

Source 3:

**TUC's questions for parliamentary candidates, 1879
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QUESTIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

TO THE TRADES' UNIONISTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

GENTLEMEN, - In accordance with the Resolution passed at the Edinburgh Congress, we herewith give a list of questions to be submitted to Parliamentary Candidates seeking the suffrages of the various constituencies throughout the United Kingdom.

Our friends will no doubt adopt their own means of obtaining the opinion of Candidates on the programme here submitted. We may, however, suggest that, as far as it is possible, the questions should be put and replied to by the Candidate in public meeting; or where a Candidate is waited upon by deputation, a reporter should in all cases accompany the deputation. This is necessary, in order to prevent a misunderstanding of the Candidate's opinions.

It is particularly requested that the deputation shall communicate the replies to the SECRETARY OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE. Should the Candidate be returned to Parliament, the Committee will then be enabled to make use of such assistance as may be thus promised.

Our friends are also requested to ask Candidates to confer on the various points on the programme as they come before the House, with the Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee.

If the trades in the Parliamentary districts will organise themselves, there is no reason why our strength in the House of Commons may not be greatly increased at the next General Election, which cannot be far off.

The questions may be put as follows: if returned to Parliament, will you support -

- 1.- A Bill to Amend the Law of Compensation in cases of accidents, so that workmen, or their families, may recover from an employer in the event of injury or death from accidents due to negligence.
- 2.- A Bill for the Codification of the Criminal Law.
- 3.- A Bill to reform the Jury Law by lowering the qualification for jurymen, so as to admit a large number of workmen to the discharge of the important duties of jurymen; thereby preventing the necessity of men serving as jurors so frequently; and providing reasonable payment for loss of time.
- 4.- A Bill to extend the Employer and Workmen Act (1875) to English Seamen whilst in British waters.
- 5.- An increase in the Number of Factory and Workshop Inspectors.
- 6.- A Bill to Reform the Patent Laws.
- 7.- A Bill for the Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt.
- 8.- To extend the Law of Certificates of Competency now in force relative to Marine Engineers, to men in charge of Steam Engines and Boilers.
- 9.- Reform of the Land Laws.
- 10.- Assimilation of County and Borough Franchise.
- 11.- Extension of the Hours of Polling.

In the foregoing programme the Committee have given the strictly official list of questions. There are, however, other matters of importance, as the means to the ends aimed at, and which the Committee venture to bring under the notice of their friends, and leave them to decide whether any action shall be taken thereon.

- 1.- A Re-distribution of Political Power.
- 2.- The payment out of the Local Rates of the Returning Officers' Charges at Parliamentary Elections.
- 3.- The Abolition of the Property Qualification for Town Councils, Boards of Guardians, and the Local Governing Bodies.

The three non-official points here mentioned cannot in any true sense be termed "party questions," and each has a most important bearing on the realisation of the official programme.

October,
1879.

HENRY BROADHURST, *Secretary.*

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