many hard fought fights,
Against Whig and Tory.

See it waving up above,
Who dare to pull it down?
So there to protect our rights,
Not against King and Crown.

Let none its' good name traduce,
Nor man it represents; (2)
The people who live down here,
Believe in his good sense.

Its' flag is of ruddy hue,
Can take no other dye;
May it soon wave o'er the World,
And all its' foes defy.

By A

"Good Companion."

GEORGE BARKER, J.P., M.P., 116 ALEXANDRA ROAD, ABERTILLERY, MON.

□ (1858-1936) 1-1-29 □

3

With all the Love
there is.

George Barker

"The man who fails and still fights
on: So he is the true lion
brother of mine" Miller

POST CARD

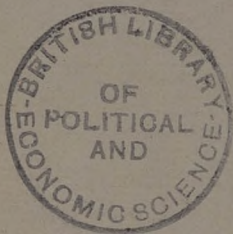
THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



George Lansbury M.P.

39 Bow Road

London



E 3

M449



70945 PUBLIC LIBRARY, BOSTON, MASS.



Sir (Joseph) Austen Chamberlain
(1853-1937)

5

Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

28th January, 1929.

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

I have received your letter of the 19th of this month and have looked into the case of Mr. Sherard.

I find that, on the facts as regards Mr. Sherard's services as originally placed before us by the French Government, the case was, as he was informed in the letter which you enclosed, not one which could be regarded as coming within the terms of the Foreign Order regulations.

I will, however, ask His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris to endeavour to obtain further information with regard to those services.

I return the correspondence enclosed in your letter.

*Yrs. sincerely
Austen Chamberlain*

George Lansbury, Esq., M.P.



M449

Peter Thurtle

Francis School (6)
Saffron Walden

20 Feb. 1929

Dear Grandad,

Congratulations on
having achieved your three score
& ten allotted to you. My writing
is so bad because I have been in bed,
living on milk & what fruit I
can get. for the last 3 days.
With love from,
Peter.

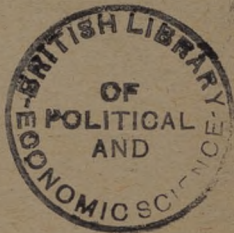
POST



CARD



Mr. G. Lansbury
39 Bow Road
London.



E. — ?

M449

ED. Bernstein
(son of Edward Bernstein, 1850-1932) (7)

34, Midholm
Lyttellon Road
N. W. 11.

21. II. 1929

To George Lansbury Esq M.P.

Dear friend

May you long long enjoy
life, and be strengthened for
the lovely and supreme service
of making it possible for others
to enjoy a good and full life.

Yours friend

Ed Bernstein

W. S. Clogg
De Olde Curiositie Shoppe

12 Fair Row, Chatham.

8

Dr. to ZILPAH SMITH

Dealer in Antiques, Curiosities, China,
Furniture, Ladies' and Gentlemen's
:: :: Wardrobe, &c. :: ::

²
Mr. George Lansbury 21st Feb. 19 29.

Congratulations to you & all
Dear from one who has been
following you in thought for
many a long year. Myself
was 63 last month and
remember you as the only working
man I could cotton to amongst
the goody goodies at the Tin Hut,
the Ethical Hall in Libra Hall
Old Ford. Hooray for the coming
return to power of the Labour Party.
I hope to goodness that they
make you at least Home Secretary
Yours very sincerely

W. S. Clogg

Rev. Frederick Lewis Donaldson (9)
(1860 —)

3, LITTLE GLOISTERS,
WESTMINSTER ABBEY, S.W.1.

21. 2. 29.

My dear Lansbury,

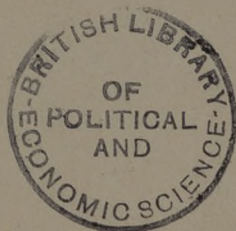
Please accept my most earnest good wishes upon your 70th birthday. I know that you will have congratulations from many who love and respect you, and please count me among this number.

I often wish we met as in the old days, and among my chief regrets is the memory of the breaking up of the C.S.L. which, whatever its faults, did keep a group of Churchmen and Socialists together as nothing else has ever done.

I often cross your path and hear

of you and yet I seem now hardly ever to
see you. But anyhow accept my best wishes
and love for your health and happiness
here now, and for evermore.

Yours affectionately
Lewis Odell



M449

Italian Socialist Party
PARTITO
SOCIALISTA
ITALIANO

(SEZIONE DI LONDRA)

47 Adelaide Rd
LONDON N.W.3

21 February 1929

To Mr. George Lansbury M.P.

Caro Compagno,

La Sezione di Londra del Partito Socialista Italiano saluta il tuo settantesimo compleanno augurandoti almeno altri trent'anni di HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY.

Con questo augurio la Sezione di Londra è certa d'interpretare anche il desiderio di tutti i socialisti italiani; quelli che vivono in esilio, sparpagliati in tutti i canti della terra, e quelli che sono rinchiusi nella galere e nelle isole maledette, per aver commesso il delitto di essere socialisti.

I socialisti italiani si uniscono ai socialisti inglesi e gridano con essi:

EVVIVA GEORGE LANSBURY
EVVIVA L'INTERNAZIONALE SOCIALISTA

G. Sinicco

(For the London Branch of the
Italian Socialist Party)



M449

Rev. C. G. Langdon

S. Matthews Vicarage

Ch. Rd. E.C.

