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.....................................................

QUESTIONS.

1.—HOME RULE FOR LONDON.

1. Will you press for the “Unification” 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 “county” powers and dignities as are now exercised by the old City Corporation?

2. Will you strenuously resist any scheme of the nature of “Tenification,” 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?

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?

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...
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?

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, 1890, 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
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 in the now neglected poorer districts?

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

(d) Maintaining and improving the present provision of music in all the open spaces of London?

(e) Extending 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) A normal Eight Hours Day?

(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 sufficient holidays?

(e) 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

(a) Pay the Trade Union rate of wages for the particular occupation?

(b) Observe the standard hours of labor, where such standard exists?

(c) Have the work executed on their own premises?

Signature of Candidate