

# Questions for Poor Law Guardians.

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... ..

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
<p>I.—A DEMOCRATIC BOARD.</p> <p>1.—Are you in favour of abolishing</p> <p>(a) The rating qualification for Poor Law Guardians (£25 or £40);</p> <p>(b) The existing Plural Voting in proportion to the rateable value of each house?</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 support evening meetings of the Board and of its Committees, in order that working men and women may be able to serve as Guardians?</p>	
<p>II.—AN EFFICIENT POOR LAW ORGANISATION FOR LONDON.</p> <p>4.—Are you in favour of the equalisation of rates throughout the metropolis, and 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>5.—Are you in favour of strictly classifying the indoor poor, and of housing the different classes (aged, able-bodied, &amp;c.) whenever possible, in separate buildings?</p>	

III.—PROPER TREATMENT OF WORKERS.

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

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

8.—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?

9.—Will you advocate the payment of a minimum wage of 24/- a week to all adult labourers employed by the Board?

IV.—THE WORTHY POOR.

10.—Are you in favor of substituting a system of adequate pensions to the aged and disabled poor for the present Poor Law relief?

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

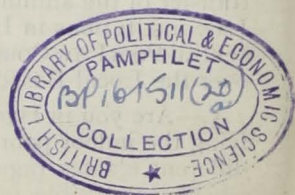
(a) remove all taint of pauperism from the public treatment of sickness or accident?

(b) facilitate the placing of the present endowed Hospitals, Asylums, and Dispensaries under the control of some public authority?

12.—Will you insist that where aged married people, both over sixty, are in the workhouse, a separate apartment is provided for them, if they desire it, 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?

13.—Will you see that the aged poor in the workhouse are made comfortable, provided with books and newspapers, and allowed to smoke or to interest themselves in some occupation?

Poor laws.



QUESTIONS.

ANSWERS.

14.—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 either by dress or treatment from their fellows ?
- (c) shall receive such general education and special teaching of a skilled trade by apprenticeship or otherwise, as shall counteract any hereditary tendency to lapse into pauperism ?
- (d) shall be removed from the contact with paupers 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 ?

15.—Will you insist upon the Guardians making an earnest endeavour to find temporary and honourable 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 ?

(N.B.—This is strongly recommended by the Local Government Board, and has been successfully carried out in Chelsea and elsewhere).

V.—THE UNDESERVING POOR.

16.—Are you in favour of the abolition of:—

- (a).—The present demoralising Casual Wards ?
- (b).—Out-door relief to the able-bodied, except in cases of real emergency ?

And their replacement by the compulsory and corrective treatment of the habitual casual, vagrant or mendicant in some kind of "labour colony" ?

Signature of Candidate.....

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