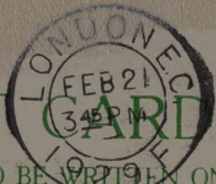
21.2.29

(11)

Love & best wishes from us
all - & many happy
returns -

C. G. Langdon

POST CARD.



BRITISH INDUSTRIES
FAIR, FEB 18-MARCH 1.
FOR TRADE BUYERS.



THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

George Lansbury Esq. M.P.

39 Bow Road

E. 3.



M449

James Macpherson
(of Nat. Amalg. Union)

103 Stapleton Hall Road
Shroud Green Horsey

N.4

(12)
21st Feb
1929

My Dear Lansbury.

I see by today's Herald that you reach your 70th birthday today. Allow me to congratulate you on the event, and to wish you many happy returns of the day.

Even at your age this is not an extravagant wish, as I will - in a few months - enter my 80th year, so keep it up!

13

While writing you, I
express the hope that Mrs
Lansbury is well and fit.

With very best wishes
to you both.

Yours very Sincerely

A. S. Macpherson

C

Sir Oswald Mosley

POST OFFICE



TELEGRAPHS. 14

No.

Charges to pay
s. d.

Office Stamp

This form, and if possible the envelope, should accompany any enquiry respecting this Telegram.

Telegrams for INLAND handed to the messenger

addresses may be who delivers this form.

The Post Office accepts telegrams by telephone.

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

5 4/11 M
From

537 London T 16

21 Feb. M
To

THE INFORMATION OVERLEAF WILL INTEREST YOU.

*Parliamentary House of Commons
Happy returns
wishes
Oswald and Cynthia
Mosley*

HEAVY PARCELS up to
22 lb. may now be sent to
most PLACES ABROAD.

They are accepted at the
PRINCIPAL POST OFFICES.

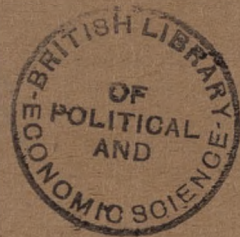
Full particulars are given
in the POST OFFICE GUIDE.

TELEGRAMS can be dictated
or delivered by TELEPHONE. To
dictate, ask Exchange for "Tele-
grams." To secure delivery
by telephone use TELEPHONIC
ADDRESS (e.g. Jones, Bristol
640)* or insert "Telephone"
before full telegraphic address.
Full particulars are given in the
Telephone Directory and in the
POST OFFICE GUIDE.

* In foreign telegrams "Dubois Telephone 640 Calais."

The IMPERIAL CABLES
provide a rapid and reliable
service for Cablegrams for
CANADA, AUSTRALIA,
NEW ZEALAND, WEST
INDIES, etc.

Rate List Free—or see
POST OFFICE GUIDE.



M449

Robert Smillie

(1857-1940)

15

C

POST OFFICE



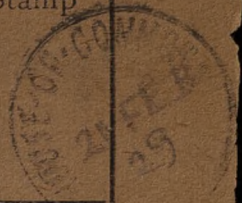
TELEGRAPHS.

Telegrams for INLAND
handed to the messenger
The Post Office accepts

addresses may be
who delivers this form.
telegrams by telephone.

No.

Office Stamp



Charges to pay
s. d.

This form, and if possible the envelope, should accompany any enquiry respecting this Telegram.

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

12:40/1 M
From

12 20 Larkhall 17

M
To

THE INFORMATION OVERLEAF WILL INTEREST YOU

George Harsbury Ste of Com
Heartiest congratulations and happy
returns of the day.
Smillie Family Larkhall

HEAVY PARCELS up to 22 lb. may now be sent to most PLACES ABROAD.

They are accepted at the PRINCIPAL POST OFFICES.

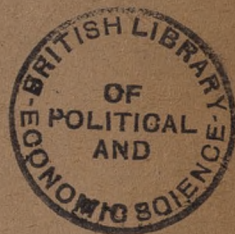
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* In foreign telegrams "Dubois Telephone 640 Calais."

The IMPERIAL CABLES provide a rapid and reliable service for Cablegrams for CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, WEST INDIES, etc.

Rate List Free—or see POST OFFICE GUIDE.



M479

Will Thorne
(1857-1946)

16

NATIONAL UNION OF
GENERAL AND MUNICIPAL WORKERS

General Officials
RT. HON.
J. R. CLYNES, M.P.
President.
A. HAYDAY, M.P.
Vice-President
W. THORNE, M.P.
General Secretary.
P. J. TEVENAN,
R. SPENCE,
Assistant
General Secretaries
J. JONES, M.P.
W. SHERWOOD

GENERAL COUNCIL

REGISTERED TRADE UNION No. 1880T.
An Approved Society for National Health Insurance.

Affiliated to:
Trades Union Congress, National Labour Party, Federation of
Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, National Federation of
Building Trades Operatives, and Municipal and Public Service
Workers' International.

Head Office:
28 Tavistock Sq.
London, W.C. 1
Municipal Section
Office:
"Glendower,"
24, Fitzjohn's
Avenue,
Hampstead,
N.W. 3.
Tel. Hampstead 3445

Tel. MUSEUM 2887

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Telegraphic Address

Your Ref.:
Our Ref.: WT/AA.

28, TAVISTOCK SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1.

