

THE
LONDON PROGRAMME

SIDNEY WEBB.





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THE
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BY
SIDNEY WEBB.



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PREFACE.

THE following pages are not presented as any contribution to either science or literature. They aim at nothing more pretentious than describing, in language easily read and understood, the more important of those reforms in the administration of the metropolis, which are often known as "The London Programme." The present exposition of that programme is in no sense authoritative, and the writer has no other warrant for his task than a life-long acquaintance with London, and a very real and deep affection for his native city.

The greatest need of the metropolis is, it may be suggested, the growth among its citizens of a greater sense of common life. That "Municipal Patriotism" which once marked the free cities of Italy, and which is already to be found in our own provincial towns, can, perhaps, best be developed in London by a steady expansion of the sphere of civic as compared with individual action.

The Reform of London Government is, therefore, no

mere matter of cleaner streets or better drains. We should "municipalize" our metropolis, not only in order to improve its administration, but as the best means of developing the character of its citizens. The promotion of the interests of London as a whole, rather than those of individual Londoners, forms the leading principle underlying all the proposals in this little book.

It remains to be said that some of the matter has appeared before in print, mainly in the columns of the *Speaker*, to the editor of which the author is indebted for permission to make this further use of it.

4, Park Village East,
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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
WHY LONDON HAS A PROGRAMME	1
CHAPTER II.	
THE COUNTY COUNCIL IN CHAINS	9
CHAPTER III.	
THE ABOLITION OF VESTRYDOM.	17
CHAPTER IV.	
LONDON'S WATER TRIBUTE	31
CHAPTER V.	
LONDON'S GAS BILL	45
CHAPTER VI.	
LONDON'S MARKET LORDS	54
CHAPTER VII.	
MONOPOLY AT THE DOCKS	62
CHAPTER VIII.	
LONDON'S TRAMWAYS	73
CHAPTER IX.	
LONDON'S HOSPITALS	86

	PAGE
CHAPTER X.	
A POOR LAW COUNCIL FOR LONDON	90
CHAPTER XI.	
LONDON'S NEGLECTED HERITAGE	101
CHAPTER XII.	
THE CRY OF THE LONDON LEASEHOLDER	112
CHAPTER XIII.	
THE HOUSING OF THE PEOPLE	123
CHAPTER XIV.	
THE HOME SECRETARY'S POLICE	137
CHAPTER XV.	
THE REGISTRATION MUDDLE	143
CHAPTER XVI.	
THE TAXATION OF GROUND-RENTS	149
CHAPTER XVII.	
LONDON'S FINANCIAL BUDGET	171
CHAPTER XVIII.	
THE UNEARNED INCREMENT	188
CHAPTER XIX.	
A MUNICIPAL DEATH DUTY	197
CHAPTER XX.	
LONDON AS IT MIGHT BE	207

INDEX.



- ABOLITION of Vestrydom, The, 17.
- Acworth, W. M., L.C.C., 10, 92.
- Africans in London, 4.
- Allen, Grant, 100.
- Americans in London, 4.
- Apothecaries' Company, The, 103, 107, 110.
- Asiatics in London, 4.
- Assessment, not under County Council, 10; Of Rates, 151; Statistics of, 190; Of Empty Houses, 166; Of Vacant Land, 164; Of Improvement Rates, 166.
- BARNETT, Rev. S. A., 99.
- Beal, James, L.C.C., 48.
- Bedford, Duke of, 55.
- "Betterment," 166; In New South Wales, 167.
- Billingsgate Market, 59.
- Bills, Powers as to, 12.
- "Bloody Sunday," 140.
- Booth, Charles, 123.
- Bootle, Ownership of, 192.
- Borough Market, The, 57.
- Bramwell, Lord, 38.
- Budget, A London, 171.
- Burns, John, 140.
- Bury, Ownership of, 192.
- CASUAL Wards, Inequality in, 91.
- Causton, R. K., M.P., 44.
- Centralization *versus* Local Autonomy, 10.
- Clare Market, a Metropolitan Connaught, 56.
- Coachmakers' Company, The, 107, 110.
- Columbia Market, 59.
- Common Lodging-houses in Huddersfield, 133; In Glasgow, 133; In London, 134.
- Common Poor Fund, The, 94.
- Common Municipal Fund, A, 27.
- Communalization of the Means of Enjoyment, 212.
- Companies, The City, 101; Statistics of, 102, 107; Reform of, 108.
- Connaughts, Metropolitan, 56.
- Constant Supply of Water, 32.
- County Council, Functions of, 9; Difficulties of, 11; Potentialities of, 207.
- Covent Garden Market, 55.
- DEBT of London, 172.
- Death Duties, Municipal, 197; National, 200; Economic Effect of, 204.

