

# Questions for Poor Law Guardians.

Second Edition, Revised February, 1893.

SIR,

In connection with your Candidature for the Office of Guardian of the Poor, I should be obliged if you would be good enough to inform me of your views on the following questions.

I am, yours faithfully,

Name of Elector.....

Address of Elector.....

(Information on the Poor Law and its administration will be found in Fabian Tract, No. 17, "The Reform of the Poor Law.")

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
<p>I.—A DEMOCRATIC BOARD.</p> <p>1.—Are you in favor of abolishing</p> <p>(a) The rating qualification for Poor Law Guardians (£5)?</p> <p>(b) The existing Plural voting in proportion to the rateable value of each house?</p> <p>(c) All ex-officio membership?</p> <p>2.—Will you support the proposal that the method of Election of Guardians and the franchise be the same as that for the County Council?</p> <p>3.—Will you advocate the Board and its Committees sitting at such times as will enable working men and women to serve as Guardians?</p>	
<p>II.—AN EFFICIENT POOR LAW ORGANISATION FOR LONDON.</p> <p>4.—Are you in favor of the equalisation of rates throughout the metropolis?</p> <p>5.—Will you advocate the transfer of the administration of all Poor Law institutions in London to an elected central Poor Law Council, having authority over the Local Boards of Guardians?</p>	
<p>III.—THE WORTHY POOR.</p> <p>6.—Are you in favor of substituting for Poor Law relief a system of adequate pensions to the aged and disabled poor?</p>	

## QUESTIONS.

## ANSWERS.

7.—Are you in favor of such an administration of Poor Law Infirmaries, Dispensaries, and Sick Asylums as shall

- (a) remove all stigma of pauperism from the public treatment of sickness or accident?
- (b) facilitate the placing of the present endowed Hospitals, Asylums, and Dispensaries under the control of some public authority?

8.—Are you in favor of housing the different classes of in-door poor (aged, able-bodied, &c.), whenever possible, in separate buildings?

9.—Will you insist that where aged married people, both over sixty, are in the workhouse, a separate apartment shall be provided for them, as directed by the Law [10 and 11 Vict. c. 109, s. 23], and report to the Local Government Board any infraction of the same?

10.—Will you see that the aged poor in the workhouse are (a) provided with books and newspapers, (b) allowed to smoke, (c) to interest themselves in some occupation, (d) not forced to wear a distinctive dress, and (e) allowed to go out on every fine day?

11.—Will you take care that all children whose charge devolves upon the community, in consequence of the death, desertion, or pauperism of their parents,

- (a) shall not in any way be made to feel that their dependence is either criminal or disgraceful?
- (b) shall not be marked out by dress or treatment from their fellows?
- (c) shall receive such general education, whenever possible in Board schools, and special teaching of a skilled trade, as shall counteract any hereditary tendency to lapse into pauperism?
- (d) shall be removed from the contact with pauperism which is inevitable in workhouses, and trained in special institutions, divided in the "Cottage Home System," or boarded-out in the country and sent to efficient public schools?

QUESTIONS.

ANSWERS.

12.— Will you insist upon the Guardians finding temporary and honorable employment for those out of work in seasons of depression by co-operation with the Vestry, or Town or County Council, and the arrangement of the public works in such a way as to increase the employment at these periods?

IV.—THE UNDESERVING POOR.

13.—Are you in favor of

- (a) The reform of the present Casual Ward system, providing for the weeding out of the habitual loafer from the genuine unemployed, and allowing the latter early egress to enable him to get work?
- (b) Out-door relief to the able-bodied, except in cases of real emergency?
- (c) The institution of compulsory and corrective treatment of the habitual casual, vagrant or mendicant in some kind of "labor colony"?

V.—PROPER TREATMENT OF WORKERS.

14.—Will you insist that to all men and women employed by the Board, the Trade Union rate of wages shall be paid, and that their hours of work shall be limited to a maximum of eight per day, or forty-eight in each week?

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

16.—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 (1) against sub-contracting or sweating, (2) for the payment of the Trade Union rate of wages, if any is fixed for that trade, (3) that the working day shall be Eight Hours only?

17.—Will you advocate the payment of a minimum wage of 6d. an hour to all adult laborers employed by the Board?

Signature of Candidate.....

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