UNITUDE,
WESTCENT, LONDON

21st February, 1929.

Mr. George Lansbury, M.P.,
39, Bow Road, E.3.

My dear Lansbury,

Many many happy returns of the day. I
am sure that you must have received many congratulations
on your 70th birthday from your wide circle of friends.

May you live for a good many years, in
order that you can carry on with your good work. We have
been actively engaged together for a few years, and I hope
to still remain so for many more.

Best wishes and good luck.

Yours sincerely,

Will Thorne

21 Addington Rd
1. New York Bow L 3

G. Lansbury Esq M.P. 2/2/29.

Dear Mr Lansbury

It was with feelings of very great pleasure that I learned the fact that you will be celebrating the anniversary of your 70th birthday today.

On behalf of my wife, family and myself, I wish to extend to you and the other members of your family, our heartiest congratulations and best wishes and hope that you will live to enjoy many happy returns of this day.

18

I trust that you will be spared for many years to come in the best of health with your wife and family, so that you will be able to continue to interest yourself in the welfare of your fellowmen and carry on the good work which you have done hitherto.

with renewed good wishes

I am

Yours sincerely

J. Nunes, Vaz.

Samuel Philip Viant

Telephone: Willesden 3278. (1882 -

19

29, BUCHANAN GARDENS,

WILLESDEN, N.W. 10.

MEMO FROM

S. P. VIANT, J.P., M.P.
WEST WILLESDEN.

February 21 1929

Office: 375, HIGH ROAD, WILLESDEN, N.W. 10.

Secretary and Agent: A. E. NUNN.

Reply to.....

Reference.....

Dear George,

I am a victim of the Flu this week and cannot enjoy the privilege of shaking you by the hand and wishing you many "Happy Returns of the Day", so I am just scribbling this as I lay in bed.

My wife joins me in these sentiments and hopes that Mrs Lansbury is keeping fairly well.

I hope to be back for the Trams debate as my doctor gave me a good account on Wednesday.

Yours sincerely

S. P. Viant

Morris, William

20

The William Morris Socialist Institute

(AFFILIATED TO THE LABOUR PARTY.)

LECTURES, CONCERTS, ETC., SUNDAY EVENINGS AT 7.0
DANCES, SATURDAY EVENINGS AT 7.30
BUSINESS & EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS, THURSDAYS, 8 P.M.
YOUNG LABOUR LEAGUE MEETING, WEDNESDAYS, 8 P.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL, SUNDAYS AT 3 P.M.
CLUB OPEN EVERY EVENING.

WILLIAM MORRIS HALL,
SOMERS ROAD,
WALTHAMSTOW.

Nearest Stations: Hoe Street (L.&N.E.) & Walthamstow (L.M.&S.)

21 st. February 1929.

A HISTORY

The William Morris Hall is the result of enthusiasm for an idea. If it had depended on money it would probably have never been built. Enthusiasm supplied the want of money, and brought about its erection by voluntary labour, in the spare time of the workers. The hall is well built in brick, with a bright and cheerful interior, on land which is now the freehold of the William Morris Co-operative Society. It was started Easter, 1909, and on Saturdays and Sundays as well as every evening during the week numbers of workers gave their best services in what was truly a labour of love. Of course, many were scandalized at such goings on; the District Council spent an evening in debating the subject on the complaint of a neighbour; allegations were made that the land was "pinched," but—the hall was built. A Club room was added three years later; and in 1920 the premises next door were secured with a view to extension in the future. A plaque on the east wall with the head of William Morris in relief—the work of a Dutch comrade—commemorates the fact that the hall was built to provide opportunities for social intercourse, propaganda and education for all Socialists. There is also a full size bust of William Morris, by the same artist. The hall was opened in December, 1909, by Walter Crane, who expressed his appreciation and congratulated the members on their achievement.

George Lansbury Esq.

Dear Comrade,

At the meeting of the Members of the William Morris Socialist Institute this evening, I was asked to write & congratulate you on your 70th Birthday.

We all wish you many Happy Returns of the Day & sincerely hope that you will have the health & strength for many years to come to continue with the good work that you have so ably performed in the past.

I am,

Yours fraternally,

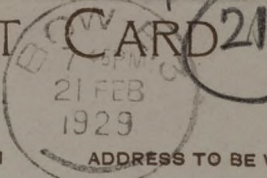
Olive H. Walsford.

Hon. Sec.

21/2/-9

Tom Williams

POST CARD 21



THIS SPACE FOR COMMUNICATION

ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN HERE

Dear George

Wishing you many Returns of the day, and hope you see many more and still have health & strength to continue.

Your Good Works,
From Old Comrades
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Williams

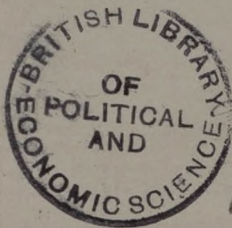
N. 1445

THIS IS A REAL PHOTOGRAPH

G. Lansbury M.P.

39 Bow Rd

E. 3.



Local

M449

Q Birthday Wishes
To My Friend.

Three hundred and
sixty-five days in the
year, But I haven't
forgotten to-day, To send
you a greeting along with
my wish,

That success shall be
yours on

Life's way.



TELEPHONE 1661 & 1662.
TELEGRAMS:
"COMFORT," WORTHING.

