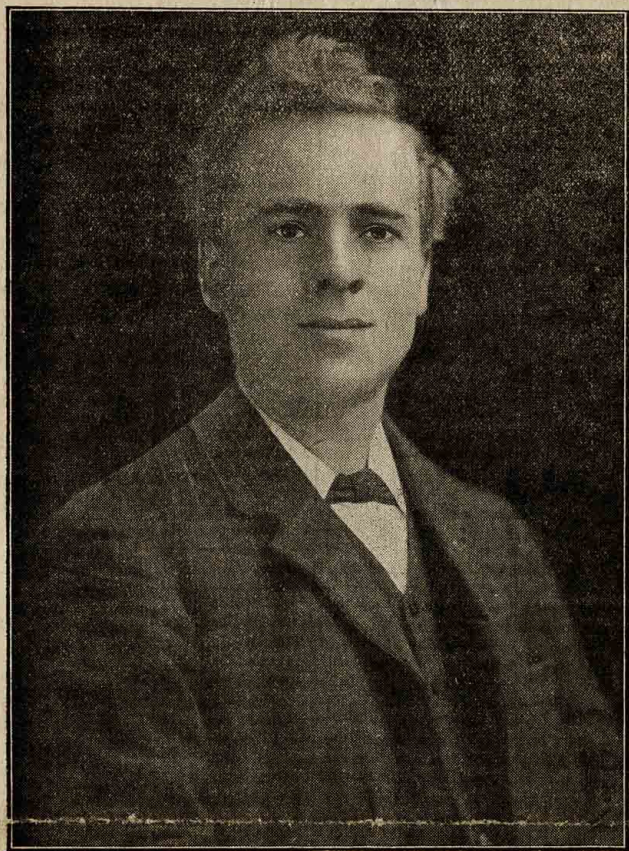


ELECTION SUPPLEMENT FREE.

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SOUTH ABERDEEN.

By-Election, 1907.



Mr. FRED BRAMLEY,
Labour and Socialist Candidate.

To the Electors of South Aberdeen.

GENTLEMEN.

In response to the unanimous invitation of a Joint Committee of the Organised Workers of this Constituency, "a Committee consisting of representatives from the Trades Council, Trades Unions, the Independent Labour Party, Social Democratic Federation, and Working Women's Political Association," I have decided to offer myself as Candidate at the forthcoming Parliamentary By-Election.

The desirability of increasing the number of direct independent representatives of the workers has been amply proved by the great success of the Labour Group already existing in the House of Commons.

If elected, I shall use my opportunities as a Member of Parliament to secure better conditions of life and labour for the workers of the country.

I believe that the main cause of poverty, disease, and crime is the limited opportunities possessed by the great majority of our people.

We are a wealthy community, with almost unlimited powers to produce our material requirements, and yet children are starving; strong, able-bodied men denied the right to work; and aged veterans of industry only permitted to live either by charity or by the aid of a demoralising system of Poor Law Relief.

I believe that the extremes of excessive wealth and degrading poverty are due to the same common cause, a wrong distribution of the wealth of the country.

This in turn is, in my opinion, due to the private monopoly of land and capital. Overcrowding, disease, death, high rents, and a low standard of vitality are also, in my opinion, due to monopoly of Land. I should therefore be in favour of the abolition of this monopoly by the

NATIONALISATION OF THE LAND.

Low wages are due to the private monopoly of the means of production and the enormous amount of unearned increment taken from workers, in the shape of interest and profit, by those who privately own social necessities.

I am therefore in favour of the Public Ownership of all Public necessities. Steps should, in my opinion, be taken towards the Socialisation of the

**RAILWAYS,
COAL MINES,
CANALS,**

and all other forms of Social Service that could be managed and controlled collectively in the interest of all.

The immediate measures of relief to the workers of the country are:

The Right to Work, for Willing Workers.

The Right to be Fed, for Starving Children.

The Right to Live, for Aged Workmen.

I seek to represent in Parliament all those who are anxious to promote the best interests of the nation, by abolishing sweating, bad sanitary conditions, and by increasing the educational opportunities for all.

I shall have further opportunities of meeting the Electors of the constituency at Public Meetings, when I hope by verbal explanations to justify my claim to your confidence and support.

Yours sincerely,

F. BRAMLEY.

Bramley for South Aberdeen.

Enthusiastic Reception of the Labour Candidate.

Overflow Meetings.

THE CASE FOR SOCIALISM.

MR. FRED BRAMLEY has during the last fortnight been addressing four meetings daily, and has been everywhere well received.

The following summarised report of his speech on Friday last is typical of the wholesome political fare which the Socialist candidate is placing before the South Aberdeen electors.

Mr. Bramley said:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—

We are now drawing very close to the end of this very interesting by-election in South Aberdeen. During the contest I have endeavoured to make clear to you why we of the Socialist and Labour Party have come forward to give you the opportunity of selecting a representative not identified with either of the orthodox Parties, Liberal or Tory. If the history of legislative progress proves anything, it proves that both these Parties have shamefully neglected their duty to the working classes.

We have, by class representation built up a magnificent system of law which has for its object the protection of the sacred rights of PROPERTY.

But we have no principle of law yet established which gives the human being the right to live by conceding

THE RIGHT TO WORK.

