

The National Committee to Promote the Break-up of the Poor Law.

President : THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF NORWICH.

Treasurer : MR. J. A. DAWES, M.A., L.C.C., J.P.

Hon. Secretary : MRS. SIDNEY WEBB, D.LITT.

Offices : 5 AND 6, CLEMENTS INN, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES.

SIR,

In connection with your candidature for the representation of this district, I should be obliged if you would be good enough to inform me what views you at present hold upon the questions set forth in the following pages, questions which will necessarily come before you, if elected, at an early date.

I fully appreciate the fact that representatives ought to remain free to judge of all measures as they may actually be presented to them. I am, therefore, not asking you for any binding pledge as to your future action. I venture to hope, under these circumstances, that you will consider my request (for some indication of the present opinions of those who seek to become my representatives on questions which seem to me of vital importance) to be one with which you can properly comply. If you prefer not to express any opinion on the questions of detail, may I, at any rate, ask what your views are with regard to the last two?

Awaiting the favour of an early answer,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Name of Local Resident.....

Address.....

The National Committee to Promote the Break-up of the Poor Law,

5 and 6, CLEMENTS INN, STRAND, LONDON.

The following Publications may be obtained at the Offices of the National Committee; or of P. S. KING & SON, Orchard House, 2, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

An Outline of the Proposal to Break up the Poor Law, 16pp. Price *id.*, post free.

The New Charter of the Poor: What is meant by the Break Up of the Poor Law, 8pp. Price *id.*, post free.

The Reports on the Poor Law. By the Right Hon. Sir John Gorst, K.C. 16pp. Price *id.*, post free.

The Failure of the Poor Law, 8pp. Price *id.*, post free.

Seven Reasons for Supporting the Minority Report of the Poor Law Commission. By J. W. Willis Bund, Chairman of the Worcestershire County Council, 4pp. Price $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; or, post free, two copies for *id.*

How the Minority Report deals with Unemployment. 16pp. Price *id.*, post free.

How the Minority Report deals with the Sick. 20pp. Price *id.*, post free.

How the Minority Report deals with the Children. 16pp. Price *id.*, post free.

What the Minority Report Means to Women. By Mrs. Macrosty, 8pp. Price *id.*, post free.

The Poor Law Medical Officer and His Future. By Mrs. Sidney Webb, 8pp., price *id.* post free.

The Scheme of Reform. Part I.: The Poor Law, 8opp. Price 3d., post free.

The Scheme of Reform. Part II.: Unemployment. 9opp. Price 3d., post free.

The Care of the Children. 8opp. Price 3d., post free.

The Treatment of the Sick. 88pp. Price 3d., post free.

Birth and Infancy. 58pp. Price 3d., post free.

The Disease of Unemployment. 86pp. Price 3d., post free.

Recovery of Cost. 37pp. Price 3d., post free.

The Minority Report of the Poor Law Commission. Cheap Edition in two volumes. Part I.: The Break-up of the Poor Law. Price *1s.* (postage 2d.) Part II.: The Unemployed. Price *1s.* (postage 2d.)

Minority Report for Scotland (cloth covers, 88pp.), 6d. From all Booksellers (or by post, *1d.* extra).

I. The Unemployed.

1. Will you, as at present advised, resist any attempt to thrust back the unemployed workmen in distress (who now have, at any rate, the Distress Committee to fall back on) into the present or any future Poor Law?

2. Are you in favour of the public provision for the unemployed, whatever it may be, being kept entirely apart from the public provision for the necessitous children, the mentally defective, the sick and the aged poor; and of its being administered by a separate authority, without the stigma of pauperism?

3. Would you, if elected, vote for the establishment of a National Authority (whether in connection with the National Labour Exchange or otherwise) to grapple with the problem of unemployment, and to make the necessary provision for the maintenance of unemployed workmen in distress, quite apart from the Poor Law?

4. Are you in favour of the provision of suitable "Farm Colonies" or other Training Establishments, quite apart from any Poor Law, for the physical and other training of unemployed men needing such training, whilst waiting for situations to be found by the National Labour Exchange?

5. Are you prepared to support a properly safeguarded proposal to establish, for men *duly convicted* of being habitual loafers or wastrels, special Detention Colonies of a new type, to be run not as prisons, but as industrial reformatories?

QUESTIONS.

6. Are you in favour of taking concerted action to secure such a regularisation of the aggregate national demand for labour as might be effected by arranging on a Ten Years' Programme the necessary proportion of the present Government works and orders; and, without undertaking any new or useless work, concentrating the ordinary orders, as far as possible, in the lean years of each decade?

