

Joint Committee of the Independent
Labour Party and the Fabian Society.

REPORT

For the two years ended
APRIL 30th, 1913.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, 1913-1914.

INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY :

W. C. ANDERSON (*Chairman*)
Miss MARGARET BONDFIELD
HARRY DUBERY
W. HOLMES
J. MYLLES
FRANCIS JOHNSON
(*Joint Secretary*)

FABIAN SOCIETY :

C. M. LLOYD
E. R. PEASE (*Vice-Chairman*).
H. H. SCHLOESSER
Mrs. SIDNEY WEBB
Mrs. C. M. WILSON
W. STEPHEN SANDERS
(*Joint Secretary*)

INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY :

ST. BRIDE'S HOUSE, SALISBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

TELEPHONE : 1302 CITY.

FABIAN SOCIETY :

3, CLEMENT'S INN, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

TELEPHONE : 5798 CITY.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY AND THE FABIAN SOCIETY.

THE Joint Committee of the Independent Labour Party and the Fabian Society was constituted in May, 1911, with the object of promoting closer unity between the two bodies, and especially for the purpose of organising work in combination. Five members—afterwards increased to six—were appointed respectively by the National Administrative Council of the I.L.P. and the Executive Committee of the Fabian Society, whilst Francis Johnson and W. Stephen Sanders were appointed Joint Secretaries.

The Joint Committee has pleasure in reporting, after two years' working, that the experiment has been an unqualified success. There has been, throughout, an entire absence of friction; much combined work has been done; the members of the two bodies have been brought into more friendly co-operation with each other; and successful propagandist campaigns have been carried out, without interference with the special work of either of the constituent bodies. Equally friendly relations have been maintained with the Executive Committee of the Labour Party; and arrangements are now under consideration with them for co-ordinating the work of propaganda with legislation proposals.

London Lectures.

The first piece of work undertaken was a course of lectures at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, during the autumn, winter, and spring of 1911-12. The lecturers and subjects were as follows:—

- Oct. 13th.—J. Bruce Glasier : "The I.L.P. and its Work."
- Nov. 10th.—J. R. Clynes, M.P. : "The Labour Party and its Work."
- Dec. 15th.—W. Stephen Sanders : "England and Germany : Factors for Peace and War."
- Jan. 12th.—Philip Snowden, M.P. : "The Abolition of the Idle Rich."
- Mar. 8th.—H. D. Harben : "The Abolition of Poverty."
- May 10th.—Graham Wallas : "Syndicalism."

Adult Suffrage Demonstration.

In conjunction with the Labour Party the Committee organised a great demonstration at the Albert Hall on February 13, 1912, to demand the inclusion of Adult Suffrage in the Reform Bill promised by the Government. J. R. MacDonald, M.P., Chairman of the Labour Party, occupied the chair, and amongst the speakers were J. Keir Hardie, M.P., Arthur Henderson, M.P., Miss Mary Macarthur, Mrs. Despard, and W. C. Anderson. The demonstration was attended by about 6,000 people, and the resolution was carried with practical unanimity.

The Local Government Information Bureau.

The Local Government Information Bureau, an institution for providing information on Local Government questions of all kinds, carried on for twelve years by the Fabian Society and the Independent Labour Party, was transferred to the Committee in March, 1912. The work of the Bureau consists in answering queries with respect to the powers, duties, and methods of local authorities from County to Parish Council, and their relation to the Local Government Board. The Bureau issues to its members and others an occasional circular, entitled "Steps Towards Socialism," containing articles on subjects connected with Local Government administration both theoretical and practical. Every year the Bureau publishes a synopsis of Acts of Parliament likely to be of interest to the members passed during the previous twelve months.

" War Against Poverty " Campaign.

