

# The Annual Fabian Conference.

1912

THE ANNUAL FABIAN CONFERENCE will take place on Saturday, July 6th, at Clifford's Inn Hall, Fleet Street, London, from 10 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. The Conference is open to visitors.

A Social Gathering will be held in connection with the Conference at 7.30 p.m. Light refreshments. Tickets to members other than delegates from Provincial Societies, 9d. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance of London members to meet our colleagues from a distance.

## AGENDA.

1. Chairman's Address.
2. Report of the work of Societies and Groups, 1911-12.

## RESOLUTIONS.

1. Submitted by the Executive Committee :  
Proposal as to date of Conference.

2. Executive Committee :

That this Conference strongly protests against the neglect of the Government to take action upon the Reports of the late Royal Commission on the Poor Law, and urges the immediate necessity for legislation to abolish the Poor Law, to prevent the causes of chronic destitution, and to establish a national minimum standard of health, wages, and conditions of employment.

3. Executive Committee :

That this Conference urges upon local Fabian Societies and Groups wherever possible to affiliate to and co-operate in the work of local Labor Parties and Representation Committees in their area.

### Amendment by the Golder's Green F.S. :

That the words "affiliate to and" in the second line be deleted and the following words added after the word "area" in fourth line: "and to secure that such work shall promote the principles of Socialism."

4. Liverpool F.S. :

That, in the opinion of this Conference, strikes as a means of improving the condition of the workers are ceasing to be of any value, and would urge upon the notice of working class leaders the greater possibility of democratic political organization as a more effective instrument for checking the growing power of capitalism.

### Amendment by the Executive Committee :

That all words after "That" be deleted and the following be substituted therefor: "this Conference welcomes the recent growth of industrial organization and the increase of trade union activity among the workers, and urges upon them the necessity of supplementing this by organized political action."

### Amendment by the Fabian Nursery :

That all words after "That" be deleted and the following substituted therefor: "this Conference urges upon the notice of working

class leaders the great possibility of democratic political organization by supporting and organizing local Labor Parties in every possible constituency as an effective instrument for checking the growing power of capitalism."

#### Amendment by the Golder's Green F.S. :

That the words "are ceasing to be of any value and" in lines two and three be deleted and the following be substituted therefor: "are still necessary and effective, but."

#### 5. Sheffield F.S. :

That, while recognizing the great value of the strike as a means of industrial betterment, this Conference urges upon the notice of working class leaders the great possibilities of democratic political action as an instrument for effectually checking the growing power of capitalism.

#### Amendment by the Fabian Nursery :

That after the word "action" in line four the following be inserted: "by supporting and organizing local Labor Parties in every possible constituency."

#### 6. Cambridge F.S. :

That this Conference, realizing the probable effect of an unsympathetic attitude in the administration of legislation tending to modify the present system of distribution, urges the necessity for a more democratic method of staffing the higher appointments in the Civil Service.

#### Amendment by the Executive Committee :

That all words after the word "Conference" be deleted and the following be substituted therefor: "realizing the growing importance of the Civil Service in our increasingly Collectivist State, urges the necessity of establishing methods of examination or other modes of entrance to the Service which shall not in practice confine it to a special section of the community or to graduates of particular universities, and expresses its opinion that this object will best be attained by increasing the facilities for higher education, by establishing a closer co-operation between the Civil Service examinations and the actual curricula of schools and colleges, and by increasing the opportunities of promotions from lower to higher grades of the Service."

#### Amendment by the Chiswick F.S. :

That the following words be added after the word "Service" in the fifth line: "and strongly condemns the tendency to increase the number of appointments by nomination and patronage."

#### Amendment by the Golder's Green F.S. :

That the word "distribution" in line three be deleted and the words "social organization" be substituted therefor.

#### 7. Cambridge University F.S. :

That, in view of the fact that half the membership of the Fabian Society is drawn from London Groups alone, this Conference strongly urges the Executive Committee to consider carefully the whole subject of organizing the Fabian movement in the provinces.

#### Amendment by the Edinburgh University F.S. :

That the following words be added after the word "provinces" in the fourth line: "and in particular the part which the recently

formed University Socialist Federation or some similar body might play in such organization."

