Questions for London County Councillors

(REvised February 1898.)

Sir,

In connection with your candidature for the London County Council, I should be obliged if you would be good enough to answer the following questions.

I am, yours faithfully,

Name of Elector

Address of Elector

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<th>QUESTIONS</th>
<th>ANSWERS</th>
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<td><strong>I.—HOME RULE FOR LONDON.</strong></td>
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<td>1. Will you press for the &quot;Unification&quot; of London; that is to say, the union, in the hands of the County Council, of all central municipal powers and duties applicable to London as a whole, including such &quot;county&quot; powers and dignities as are now exercised by the old City Corporation?</td>
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<td>2. Will you strenuously resist any scheme of the nature of &quot;Tenification,&quot; by which the County Council would be stripped of its powers, the existing local bodies abolished, and London cut up into ten, fourteen, or some other number of new and separate municipalities?</td>
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<td>3. Will you support such a reform of the existing Vestries and District Boards as would maintain in each area a strong, dignified and independent District Council, for exclusively local purposes, under whatever name and with whatever officers and titles may be desired; and concentrate, in that Council, all local municipal affairs?</td>
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<td>4. Will you press for Parliamentary powers to: (a) Place the London police under the control of a representative London authority? (b) Secure for the County Council the effective control of the Thames and</td>
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QUESTIONS.

Lea, now governed by secret and irresponsible bodies (the Thames and Lea Conservancy Boards) on which London is most inadequately represented?

(c) Protect, reclaim, and usefully apply London’s misappropriated endowments, especially those now held by the City Guilds and obscure parochial authorities?

(d) Transfer to the County Council the Metropolitan open spaces still vested in the Crown, including the Royal Parks, with the ground rents, out of which they are maintained, and Trafalgar Square?

(e) Place the hospitals and other medical charities under a Central Hospitals Board of representative public character?

(f) Establish, for the more humane and intelligent administration of the Poor Law, and the further equalization of the rates, a directly elected Central Poor Law authority for London as a whole, working with local committees?

(g) Erect municipal slaughterhouses (as in Manchester) in place of the existing private establishments?

5. Will you support such an alteration of the law as would make women eligible for election to the County Council?

6. Will you seek to obtain for the County Council such an unrestricted power of promoting bills in Parliament for the furtherance of any public interest of the citizens of London, as is now possessed by the City Corporation?

II.—THE MUNICIPALIZATION OF MONOPOLIES.

7. Will you press for the early transfer to the Council of the undertakings of the Water Companies on fair terms?

8. Will you support the immediate exercise by the Council of its legal powers to take each tramway undertaking as its concession expires, on arbitration terms?
QUESTIONS.

9. Will you seek to retain, in the hands of the Council itself, the working of the tramway system, in order that it may be managed exclusively in the public interest?

10. Are you in favor of the Council taking over the existing gas supply?

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

12. Will you promote the transfer of the docks to some representative public authority?

III.—HOUSING OF THE PEOPLE.

13. Will you press for prompt and extensive action by the Council for the condemnation, under the Housing of Working Classes Act, 1896, of all considerable insanitary areas?

14. Will you support the construction and maintenance, by the Council itself, of an adequate number of improved dwellings and common lodging houses?

15. Will you press for the employment by the Council of an adequate medical staff to compel the enforcement throughout all London of the sanitary laws?

IV.—FINANCIAL REFORM.

16.—Are you in favor of levying special taxation upon the owners of ground rents and other land values, and the collection of half rates from owners of empty houses and vacant land?

17. Will you support a "Municipal Death Duty" on local real estate, as a way of applying the "unearned increment" to public purposes?

18. Will you press for the further equalization of rates as between rich and poor parishes?

19. Will you, in order to obtain the "unearned increment" for the public, insist on the retention of the freehold of all land which comes into the Council's possession?

20. Will you take every opportunity of improving the condition of the people by (a) The special consideration of the unemployed, and the arrangement of
### QUESTIONS.

- What arrangements will you make for the proper conduct of the Council's undertakings in such a way as to permit their employment, where possible, on useful public works?
- What steps will you take to press for the improvement of lighting and scavenging in the now neglected poorer districts?
- How will you urge upon the local authorities an increased provision of public baths, wash-houses, libraries, museums, art galleries, and open spaces, especially in the poorer neighborhoods?
- What plans do you have for maintaining and improving the present provision of music in all the open spaces of London?
- How will you extend the facilities for public amusement and refreshment in the parks?

### V.—PROPER TREATMENT OF LABOR.

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

- A normal Eight Hours Day?
- Not less than Trade Union rate of wages for each occupation?
- Full liberty of combination?
- One day's rest in seven, and sufficient holidays?
- The prohibition of overtime except in unexpected emergencies?

22. Will you maintain the Works Department, and promote the direct employment of labor by the Council, wherever possible, in preference to contracting?

23. Where contracting is necessary will you try to put down all sweating, and rigidly enforce the rule of employing only firms which:

- Pay the Trade Union rate of wages for the particular occupation?
- Observe the standard hours of labor, where such standard exists?
- Have the work executed on their own premises?

### Signature of Candidate

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

14. Will you promote the transfer of the docks to some elected public authority?

IV.—HOME RULE FOR LONDON.

15. Are you in favor of the thorough completion of the work of local government reform by the prompt supersession of the City Corporation, and the existing vestries and district boards, by directly elected district councils subordinate in matters of general principle to the County Council?

16. Are you prepared to press the County Council promptly to seek for Parliamentary enlargement of its powers so as to enable it to

(a) Obtain the control of the police?

(b) Protect, reclaim, and usefully apply London’s misappropriated endowments, especially those now held by the City Guilds?

(c) Make women eligible for election?

(d) Pay the members of the Council?

(e) Obtain control of all the metropolitan open spaces still vested in the Crown, including the Royal Parks and Trafalgar Square, and permit public meetings therein under proper regulations?

(f) Promote bills in Parliament for all the purposes of its work?

V.—FINANCIAL REFORM.

17. Will you press for a fair division of the rates between owner and occupier?

18. Are you in favor of levying special taxation upon the owners of ground rents and other land values, and the collection of half rates from owners of empty houses and vacant land?

19. Will you endeavor to secure special contributions, by way of “betterment,” from the owners of property benefited by public improvements?

20. Will you support a “Municipal Death Duty” on local real estate, as a way of absorbing the “uncollected increment”? 
21. Will you promote the equalization of poor and other rates all over London, together with the creation of a central elective Poor Law Board, working in unison with the Council?

22. Will you endeavor to put an end to the sale of land acquired by the Council, and, in order to obtain the "unearned increment" for the public, insist on the retention of the freehold of all land which comes into the Council's possession?

23. Will you take every opportunity of improving the condition of the people by

(a) The special consideration of the unemployed, and the arrangement of the Council's undertakings in such a way as to permit their employment, where possible, on useful public works?

(b) Pressing for the improvement of lighting and scavenging of the now neglected poorer districts?

(c) Urging an increased provision of public baths, wash-houses, libraries, museums, art galleries, and open spaces, especially in the poorer neighborhoods?

(d) Extending and making permanent the provision of music in all the open spaces of London, and providing similar accommodation, where possible, under cover?

(e) Extending the facilities for public amusement and refreshment in the parks?

24. Will you endeavor to get the Council to petition against the Leasehold Enfranchisement Bill, and to agitate, instead, for a proper measure for the reform of leasehold tenure by preventing oppressive eviction and giving security to all tenants for their "goodwill" and reasonable improvements?

Signature of Candidate

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