During the Autumn of 1912 the Joint Committee organised a national campaign, " War Against Poverty," to demand a minimum standard of civilised life. The campaign opened at Newport, Mon., on September 3rd, during the meeting of the Trade Union Congress, when a large and successful meeting was held, addressed by W. C. Anderson, Mrs. Sidney Webb, G. Lansbury, G. H. Roberts, M.P., and J. Winstone, J.P. This was followed on October 11th by a demonstration at the Albert Hall, London,

attended by over 6,000 people, at which W. C. Anderson occupied the chair, and Mrs. Sidney Webb, Miss Mary R. Macarthur, Bernard Shaw, George Lansbury, and Sidney Webb were the speakers. On the same day a Conference, attended by over 300 delegates from 198 organisations, including Trade Union Executive Committees and Branches, Trades and Labour Councils, Local Labour Parties, Branches of the I.L.P., Fabian Societies, Adult Schools and Brotherhoods, Co-operative Societies and Guilds, and other bodies, was held at Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London. There were two sessions, at which the chair was occupied by Sidney Webb and Miss Margaret Bondfield, and the speakers included G. N. Barnes, M.P., R. C. K. Ensor, Miss Susan Lawrence, H. H. Schloesser, and Dr. Marion Phillips. Resolutions were passed calling upon the Government to introduce and pass legislation in the following session for securing a legal minimum wage, a reduction of the hours of labour, complete provision against sickness, a national minimum of child nurture, the prevention of unemployment, healthy homes for all, and the abolition of the Poor Law. Other Conferences, followed in most cases by large public meetings, were organised in the following places:—

Date.	Place of Conference.	Number of Delegates.	Speakers.
1912. Oct. 26th ...	Colchester ...	80 ...	W. Stephen Sanders, H. Dubery.
Nov. 9th ...	Darlington ...	100 ...	J. Bruce Glasier, Rev. W. E. Moll, C. M. Lloyd.
,, 9th ...	Leicester ...	230 ...	J. R. MacDonald, M.P., W. C. Anderson.
,, 16th ...	Woolwich ...	97 ...	W. Stephen Sanders, Miss Bondfield.
,, 16th ...	Plymouth ...	95 ...	H. Dubery, Clement Attlee.
,, 16th ...	Croydon ...	120 ...	Sidney Webb, H. H. Schloesser.
,, 23rd ...	Birmingham ...	307 ...	Sidney Webb.
,, 23rd ...	Norwich ...	102 ...	W. Holmes, W. Stephen Sanders.
,, 23rd ...	Chatham ...	120 ...	T. Richardson, M.P., H. Dubery.
,, 30th ...	Glasgow ...	450 ...	Sidney Webb, G. N. Barnes, M.P.

1912.	Date.	Place of Conference	Number of Delegates.	Speakers.
	Nov. 30th	Bristol	143	Mrs. Sidney Webb, J. J. Mallon.
	„ 30th	Cardiff	409	J. Keir Hardie, M.P., W. Stephen Sanders.
	Dec. 7th	Leeds	419	Mrs. Sidney Webb, F. W. Jowett, M.P.
	„ 7th	Watford	104	T. Richardson, M.P., Clement Attlee.
	„ 7th	S.W. London	66	W. C. Anderson, Sidney Webb.
	„ 7th	North London	89	Philip Snowden, M.P., H. Dubery.
	„ 8th	East London	166	W. Thorne, M.P., H. Dubery, C. M. Lloyd.
	„ 14th	West London	101	H. Dubery, Mrs. Sidney Webb.
	„ 14th	Manchester	368	W. C. Anderson, J. R. Clynes, M.P., Sidney Webb.
	„ 14th	Portsmouth	172	W. Stephen Sanders, J. Pointer, M.P., C. M. Lloyd.
	„ 21st	Newcastle	240	J. Keir Hardie, M.P.
	1913.			
	Jan. 5th	Ipswich	71	H. Dubery, Clement Attlee.
	„ 18th	Dundee	91	Alex Wilkie, M.P.
	„ 18th	Edinburgh	135	Mrs. Sidney Webb.
	„ 25th	Derby	119	W. Stephen Sanders, J. W. Kneeshaw, J. H. Thomas, M.P.
	„ 25th	Deptford	100	C. W. Bowerman, M.P., C. M. Lloyd, Sidney Webb.
	Feb. 8th	Nottingham	74	J. J. Mallon,
	„ 22nd	Blackburn	280	Philip Snowden, M.P., Sidney Webb.
	„ 22nd	Worcester	60	H. Dubery.
	Mar. 29th	Sheffield	150	W. C. Anderson, J. Pointer, M.P.
	Apl. 19th	Bolton	122	W. Stephen Sanders.

At all the Conferences the demands for legislation on the seven points were heartily endorsed. Bills embodying the proposals were drafted and submitted to the Parliamentary Labour Party, who agreed to introduce them in the House of Commons on behalf of the Party.

Literature.