7. Are you in favour of the better industrial training of boys and girls, by (a) raising the minimum age for employment to 15; (b) limiting the hours of labour of boys and girls between 15 and 18 to thirty per week (or equivalent forms of half time), and requiring the other half of the time to be spent in a Trade or Agricultural School or other educational institute?

8. Are you in favour of a legal limitation of the hours of duty of railway, tramway and omnibus workers, so as to prevent the present often excessive hours of labour, and so as to facilitate the absorption of the surplus labour that will stand revealed by the "decasualisation" to be effected by the National Labour Exchange?

9. Are you prepared (in order to put an end to the chronic "under-employment" of the dock labourers and other casual workers) to make it compulsory upon all employers who wish to take on *casual* labour to engage such labour at, or in connection with, the public Labour Exchange, which could "dovetail" the engagements?

ANSWERS.

QUESTIONS.

10. Do you agree with the proposal to pay, under proper conditions (as is now done so widely on the Continent), to Friendly Societies, Trade Unions and other approved societies providing insurance against unemployment, a Government subsidy towards the amount they have spent in the preceding year in Out-of-work Benefit, thereby lightening the burden of the public authority dealing with the unemployed?

II. Children of School Age.

1. Will you press for the complete "taking out of the Poor Law" of all public provision for children of school age; and the entire separation of this provision for necessitous children from any Poor Law or Public Assistance Authority, and from any stigma of pauperism?

2. Will you support the transfer to the Local Education Authority of the children now maintained as paupers by the Board of Guardians, and of all necessitous children of school age?

3. Will you support the transfer to the Board of Education of the inspection and educational supervision of (1) industrial and reformatory schools; of (2) certified schools and homes for young people; of (3) the uncertified institutions to which children of school age are sent at the public expense; and of (4) all the present Poor Law schools and institutions for children of school age?

4. Will you press for the widest possible extension of "boarding out" and "scattered homes" for all suitable cases, so as to confine institutional life for children to a minimum?

ANSWERS.

5. Will you insist that all "boarded out" children shall be (a) inspected by a skilled lady inspector at least once a year; (b) medically inspected, with weight and height measurement, regularly once a quarter?

6. Do you agree that where a widow with young children is granted assistance from public funds in order to enable her to bring up her children at home, such assistance should always be (a) adequate for complete maintenance; (b) conditional on the mother not going out to work?

III. The Sick and Infirm.

1. Will you do your utmost to bring to an end the separate existence of the two ubiquitous rate-supported medical services (Poor Law and Public Health), which are now competing with and overlapping each other?

2. Will you press for the "taking out of the Poor Law" of the whole of the public provision for the sick, whether domiciliary or institutional; and its transfer to a unified medical service, free from the stigma of pauperism, under the Health Committee of the County or County Borough?

3. Are you in favour of developing and pressing forward the campaign for the prevention of sickness, especially phthisis, by "searching out" and promptly treating, quite apart from any Poor Law, every case at the incipient stage?

QUESTIONS.

ANSWERS.

4. Are you in favour of the Local Health Authority pressing forward with its campaign against infantile mortality; and of "*taking out of the Poor Law*" the present unsatisfactory public provision for maternity and infancy, for which the Local Health Authority should become exclusively responsible?

IV. The Mentally Defective.

1. Are you in favour of promptly carrying out the unanimous recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded, by "*taking out of the Poor Law*" the whole public provision for all grades of the mentally defective, and transferring this, free from the stigma of pauperism, to the Local Lunacy Authority?

2. Do you favour the transfer (in order to lighten the burden of County Administration) of all the lunatic asylums to a Government Department, as suggested by Lord St. Aldwyn?

V. The Aged.

1. Are you in favour of completing the Old Age Pensions Act, 1908, by removing the pauper disqualification, and "*taking out of the Poor Law*" the rest of the aged for whom public provision has to be made, concentrating the administration, free from the stigma of pauperism, in the Local Pension Committee?

QUESTIONS.

ANSWERS.

VI. The Workhouse.

1. Will you do all in your power to get the General Mixed Workhouse, unanimously condemned by the whole Poor Law Commission, as soon as possible abolished?

2. Are you in favour, meantime, of definitely forbidding the admission of any children to this demoralising institution, and of restricting its use as much as possible?

VII. The Crusade Against Destitution.

1. Do you favour the general idea of the Minority Report of the Poor Law Commission, that the State should get to work to prevent the occurrence of destitution, and not merely relieve it when it has occurred; and thus that the work must be undertaken, not by any Poor Law or "Destitution" Authority, whatever its designation—seeing that this can never intervene until destitution has occurred—but by the various preventive authorities already in existence?

2. Are you in general sympathy with the scheme of reform put forward in the Minority Report?

Signature of Candidate.....