- Density of Population, 124.
 Dilapidations, 119.
 Dilke, Sir Charles W., 10.
 Dispensaries, 86.
 District Councils, Need for, 21 ;
 Areas of, 22 ; Constitution of,
 24 ; Functions of, 26 ; Rela-
 tion of, to County Council, 27.
 Division of Rates, 158.
 Docks, 62 ; The Great Strike, 63 ;
 Municipalization of, 65, 70 ;
 Statistics of, 66, 69 ; At Liver-
 pool, 68.
 Dutch in London, 4.
 Dublin Municipal Artisans'
 Dwellings, 134.
 EMPTY Houses, Rating of, 166.
 FISHMONGERS' Company, The,
 102, 107, 110.
 French in London, 4.
 GAS Light and Coke Company,
 The, 46.
 Gas Supply, 45 ; Regulation of, in
 1876, 49 ; Municipalization of,
 49 ; Use of, for Mechanical
 Power, 53 ; In the Future, 209.
 Germans in London, 4.
 Goldsmid, Sir Julian, M.P., 56.
 Goldsmiths' Company, The, 102,
 107, 110.
 Goodwill, Confiscation of, 119.
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. W. E., 149.
 Glasgow Municipal Artisans'
 Dwellings, 133 ; Common
 Lodging-houses, 133 ; Tram-
 ways, 82.
 Graham, Cunningham, M.P., 140.
 Green Park, The, 141.
 Greenock Municipal Artisans'
 Dwellings, 132.
 Ground Rents, Taxation of, 149 ;
 Amount of, 195.
 Growth of London, 3.
 Guilds, The City, 100.
 Gunmakers' Company, The, 107,
 110.
 HALDANE, R. B., M.P., 196.
 Harmoniumist, A Municipal, 134.
 Haysman, James, 166.
 Heritage, London's Neglected,
 101.
 Hospitals, Statistics of, 86 ;
 Rapid Municipalization of, 87 ;
 Need for Supervision, 89.
 Hospital Saturday Fund, 87.
 Hospital Sunday Fund, 87.
 Housing of the People, Need for,
 122 ; Royal Commission, 125 ;
 Work done by Public bodies,
 128 ; By Companies, 130 ; By
 the Peabody Trust, 129 ; By
 the Metropolitan Board of
 Works, 129 ; By Provincial
 Municipalities, 132, 133 ;
 Work to be done, 136.
 Huddersfield Municipal Common
 Lodging-house, 135 ; Artisans'
 Dwellings, 135 ; Tramways, 83.
 Hyde Park, 141.
 IDEAL London, An, 207.
 Incidence of Taxation, 153 ; Of
 Death Duties, 204.
 Income Tax, Exemption of Pre-
 miums from, 191 ; A Local, 160.
 Increment in Water Workshares,
 43 ; On London Land, 188 ;
 Taxation of, 204 ; Absorption
 of, by Municipalization, 196.