In connection with the "War Against Poverty" Campaign the following publications were issued and sold or otherwise distributed:—

PAMPHLETS.

TITLE.	Number Distributed.
"War Against Poverty" (illustrated)	2,500
Abolition of the Poor Law	4,600
Complete National Provision Against Sickness	14,800
Eight Hours Day	4,500
Healthy Homes for All	4,500
How the Government Can Prevent Unemployment	4,500
The Legal Minimum Wage	6,500
New Children's Charter	4,500

LEAFLETS.

What is Life on £1 a Week?	34,500
Do we Work to Live or Live to Work?	34,000
What Happens to the Workers' Children?	32,500
Sickness is the Great Recruiting Sergeant	32,000
Unemployment and its Remedy	32,500
Abolition of the Poor Law	32,000

Several hundred thousands of special election leaflets were also issued for the Municipal Elections and Metropolitan Borough Council Elections, November, 1912, entitled:—

The Children and the Council.
Down with the Slums.
Labour and the Borough Councils.

A handbook for speakers under the title of "The Case for the National Minimum," with a preface by W. C. Anderson, is being issued by the Joint Committee. It contains numerous facts and figures relating to the various points of the "War Against Poverty" Campaign. The price will be sixpence.

Conference of Socialist and Labour Elected Persons.

The Joint Committee organised a Conference of Socialist and Labour elected persons at Manchester on March 21st and 22nd, 1913. About 60 members of County, Borough, District, and

Parish Councils, and of Boards of Guardians and Scottish School Boards, attended from all parts of the country. The Conference was arranged in three sessions at which papers were given by Councillor George Shann on "The Extension of Boundaries, Incorporation and Co-operation between Authorities"; by Sidney Webb on "Municipal Finance and Municipal Autonomy"; and by Dr. Alfred Salter on "An Unified Local Health Service." The chairmen were Councillor Tom Fox, of Manchester, Alderman David Williams, J.P., Mayor of Swansea, and Councillor T. R. Marr. The Conference was fully reported in the daily Press, considerable discussion arising therein on the subjects dealt with by the papers.

Conference at Barrow House, Keswick.

Arrangements have been made to hold a Conference under the auspices of the Joint Committee at Barrow House, Keswick, during the week ending August 2nd, 1913. The Conference will be attended by the National Administrative Council of the I.L.P., members of the Fabian Executive and other prominent workers in the Labour and Socialist movement. Mr. J. Keir Hardie, M.P., will deliver the inaugural address. The following subjects will be discussed:—The Relation between Political Action and Trade Unionism (past, present, and future); The Syndicalist Propaganda and its effects on Trade Unionism and the Labour Party; Immediate Steps in Collective Ownership—the Nationalisation of Mines and Railways, Municipal Free Services and Municipal Trading; The Sphere of Co-operation (the Store and the Wholesale Society) in the State of To-morrow; The Self-Governing Workshop, Profit Sharing and Industrial Co-partnership: have they any future; The Land: the Scope of Nationalisation; The Trade Union Movement—its problems of internal organisation (amalgamation or federation; the election and powers of the Executive; how to get good officials, etc.); What is the best relation of the Trade Union to the Co-operative Store and Wholesale Society, the Municipal Council, and the Government Department; the National Minimum (Legal Minimum Wage, Maximum Day, Adequate Housing, Complete Provision against Sickness,

Child Nurture and Abolition of the Poor Law)—how best to continue the Campaign?

Finance.

The whole of the work of the Joint Committee has been carried on so far without drawing further on the resources of the constituent bodies than is involved in the secretarial assistance gratuitously given by their officers, and the use of their premises for meetings, etc. This satisfactory result is due largely to the great amount of gratuitous service which the Joint Committee has received from members of both constituent bodies who have lectured, written, organised, done secretarial work, and sometimes even travelled long distances without fee or reward. The Joint Committee can only place on record its high appreciation of this zealous service, for which the thanks of both constituent bodies are due. With the aid of all this volunteer work the enterprises undertaken have been made, as far as possible, self-supporting. The two great demonstrations at the Albert Hall more than paid for themselves by the sale of tickets and the collections. The local expenses of the "War Against Poverty" Conferences were very largely covered by the delegate fees, and local deficits were often made up by local subscriptions. The receipts from the sale of literature—although much has been given away—went far to cover the cost of printing. Special donations were received in aid of the necessarily heavy central expenses of the "War Against Poverty" campaign, for printing, postages, and travelling.