Arthur Henderson
(1863 - 1935)

22

PERCIVAL'S HOTEL, LTD.
WORTHING.

22nd February 1929

My Dear G L Macdonald VI. 41
Webb - Local part. St. II. England - General.
Corres. C. "

First: Many happy returns
with the maintenance of your old virus.

We are both mending and
are very hopeful that the sun here
will assist to complete recovery.

I shall return for the Executive
but safety demands a few more
days here before returning to
Parliamentary duty.

The task you suggest -
that P S and I should undertake

though essential is very debatable.

I have considered the matter very carefully since I saw C J and I am convinced it would be a tactical mistake to raise it in the E.C. I

may decide to write, but not till after next Wednesday, as

I would prefer a private talk in the first instance, if an opportunity presented itself. We must not

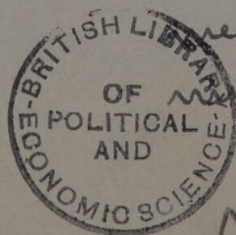
forget the Blackpool statement upon which I place some reliance. Did you see his statement re consultations

at Chequers in which my name was mentioned, well I have yet to make my first visit.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Arthur Henderson



M449

Reference Wm. Pethick-Lawrence,

1871-

23

Telephone: Holborn 7087.

Telegrams: "Pethlawro-Holb. London."

FROM F. W. PETHICK-LAWRENCE, M.P.

11 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, W.C.2.

22nd. February, 1929.

Dear Lansbury,

I hoped to have the opportunity of seeing you yesterday to congratulate you on your wonderful years on behalf of the working people of this country. My wife and I wish you and your wife very many happy vigorous years in front of you.

With every good wish.

I remain,

Yours ever,

F. W. Pethick Lawrence.

George Lansbury Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons,
S.W.1.

James Ramsay
Macdonald



24

Friday,
22nd February, 1929.

G.Lansbury Esq., M.P.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

My dear Lansbury,

I think Joynson Hicks would be willing to see you again on the Syme case, but would you approach him yourself.

I have been at him several times recently and I do not want to get into too intimate political relationships.

If he would say to you what he said to me, Smillie and I could then see him.

I did receive a similar telegram and, as you know, the Party is opposing the Bill.

With kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,

James Ramsay Macdonald



M449

Sir Ben ~~Turner~~
(1863 - 1942)

post 1931

The Homestead,
Carlton Avenue,
Batley, Yorks.

22.2.29.

Dear George,

I'm a day late, but many happy returns
for your birthday, and when you are 80 may we
still be celebrating Labour victories and
social progress.

Good luck young man!

Yours,

Ben Turner

Agnes M.
Williams

Worcester

22
2
29

WATERLOO,
SARLETON,
MON.

(26)

Dear Mr Lauchbury

I hope you will not think me tiresome but I feel I am bound to follow up my brief belated wire, with just a few lines, to express what I would like to convey to you on your 70 birthday.

I was away all day yesterday & did not read my "Herald" until after supper & I should have sent before so I thought I would send a brief wire to express my most sincere wish that you may be spared to us for many many years to carry on your great work: only those whose heart is full of the great ideal of Socialism can in any way realise how great your life's work has been. You who have toiled through the hard struggles of the past know how much it has meant of toil, vilifying, & heart breaks: but Oh! what you & just the few with hearts & brains like yourself have meant to the struggling masses of humanity - Perhaps you will say at 70 how can the years be many many.

Well in one way perhaps it seems so, but I take courage over that. & know it is possible when I remember I have an aunt in Cardiff in excellent health & active in body & mind & she is 89 this month. True she has not known the struggle of suffering humanity as you have. If it is any pleasure to you to know it, believe me when I say there are hundreds of hearts good & true, who appreciate & admire your noble stand for Socialism right to the full. God bless you a thousand times.

We are getting very anxious in our Mon Dir over the forth coming fight. As you know it's a very big mileage & a scattered area, nearly all agricultural & very poor. How to get the money we don't know - but fight we must - We have begged 25 prizes & have issued a huge number of threepenny draw tickets 5 for 1/- & we are sending them broadcast hoping to raise some funds that way. If any one would help us by taking a few books we should be so grateful. We wondered whether the new leader could fire us a word. The Mon Dir is

the only blk Spot in Monmouthshire.
 Now for another thing that has for years
 been my one (or one of my) greatest
 personal wishes - as I told you, to have
 the honour & pleasure of having you
 here at Caerleon - to show you the
 (what is supposed to be) wonderful
 relics of the past (The future troubles
 me now) also if possible to have a
 meeting - we have a splendid Hall &
 I could be sure of a full house. Are you
 coming to South Wales shortly & can
 you squeeze us in somewhere. It is
 so very very necessary in this benighted
 long Stroughold - it's all Tredegar House.
 When with the people realize. When I sing
 the Hymn "When wilt Thou Save the people," I
 always feel inclined to tell myself - When
 the people will save themselves.
 Please forgive this long yarn - & again
 the best of the best - & may you be
 spared to see some of your hopes
 realised. Yours very Sincerely
 Apr 1871
 Aneurin Williams

29

Bankers—
London and County
Westminster Poplar.
President—
E. J. WEDGE
Secretary—
W. J. SARAH

The Poplar Working Men's Club

AND INSTITUTE

(Affiliated to the Club and Institute Union)