- Infirmaries, 86.
 Inhabited Houses, Number of, 3.
 Irish in London, 4.
 Italians in London, 4.
 JEWS in London, 4.
 KENSINGTON Gardens, 142.
 LAMBERT, Rev. Brooke, 99.
 Lancashire, Unearned Increment of, 192.
 Land Tax, Inequality of the, 155.
 Land Values and Ground Rents, 163.
 Leaseholds Enfranchisement Association, 113.
 Leasehold System, The, 112; Enfranchisement Proposals, 114; Objections, 115; Reform of, 119.
 Liverpool Docks, Administration of, 68.
 Liverpool Municipal Artisans' Dwellings, 132.
 Livery Companies, The Twelve Great, 102; The Smaller, 103.
 Liverymen Electors, 100.
 Local Death Duty, A, 197.
 Local Government, Cost of, 150.
 Local "Property Tax," 160.
 "Local Real Estate Duty," 202.
 London as it might be, 207.
 London's Neglected Heritage, 101.
 MARKETS, 54; Monopoly in, 57; Regulation of, 59; Statistics of, 61.
 Marshall, Professor Alfred, 135, 210.
 Mercers' Company, The, 102, 107, 108.
 Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, 68.
 Metropolitan Asylums Board, Hospitals of, 88; Constitution of, 94.
 Model Dwellings, Number of, 130; Insanitary state of some of, 131.
 Moulton, J. Fletcher, Q.C., 157.
 Municipal Artisans' Dwellings in Liverpool, 132; In Greenock, 132; In Huddersfield, 133; In Glasgow, 133; In Dublin, 134.
 Municipal Common Lodging-houses in Huddersfield, 133; In Glasgow, 133; In London, 135.
 Municipal Co-operation, 208.
 Municipal Corporation Act, 1835, 1.
 Municipal Death Duty, 197; Need for, 199; Method of, 201.
 Municipal Gasworks, 49.
 Municipal Music in Glasgow Lodging-houses, 134; In London Parks, 212.
 Municipal Steamboats, 211.
 Municipal Waterworks, 34; Potentialities of, 208, 210.
 Municipalization, Potentialities of, 207.
 NORTH Metropolitan Tramway Company, 79.
 OVERCROWDING, Increase of, 126.
 PARKS, the Royal, 141.

- Payment of Members, 25, 143.
 Pauperism, Extent of, 96.
 Peabody Trust, The, 129.
 Plumbers' Company, The, 107, 110.
 Poles in London, 4.
 Police Force, 137; Statistics of, 138; A separate Government, 139; Suburban Areas, 140.
 Political Influence of London, 1, 4, 5.
 Poor Law Council, 90; Need for, 94; Constitution of, 95.
 Poor Law Reform Association, 99.
 Population, 3.
 Poverty of London, Statistics of, 123, 124.
 Probate Duty, 200; Unsuitability of, for Local Revenue, 205.
 Programme, The Need for a London, 2.

RATES, Amount of, 150, 194; Inequality in, 28; Division of, 158.
 Rates, Statutory, for Water supply, 37.
 Reid, R. T., M.P., 161.
 Registration of Electors, 143; Method of, 144; Difficulties of, 146; Duplicate Votes, 147; Reform of, 147.
 Regulation of Industry, Course of, 79.
 Revenue of London, 172.

 St. JAMES's Park, 141.
 Saunders, W., L.C.C., 162.
 Scotch in London, 4.
 Single-Room system, The, 127.

 Spitalfields Market, 56.
 Stationers' Company, The, 103, 107, 110.
 Succession Duty for Local Purposes, 197, 205.
 Swiss in London, 4.

TAXATION of Ground Rents, 149; Need for, 151; Plans for, 157.
 Thames Conservancy Board, 65, 68.
 Torrens' Act (Water Rate), 38.
 Trafalgar Square, 140.
 Tramways, 73; Statistics of, 74; Need for Regulation of, 78; Municipalization of, 81, 82.
 Triennial Parliaments, 142.
 Turners' Company, The, 107, 110.

UNEARNED Increment, The, 188; Amount of, 190; Municipalization of, 195.

VACANT Land, Rating of, 164.
 Valuation, Effect on Water Rates, 41; Amount of, 190; Of Land separately, 162.
 Vestries, Abolition of the, 17; Functions of, 18; Reform of, in 1855, 19; Electoral Arrangements of, 20.

WATER Companies, History, Statistics, and Rights of, 31.
 Water Rates, Statutory, 37.
 Water Supply, 31; Sources of, 33; Amount of, 33; Difficulties of, 35; Need for New Works, 39; Payment for, 40; Future Potentialities of, 208.
 Water Trust, 36.
 Workhouses, Differences in, 92.

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