#### 8. Oxford University F.S. :

That, inasmuch as the better organization and co-operation of University Fabian Societies and the development of the Socialist movement in the Universities would be best effected by a Joint Standing Committee representative of University Fabian Societies and the Executive, and by using as far as possible the already existing machinery of the central Society, the Executive be asked to form such a committee.

#### Amendment by the Edinburgh University F.S. :

That all words after the word "That" in the first line be deleted and the following be substituted therefor: "if after consideration by the Executive and the other bodies concerned it be found that the better organization and co-operation of University Fabian Societies and the development of the Socialist movement in the Universities would be best effected by a Joint Standing Committee representative of University Fabian Societies and the Executive, using as far as possible the already existing machinery of the central Society, the Executive be asked to form such a committee.

#### 9. Chiswick F.S. :

That this Conference endorses the resolution passed by the last Labor Party Conference that the Society (among other affiliated Socialist bodies) should make every effort to secure that its members support the Labor Party and no other political party, and instructs the Executive to take active steps to carry that resolution into effect.

#### Amendment by the Executive Committee :

That all words after the word "endorses" be deleted and the following substituted therefor: "the policy of the Society of working officially with and encouraging its members to support the Labor Party, and further approves the action of the Executive in promoting schemes of work to be carried out in co-operation with the Independent Labor Party."

#### 10. West Ham F.S. :

That the Executive Committee be instructed to publish a program specifying all the kinds of work which have been or can be undertaken by local Societies and Groups, and to keep local secretaries well informed of the points on which their organization falls short of the standard.

#### 11. Golder's Green F.S. :

That this Conference regrets that the Executive has taken no active steps to give practical effect to the resolution on Town Planning which was accepted and passed by this Conference last year.

#### 12. Golder's Green F.S. :

That a Preliminary Agenda for the Annual Conference be published in the June number of FABIAN NEWS, so that the bodies represented can send in amendments to the resolutions, and a Final Agenda, embodying both resolutions and amendments, be published in the July number of FABIAN NEWS.

#### 13. Streatham F.S. :

That it is desirable that a central Sub-Committee be formed for the purpose of assisting Groups with lectures and advice for their local propaganda.

#### 14. Women's Group:

That this Conference is of opinion that in establishing a basic legal minimum wage for the nation—as distinct from special minima—there should not be one minimum for men and another for women.

#### Amendment by the Women's Group:

That all words after the second word “that” in line one be deleted and the following substituted therefor: “in any determination of legal minimum wages the principle should be that of equal rates of pay for equal work irrespective of sex.”

#### 15. Women's Group:

That this Conference is of opinion that legislation dealing with the mentally defective on broad lines is an immediate and urgent necessity from the point of view of prevention of destitution, of penal reform, and of eugenics.

#### Amendment by the Women's Group:

That all words after the second word “that” in the first line be deleted and the following substituted therefor: “with regard to the pressing problem of dealing with congenital mental deficiency, the most urgent needs appear to be those of (1) securing appropriate educational training in special schools for all mentally defective children, and (2) of providing suitable homes or guardianship for such of these children as, at sixteen years of age, are found to be hopelessly incapable of self-guidance.”

#### Amendment by the Chiswick F.S.:

That the following words be added after the word “eugenics” in the fourth line, “but deplors the principle contained in the Government Bill of setting up economic tests of mental deficiency.”

#### 16. Women's Group:

That this Conference demands the immediate introduction into Parliament of the Government's promised Reform Bill, in order that it may pass through all its stages this Session, and it endorses the decision of the Labour Party Conference that no Bill will be acceptable which does not include women.

[In view of the introduction by the Government of the Franchise and Registration Bill, the Women's Group will ask leave to withdraw this resolution and substitute the following.]

That this Conference protests against the exclusion of women from the Franchise and Registration Bill, and, whilst cordially welcoming the promise of the Labor Party made at the Birmingham Conference in January and confirmed by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald on February 13th, to vote against the passing of the Bill if women are not included, urges the Party to acquaint the Government with its intention to persist in this policy. Moreover, this Conference protests against the perpetuation by the Franchise and Registration Bill of sex disabilities in the Local Government register by which married women in England outside of London are excluded from the list of Local Government electors, and therefore from being candidates for town and county councils.

#### Amendment by the South-West Birmingham F.S.:

That the following words be added: “on the same basis as men.”