212 HIGH STREET, POPLAR, E. 14.

London Sept 26th 1929

Dear Sir

A Public declaration has been made by a Reverend Henry Carter to the effect that an organization of 20,000 Young Methodists is in being to work against all Parliamentary Candidates who will not pledge themselves if Elected to vote for

1. Local Option in England & Wales
2. Sunday Closing
3. Control of all Clubs by the licensing magistrates

The members of the above ^{named} Club much resent the implication that working men's clubs are on all fours with the night clubs

Bankers—
London and County
Westminster Poplar.
President—
E. J. WEDGE
Secretary—
W. J. SARAH

The Poplar Working Men's Club

AND INSTITUTE

(Affiliated to the Club and Institute Union)

212 HIGH STREET, POPLAR, E. 14.

London Feb 26th 1929

(2)

Of London and the effort to secure panic
Legislation They are vitally interested in
ascertaining your views upon these three
points the first two as applicable to clubs
as is the third and would be glad to be
favoured. with your reply.

Thanking you in anticipation and
inclosing a stamped and addressed
envelope for reply

I remain
Yours Truly
W. J. Sarah
Secy



March 1929

31

POPLAR BOROUGH MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

AND

POPLAR, BOW & BROMLEY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1905.

OBJECTS:

1. To further the general interests of the ratepayers of the Metropolitan Borough of Poplar.
2. To lighten the burden of taxation by promoting sound economy in local expenditure and the establishment of a just and equitable valuation of the various rateable properties.
3. To promote the election of proper persons to represent the ratepayers on the various local bodies.
4. To oppose the advance of Socialism.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN: F. G. WOOLLEY (Joseph Westwood & Co., Ltd.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| J. ADAMS,
Stuart's Granolithic Co., Ltd. | K. H. JOHNSON,
Locke, Lancaster & W. R. & R. Johnson &
[Sons, Ltd.] |
| H. R. BARGE, J.P. | W. K. LUSTY,
Lusty & Sons, |
| A. G. BROWN,
W. & E. Moore, Ltd. | E. L. SIBLEY,
Union Oil & Cake Mills, |
| W. J. CLARKE,
James W. Cook & Co., Ltd. | G. A. TEBBY,
C. & E. Morton, Ltd. |
| J. CRIGHTON,
London Graving Dock Co., Ltd. | Fred THORNE, J.P.
F. & T. Thorne. |
| E. W. GREEN,
R. & H. Green & Silley Weir Ltd. | L. F. TOOTH,
Commercial Gas Co. |
| G. C. HAWKINS,
Hawkins & Tipson, Ltd. | W. WHITMORE,
Spratt's Patent, Ltd. |

SOLICITORS:

CHAS. G. BRADSHAW & WATERSON,
Royal London House,
16, Finsbury Square, London, E.C.2.
85, East India Dock Road, Poplar, E.14.

AUDITORS

RICHARD RABBIDGE & SONS,
Chartered Accountants,
3 & 4, Clements Inn,
Strand, W.C.2.

GENERAL SECRETARY: Major H. Cecil JOEL, O.B.E.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: J. W. ABEL.

Telephone: **East 0259.**

CENTRAL OFFICES and COMMITTEE ROOMS: 52, Bow Road, London, E.5

52, Bow Road,
London, E.3.

March, 1929.

Dear Sir or Madam,

There is a unanimous feeling amongst responsible ratepayers that splendid progress has been made with the fight against Socialism in the Borough of Poplar during the past twelve months.

The result of the local elections won us three seats on the Board of Guardians and we held five seats and won one on the Borough Council. Educational work still continues but our greatest trouble is the apathy of the electorate and their ignorance of local affairs.

We brought considerable pressure to bear through the District Auditors on the Guardians and Council which caused a fall in the rate demand from 25/- to 23/4 in the £ thus saving our members approximately £15,000 annually on their present assessments, these have also been reduced by approximately £45,000 due to the derating of certain plant and machinery. The future also looks brighter as the current expenditure of the Guardians has been decreased by £170,000 which is equivalent to a rate of 4/- in the £. There will be also a reduction of 3/10 in the £ when the Local Government Bill becomes operative in addition to the reduction of the rates by 75% to productive industry.

The Executive Committee have been constantly reviewing the position and they feel confident that with the success already achieved, members would wish that the fight against "Poplarism" should be continued with greater enthusiasm and unabated vigour.

After careful deliberation it has been decided to run an active and intensive educational campaign in the Bow and Bromley Parliamentary Division against the return of the sitting Socialist member Mr. George Lansbury. As you are well aware Mr. Lansbury is the instigator and author of "Poplarism" and he alone is primarily responsible for the intolerable financial burdens which all ratepayers have borne for the past nine years. His majority in 1924 was 5934 and with an addition to the electorate of over 10,000 women, a reduction in rates and a hard working and popular Anti-Socialist candidate in the field, it is strongly felt that we should not allow such a unique opportunity to pass.

It has been suggested that many opponents of Socialism outside Poplar might like to assist our efforts particularly as during the past six years the London Boroughs have contributed over £2,000,000 towards Poor Relief in Poplar.

A special "Fighting Fund" to cover the cost of the campaign has been opened and I venture to make an earnest appeal for your generous support.

