

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES
FOR
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILS.

SIR or MADAM,

In connection with your Candidature for the Urban District Council, I should be obliged if you would be good enough to answer the following questions, and return the paper to me.

I am, yours faithfully,

(Name of Elector).....

(Address of Elector).....

(An Urban District Council, the successor of the "Local Board," is the sanitary authority under the Public Health Acts, and can put in force the Artizans' Dwellings Acts, the Public Libraries Acts, the Baths and Washhouses Acts, and many other useful statutes. It exercises nearly all the powers possessed in a Municipal Borough by the Town Council, except those relating to the Police. It can, under certain conditions, supply water; gas and electric lighting; set up a system of drainage; own the tramways; provide public markets, parks and open spaces; establish, under the Technical Instruction Acts, science, art or trade classes, schools, museums and scholarships; and in innumerable other ways raise the standard of life of its constituents. It must necessarily become, directly and indirectly, a large employer of labor. After 1895 its members will be elected annually in March for a term of three years, one-third retiring each year. Any Parliamentary or County elector can vote, and no elector has more than one vote for each Candidate. Any registered elector, and any person after a year's residence in the District, whether man or woman, is eligible for election. The first election is in Dec., 1894.)

QUESTIONS.*

ANSWERS.

I.—A HEALTHY DISTRICT.

1.—Will you press for thorough sanitary inspection, house-to-house visitation, and rigid and impartial enforcement of the law against nuisances and insanitary property, without respect of persons?

2.—Will you vote for the appointment of a salaried Medical Officer who shall give his whole time to his public work?

3.—Will you support such an increase in the present staff of Sanitary Inspectors that there shall be not less than one to every 2,500 houses?

4.—Will you require the registration of Tenement Houses, with a view to secure more effective sanitary supervision?

* Strike out or amend those Questions which are not applicable to your District.

QUESTIONS.

ANSWERS.

5.—Will you support an effort to secure the regular, frequent, and strictly gratuitous emptying of ashpits and collection of dust, particularly in the crowded districts?

6.—Will you endeavor to establish a complete system of drainage throughout the District?

7.—Will you press for prompt and extensive action by the Council for the condemnation of unsanitary dwellings under the Artizans' Dwellings Acts?

8.—Will you support the construction and maintenance, *by the Council itself*, of an adequate number of cottages (with gardens), improved dwellings and common lodging houses?

9.—Will you vote for the prompt provision, in all parts of the District, of

(a) Public baths, including swimming baths for each sex, and wash-houses at low fees;

(b) Public libraries and reading rooms;

(c) Public drinking fountains;

(d) Parks and open spaces;

(e) Trees in the broad streets;

(f) Gymnasiums and seats;

(g) Free urinals and water-closets for each sex?

10.—Will you seek to extend the constant supply of water to every house?

II.—THE MUNICIPALIZATION OF MONOPOLIES.

11. Will you press for the prompt exercise by the Council of its legal power to take over the tramways?

12. Will you support the Council in obtaining express power itself to work the tramways, without the intervention of any lessee, contractor, or other middleman?

13. Will you endeavor to secure the transfer to the Council of any existing private markets, and the grant to it of power to provide new ones where required?

14. If the Council does not already undertake the water supply, will you press the Council promptly to obtain powers to

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provide an independent supply, if thought necessary, and to take over at a fair valuation any of the existing plant wanted ?

15. Will you press the Council to obtain power to supply gas, and to take over the existing works if required ?

16. Will you endeavor to prevent electric lighting falling into the hands of a company, and vote for the District Council undertaking it as soon as practicable ?

III.—PROPER TREATMENT OF LABOR.

17. Will you insist, as regards all persons employed by the Council, upon

- (a) A normal Eight Hours Day, or maximum of 48 hours per week ;
- (b) Not less than Trade Union rate of wages for each occupation ;
- (c) Full liberty of combination ;
- (d) One day's rest in seven and a week's holiday on full pay annually ;
- (e) The prohibition of overtime except in unexpected emergencies ?

18. Will you, in every practicable case, prefer the direct employment of labor by the Council to the intervention of a contractor ?

19. 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 similar to those adopted by the London County Council (with penalties to be strictly enforced), stipulating

- (a) Against sub-contracting or sweating ;
- (b) For payment of the Trade Union rate of wages fixed for that trade, as defined in a schedule to the contract ;
- (c) That, when possible, the working day shall be 8 hours, or 48 per week ;
- (d) That in all contracts for clothing and boots the work be performed entirely in the contractor's factory, and not given out ?

20. Will you press upon the Council to make an earnest endeavor, by co-operating with the Guardians, to find, in all periods

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of depression and distress, temporary useful and honorable employment for those out of work, by the arrangement of the public works in such a way as to increase employment at these periods?

21.—Will you support any reasonable proposal for evening meetings of the Council and Committees, so that persons at work in the day can become effective members?

IV.—FURTHER POWERS.

22. Will you support the demand for an Act enabling the District Council to relieve the occupying ratepayer by

- (a) A "Municipal Death Duty" on local real estate, as a way of absorbing the "unearned increment;"
- (b) Levying special taxation upon the owners of ground rents and other land values, and of collecting half rates from the owners of empty houses and vacant land;
- (c) Securing special contributions, by way of "betterment," from the owners of property benefited by public improvements?

23. Will you press the District Council to make early application to the Local Government Board to grant it all the powers of a Parish Council, especially in regard to

- (a) Appointment of Overseers;
 - (b) Control over charities;
 - (c) Provision of allotments;
 - (d) Use of schoolrooms for candidates' meetings?
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Signature of Candidate.....

See Fabian Tract No. 53, "The Parish Councils Act: What it is and how to work it," *id.* Post free from the Fabian Society, 276 Strand, London, W.C., for 1½d.

For list and particulars of other Tracts, write to the Secretary of the Fabian Society, 276 Strand, W.C. Printed lists of questions to be put to candidates for the Guardians, School Board, County Council, or Parliament, will be sent free. Complete set of 52 Tracts, price 2s. 3d. post free; or, bound in buckram, 3s. 9d. post free.

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