The total income of the Committee, as set out in the financial statement, amounted to £645 7s. 10d., and the expenditure to £501 5s. 3d., leaving a balance at the credit of the Committee of £144 2s. 7d.

Joint Committee of the Independent Labour Party and the Fabian Society

ACCOUNT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD FROM 19TH MAY, 1911, TO 30TH APRIL, 1913.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
Donations	214	19	10	Newport Demonstration, 3rd Sept., 1912	10	2	6
Albert Hall Demonstration	327	15	6	Albert Hall Demonstration, 11th Oct., 1912	232	11	11
Memorial Hall Conference	35	7	6	Memorial Hall Conference, 11th Oct., 1912	44	18	3
Literature	45	6	0	Thirty Conferences "War Against Poverty"	130	2	11
Local Government Information Bureau:				Printing, Stationery, and Postages	16	5	0
Subscriptions, etc.	17	14	0	Literature	33	15	1
Elected Persons' Conference	4	5	0	Local Government Information Bureau	12	16	6
				Elected Persons' Conference, Manchester,			
				25th and 26th March, 1913	15	14	6
				May Sunday Demonstration Inquiry	4	18	7
					501	5	3
				Balance at credit, at 30th			
				April, 1913, consisting			
				of:—			
				Cash at Bankers	£101	19	9
				Sundry Debtors	52	7	6
				Less Sundry Creditors	154	7	3
					10	4	8
					144	2	7
					£645	7	10

We have examined the above Account and compared it with the vouchers and books of the Committee, and find the same to be correct.

9, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND,
13th June, 1913.

W. HECTOR THOMSON & CO., }
Chartered Accountants } Auditors.

The War Against Poverty.

The following Publications have been issued :

THE STUDENT'S HANDBOOK OF FACTS AND FIGURES : "The Case for the National Minimum."

88 pp. Crown 8vo. ; 6d., post free, 8d.

PAMPHLETS.

"Complete National Provision for Sickness :
How to Amend the Insurance Act."

By Mrs. Sidney Webb, D.Litt.

"Healthy Homes for All." *By R. C. K. Ensor, L.C.C.*

"How the Government can Prevent Unemployment."
By Sidney Webb.

"The Abolition of the Poor Law." *By C. M. Lloyd.*

"The Eight Hours Day." *By C. Morgan Webb, M.A.*

"The Legal Minimum Wage." *By Sidney Webb.*

"The New Children's Charter." *By C. M. Lloyd*

1d. each. The Seven, post free, for 8d.

LEAFLETS.

"WHAT IS LIFE ON £1 A WEEK?"

"DO WE WORK TO LIVE OR LIVE TO WORK?"

"WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WORKERS' CHILDREN."

"SICKNESS IS THE GREAT RECRUITING
SERGEANT."

"UNEMPLOYMENT AND ITS REMEDY."

"THE ABOLITION OF THE POOR LAW."

2/6 per 1,000. Specimens on application.

To be had from ST. BRIDE'S HOUSE, SALISBURY SQUARE, FLEET STREET, or 3, CLEMENT'S INN, STRAND, LONDON.

The War Against Poverty

The following publications have been issued:
THE STUDENT'S HANDBOOK OF FACTS AND FIGURES: "The Case for the National Minimum."
32 pp. Crown 8vo.; 6d. post free. 5d.

PAMPHLETS

- "Complete National Provision for Sicknes:
How to Amend the Insurance Act."
By Mrs. Sidney Webb, D.Litt.
- "Healthy Homes for All."
By A. C. K. Essex, F.R.C.S.
- "How the Government can Prevent Unem-
ployment."
By Sidney Webb.
- "The Abolition of the Law."
By G. M. Lloyd.
- "The Eight Hours Law."
By Sidney Webb, M.A.
- "The Legal Minimum Wage."
By Sidney Webb.
- "The New Children's Charter."
By G. M. Lloyd.



THE NATIONAL LABOUR PRESS LTD.,
MANCHESTER AND LONDON.

LEAFLETS

- "WHAT IS LIFE ON 21 A WEEK?"
 - "DO WE WORK TO LIVE OR LIVE TO WORK?"
 - "WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WORKERS' CHILDREN?"
 - "SICKNESS IS THE GREAT RECRUITING
SERGEANT!"
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