The Borough of Poplar has had its name tossed about the country as a synonym for irresponsibility and prodigality and if we won the seat, it would be a fine triumph for the ratepayers who would be rehabilitated in the eyes of the world and the unhappy system of "Poplarism" would receive a shock from which it could not recover.

Yours faithfully,

H. Cecil Joel.

General Secretary.

SOCIALISM AND POPLARISM.

A canon of taxation much lauded by Socialists, is that taxes are a means to remedy the inequalities of society, to transfer wealth from one class to another, to bring down to poverty and hard work the "idle rich," and to elevate to comfort and, in actual fact, often to idleness the industrious poor. This policy can be summed up as "POPLARISM." Every impartial observer who has studied "Poplarism" at work must be impressed with the lamentable fact that while the impoverishment of productive industry, and indeed its entire elimination, can be speedily brought about by heavy rates, so far from the poor being better off their numbers are increased and their position is actually worse.

WHAT IT HAS COST.

	1918-19	1926-27
Average Rate	13s. 7d. in the £	25s. 0d. in the £
Expenditure	£510,737	£1,168,033

How the Bulk of the Money was Spent.

	1918-19	1926-27
Borough Maintenance	£154,650	£270,124
Public Baths	7,766	27,324
Public Libraries	3,111	10,331
Board of Guardians	152,126	532,052

The guardians also spent £564,778, received from the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund which is equivalent to a rate of 11/4 in the £.

The total expenditure for the year 1926.27 was equivalent to a rate of 36/4 in the £.

Outdoor Relief in Poplar.

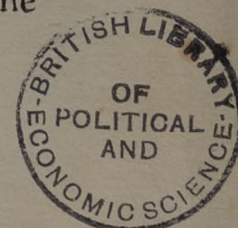
Year ending 31st March, 1921.		Year ending 31st March, 1928	
Cost of Outdoor Relief.	Cost per head of population.	Cost of Outdoor Relief.	Cost per head of population.
£101,643	12/6	£560,276	67/1

During five and a half years ending March 31st, 1927, Poplar received the sum of £1,866,000 from the other London Boroughs in respect of out-door relief.

A proportion of one in six of the population of Poplar is in receipt of Poor Law Relief.

Relatives and friends of the Socialist Councillors and Guardians are given jobs for which they have no obvious qualifications.

Electors are bribed by the payment of wages which have no relation to the services to be given or any obvious connection with the standards ruling in the neighbourhood.



M449

G.A.

2.iii.29.

Dear Sir:

I have your note of the 26th.
As the Labour Party Executive Committee
has the subject matter of your letter
under consideration, I propose to
await their decision on the subject.

Yours faithfully,

Poplar Working Men's Club,
212, High St.,
E.14.

34

The Bow Working Men's Club & Institute.

Founded January, 1910.

Affiliated to the Club & Institute Union.

Registered under the Friendly Societies Act 1896, No. 1203 London.

Bankers—Barclays Bank, Bow Road Branch.



86a, Bow Road,

London, E. 3.

5 March 1929

Mr. George Lansbury M.P.

Dear Sir

A public declaration has been made by a Reverend Henry Carter to the effect that an organization of 20,000 Young Methodists is in being to work against all Parliamentary candidates, who will not pledge themselves if elected to vote for

- (1) Local Option in England & Wales
- (2) Sunday Closing
- (3) Control of all clubs by the Licensing Magistrates

The Members of the above named Club much resent the implication that Working Men's Clubs are on all fours with the Night Clubs of London and the effort to secure Panic Legislation.

(35)

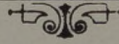
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5 Mar. 1929

86a, Bow Road,

London, E. 3.

(Continued)

They are vitally interested in ascertaining your views upon these three points, the first two as applicable to Clubs, as is the third, and would be glad to be favored with your reply.

Thanking you in anticipation and enclosing a stamped envelope for reply

I remain

Yours Truly

John Newport
Secretary.

39, Bow Road,
Bow, E.3.

36

G.L.

7. iii. 29.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 5th, subject matter of which, together with other questions of public importance about which organisations are inquiring the views of members of the Labour Party, are under consideration by our Executive Committee and as soon as they have come to a decision on the various matters, a public statement will be made.

The Labour Party's policy on the whole question of licensing and local trade generally is contained in Labour and the Nation, wherein it is proposed that a commission should be set up to investigate the whole subject.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. John Newport.

THE LONDON EXPRESS NEWSPAPER LTD
TELEPHONE: CENTRAL 8000
(15 LINES)

37

The Daily Express

23 ST. BRIDE STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

20th April, 1929.

George Lansbury, Esq., M.P.
39, Bow Road, E.3.

S

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

I now hear from Mr. Goodman that he prefers the subject of Tuesday night's Debate to be "The General Policy of the Socialist Party versus that of the Conservative Party", as on the attached notes.

I should be glad to know if you agree to the lines of the procedure that these notes indicate, and if you are in agreement with the subject being changed from "Unemployment and Housing" to "General Policy.."

Yours very truly,

M. Wardell
M. WARDELL

See also vol. 28. a, fols. 182-3
for a letter to G. D. H. Cole, dated 8 March 1929

with Daily Express letter 26 April 1929

DEBATE BETWEEN GEORGE LANSBURY, M.P.

and

MR. A.W. GOODMAN, at Bow Baths, on

April 23rd, 1929.

1. Subject: General Policies of the Socialist Party versus that of the Conservative Party.
2. Speakers draw lots for order of speaking.
3. Length of addresses 30 minutes each side. Replies in same order as speeches - 10 mins. each side. Further period of 5 mins. each side by agreement between the two speakers.

G.L.: (g.e. 30 May 1929).

[say 1 May 1929]

39

Fellow Electors:

We have pleasure in enclosing you a polling card telling you your number on the register and where to give your vote. Please read the instructions carefully and DO YOUR VERY BEST TO VOTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND SO MAKE ROOM AT NIGHT FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT LEAVE WORK EARLY. YOU CAN VOTE ANY TIME BETWEEN 7am AND 9pm.

This election has brought "all power to the workers". You who by HAND OR BRAIN, and who in whatever capacity help carry on the work of the world, are now in a position to determine how our country shall be managed and controlled: you can also now settle all questions connected with Peace and War. On your vote depends whether Britain shall continue to produce paupers and millionaires, slums and palaces, or whether we shall settle down to the task of sweeping away the manmade conditions which produce poverty, pauperism and crime.

The Labour programme is before you and HOLDS THE FIELD. Labour if given power will deal with immediate needs and at the same time take the necessary measures to clear away the causes which, in the midst of plenty, create the evils every one deploras.

Do ^{not} ~~you~~ believe the untrue statement that social and nationalised effort has failed: every Social Service in our own land and abroad has succeeded in saving life and raising the standard of living. Our own district is a standing example of how we can overcome preventible sickness and death by social effort.

You have been told that we Labour people care nothing for the Empire or the Flag. It is true we do not desire to maintain an Empire built on force, domination and exploitation: every such Empire of the past has perished. We love our own land and mean to rule ourselves: we think other peoples who love their native land should enjoy the same right. Therefore we urge the workers of Britain, now they have power, to transform the

[Say (May 1929)] - 4 -

40

Empire into a Commonwealth within which the so-called subject races shall become partners and comrades.

Three hundred millions of people in India cry to us for deliverance from the bondage of famine and exploitation which modern capitalism accentuates and imposes upon them. The Labour Party is pledged to assist our Indian brothers along the road which will bring to them control of their own land. We know the difficulties which confront us, but are certain that the evils of domination by one people over another are infinitely greater than those to be overcome by trying to "do to others as we would they should do to us".

As to the Flag about which we hear so much: we love our St. George's flag and Red Rose of England as much as the Welshman loves the Welsh Flag, or the Scotsman the Thistle and Cross of St. Andrew: but over and above all these, we love the RED FLAG which is for us the sign and symbol of the BROTHERHOOD OF THE HUMAN RACE. In our childhood days we learned the hymn His blood-red banner streams afar, who follows in His train. We also learned the truth "God has made of one blood all nations of the Earth". Because this is so, we sing of the Red Flag and look forward to the day when the nations of the world will gather under this Red Flag and fling down their arms, destroy their custom houses, break down all barriers, and while each will love the spot which gave them birth, all will ~~unite in~~ unite in striving to bring into actual life the good days of which Tennyson sung:-

The war drums throb no longer
And the battle flags are furled
In the Parliament of Man
The Federation of the World.

This is no idle dream, no vain imagination: a century ago no one would have believed that people like us would be possessed of education and universal power. We have attained to these things. Let us each on May 30th go to the polling booth in good heart and worthy of our high calling, giving our

[say 1 May 1929]

~~5~~

41

votes on behalf of the People; sure and certain that in days
to come our children and our children's children will
create out of the disorders which man's ignorance has
created the New Jerusalem of which Blake sang when he
wrote:-

I will not cease from mental strife
Nor shall my sword rest in my hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

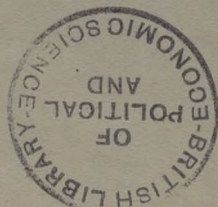
With all good wishes,

we remain as always,

Yours sincerely,

Bessie & George Lansbury.

M449



THE LABOUR PARTY

Secretary:

Rt. Hon. ARTHUR HENDERSON, M.P.

TRANSPORT HOUSE (South Block),
SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1.

Telegraphic Address:

"LABREPCOM, PARL, LONDON."

Telephone:

VICTORIA 8016 (4 lines)

Handwritten initials 'J'

1st May, 1929.

PARTY AGREEMENT RE QUESTIONNAIRES.

Dear Sir or Madam,

In accordance with an agreement arrived at between the Political Parties, and owing to the great increase in the custom of sending Questionnaires to Parliamentary Candidates from outside the constituences they are contesting, and the consequent amount of time which is entailed in answering them, we strongly recommend that all Candidates definitely should refuse to pledge themselves in response to such applications.

We enclose a copy of a form letter, which it is suggested should be written to the senders of Questionnaires.

Furthermore, a Candidate should refuse to receive Deputations of persons other than electors in the constituency which he (she) is contesting.

The Headquarters of both of the other Parties have agreed to send out a copy of this Recommendation to their Candidates.

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR HENDERSON,

Secretary,

with letter 1 May 1929 from Labour Party
signed Arthur Henderson

FORM LETTER FOR USE BY CANDIDATES
TO SENDERS OF QUESTIONNAIRES.

Dear

I am much obliged to you for sending me your list of questions and beg to say that owing to the large number of these Questionnaires now being sent to Candidates from outside the constituencies they are contesting, and the consequent time taken in dealing with them, I have decided, in accordance with an Agreement arrived at between the Political Parties, not to answer any questions of this sort. I much regret, therefore, that I cannot accede to your request.

This fact, however, should not be taken to indicate necessarily that my views are contrary to those advocated by your organisation.

Yours faithfully,

To —

G. Lansbury Esq.,
39, Bow Road.
E. 3.

[? early May 1929]

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in forwarding
you the enclosed request in connection with
"Young Electors Temperance Campaign", and
would be pleased to be favoured with
your views on same.

yours faithfully,
A. Cooper.

To J. Lansbury Esq.

[Ready May 1929]

45

We, the undersigned, being young electors in this constituency, acting in conjunction with other young citizens who are keenly concerned about social problems, request you, as candidate for this Parliamentary Division, to define your attitude to these three measures of Temperance Reform:—

- (1) Local Option for England and Wales;
- (2) Public control of liquor supply in registered Clubs; and
- (3) Sunday Closing of Liquor-bars.

These Three Points are approved by the national Temperance Executives of all the Churches of the country; and we, who sign this Request, have determined to set Temperance Reform in the forefront of our claim and duty as Electors.

ELECTORS' NAMES	ADDRESSES
H. Evans.	ny Spanby Rd E. 3.
L. Norton	50 Campbell Rd Bow
A. V. Starang	43. Malmesbury Rd Bow
M. A. Dove	41. Merchant Street Bow
J. Day	61 Merchant St. E. 3
Lewis Newton	18 Wellington Bldgs Bow
A. Harris.	3 Merchant St. Bow E. 3
E. Woodrow.	15 Wellington Rd. Bow.
H. Andrews	14 Violet Road. E. 3.
J. Jones	28 Caseton St Bow E 3
E. G. Bolt.	39 Rounton Rd. Bow. E 3.

Kindly address your reply to

Mr. C. Tyler.

Convener of the group.

23 Lincoln St Bow E3.

Ready May 1929

46

To G. Lansbury Esq.

We, the undersigned, being young electors in this constituency, acting in conjunction with other young citizens who are keenly concerned about social problems, request you, as candidate for this Parliamentary Division, to define your attitude to these three measures of Temperance Reform:—

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ELECTORS' NAMES	ADDRESSES
E. Martin	11, Jefferson St. London E. 3.
J. Cooper	4, Tryphena Place Bow E. 3.
W. G. Cooper	16 St. Stephens Rd Bow E. 3.
C. Wherrett	60 Eglington Rd Bow E. 3.
M. Wherrett	60 Eglington Rd Bow E. 3.
H. Willey	7 Tryphena Place Bow E. 3.
E. A. Cooper	7 Tryphena Place Bow E. 3.
Grace A. Caldwell Deaconess	19, Knapp Rd. Bow. 3.
Smith	11, Violet Road. Bow. E. 3.
A. Cooper	16, St. Stephens Rd. Bow. E. 3.

Kindly address your reply to Mrs. A. Cooper
at 11, Violet Road. Bow. E. 3.
Convenor of the group.

[Ready May 1929]

47

To

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ELECTORS' NAMES	ADDRESSES
G. Y. Major	13 Sherwood Street Bow E.3.
Mrs. Lily Foster	262 Devon Rd Bow E.3.
Miss A Field	71 Blackthorn Street Bow E3
W. S. Martin	47 Eglinton Terrace, Bow E.
Mrs Daisy Dodd	19 Gale St Devons Rd Bow E3

Kindly address your reply to

Convener of the group.

[early May 1929]

ELECTORS' NAMES

ADDRESSES

48

R P Bailey.
D R Gighton.
H. H. Reason
M. Levine
G. Robinson
E. White
F. Tallack

19 Guerin St E.3.
27. Coban St. E.3.
8- St Stephens Rd E3
20 Wrescham Rd E.3
19 Garfield Rd
16 Steffora Rd Bow
3. Abbelstone Rd

G.L.

49

39, Bow Road,
E.....3.

5. v. 29.

Dear Mrs. Cooper:

Thank you for your letter and enclosure sent on behalf of the Young Electors Temperance Campaign.

As you are probably aware, the same questions have been sent officially to leaders of the various parties. Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald replied on behalf of the National Labour Party, and his statement embodies the official policy towards the Temperance question.

We believe that it is imperative that an immediate inquiry into the whole question should be forthwith undertaken, and legislation based on the report of such a commission should be immediately put in hand. In Labour and the Nation, which is a statement of the Party's policy on national questions, we state in regard to the licensing questions, as follows:

"The problem, however, is one which cannot be ignored in any national policy. A Labour Government would appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the developments and changes which have taken place both at home and abroad in recent years, and to report upon what modifications in the law and what changes in the method of control should be made with a view to the necessary legislative action."

It would be useless for me to pledge myself as an individual member of the Party to anything more than this statement, except that you may take my assurance that as a member of the Party, I shall do everything in my power to expedite the setting up of the enquiry and the legislation which will follow it. The question is one which it is imperative that Parliament should deal with, but I think it is equally important that we should endeavour to get the fullest measure of agreement as to the best policy to adopt in dealing with what is a very difficult and urgent problem.

Yours truly,

Member of Parliament,
Bow &

address

from letter to Mr C. Tyler

23 Lincoln St

or

644W