We have increased our power of wealth production to a wonderful extent, and at the same time, and by the same process, we have increased the necessity of imposing taxes for the purpose of

POOR LAW RELIEF.

Luxurious extravagance and degrading poverty exist side by side in every town and city in the country. In one column of our newspapers we can read of starving children, in another we read of rich men's banquets.

We come forward to tell you that these extremes of excessive wealth and demoralising poverty can be traced to the same common cause, that is, the private ownership of

SOCIAL NECESSITIES.

We pride ourselves on loyalty to our country, but country we have not. Scotland does not belong to the Scotch. England does not belong to the English. Both belong to the landlords.

And, in passing, I may call your attention to the fact that in this election you have an Irish landowner seeking to represent the Scotch rent-payers. (Applause.) Your interests may be identical, but I fail to see it. (Laughter.) I have during this election from my platform challenged the Liberal and Tory candidates to tell the electors of Aberdeen what constructive legislation they can suggest as a means of dealing with:

*The Land Problem,
The Housing Problem,
The Unemployed Problem,
The Problem of Poverty,*

and other social and industrial evils. There has been no attempt by either of them to meet this challenge; both have evaded the issue by criticising Socialism, both of them are afraid of the bogey they attempt to frighten you with, both of them agree that whatever else may happen as a result of this election, the Socialist candidate must be kept out. Yes, even the progressive Liberal would prefer an Irish landowner to an intelligent mechanic.

I have drawn Mr. Esslemont's attention to the existence of willing workers starving in our streets, denied the natural right to earn their daily bread, to the existence of starving children, denied the right to be well educated, well fed, and well

clothed, to the existence of overcrowding, infantile mortality, rates three times what they should be, sweating trades by which our sisters are robbed of their virtue, our manhood destroyed, and the general consequences of our present system, as evidenced by the physical and mental degeneration of the people. To this indictment of the failure of our present system and a request for remedies,

Mr. Esslemont replies:

ABOLISH THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

How that would provide work for the unemployed, food for the starving child, protection for the aged workman, I fail to see. I do know this, that "Down with the Lords!" has for many years served as an effective election cry to Liberal politicians.

In reply to the same indictment, the same condemnation of our social system, with its glaring privileges for the rich, and restricted opportunities for the poor, in reply to the same demand for suggested solutions for these problems, Mr. McNeill's cure for the social disease is a strong dose of

TARIFF REFORM.

What Tariff Reform can accomplish has been stated by Mr. Chamberlain in his Glasgow, Greenock, and Welling Abbey speeches. He has told you that the Fiscal change will improve the workman's position to the extent of eight farthings per week.

TWOPENCE PER WEEK.

Here is the Tariff Reformers' Millenium, here is the Imperialist Ideal, here is *Joseph's Dream*, twopence per week (if you get it).

Now, with all due respect to the Protectionist candidate, I cannot really take this seriously. I fail to see how this can prevent an industrial crisis, how this will so increase the demand in the home markets as to solve the problem of the unemployed.

They have no remedy. The landowner represents Rent, the Capitalist Profit. The perpetuation of a system based on Rent, Interest, and Profit prohibits any solution of this great problem.

The only remedy is to extend a principle already applied, substitute further the principle of PUBLIC OWNERSHIP for that of Private Monopoly. By this you can increase wages, reduce hours, abolish sweating, destroy overcrowding. Only by this method can you destroy the system which leads to the growth of huge fortunes in the hands of a few, and the degradation of the many, and create a system which will lead to the

PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF ALL.

NOTICE.

The "CLARION" is published every Friday, price one penny, and can be ordered from any newsagent. It is always on sale by the following:

J. Menzies & Co., 3, Castle Terrace.
Mr. Lennie, King Street.
Miss Middleton, Baker St.
Mr. Martin, George Street.
Mr. Craig, " "
Mr. Markey, Rosemount Viaduct.
Mrs. Robertson, East North Street.
Mr. Lawrence, Torry.
Miss Duncan, Rosemont Place.

An Open Letter to the Working Men of South Aberdeen.

FELLOW ELECTORS.—In two days' time you will be called upon to elect a member of Parliament. It is a very important matter, although you do not seem to realise that. If you did realise how much depended on how you cast your vote, you would consider seriously before coming to a decision. It is a very important matter, not merely for yourselves and those dependent upon you, but for all your fellow-workmen.

For a long time you have voted for Mr. Bryce. When you voted for him you did so because he promised to support certain reforms which you desired. The electors in South Aberdeen are mostly working men. They thought, and you thought, Mr. Bryce would do something. He was twenty-two years in the House of Commons, and what did he do?

Well, he has got his reward. You have nothing to thank him for. He has everything to thank you for. *He has got place and position. You have got nothing.*

In his place you are offered three candidates to choose from. Only once before have you been in such a position, and that was fifteen years ago. Much has happened in those years. Fifteen years ago there was no Labour Party. To-day Mr. Bramley represents a Party in being—a Party that has already made its mark in the political life of the country.

But let us consider the candidates before you. About Mr. McNeill it is not necessary to say much. You have never looked with favour upon the Conservative candidate, and Mr. McNeill has nothing to commend him more than other Conservative candidates. There is nothing new in his message, nothing striking in his personality. He is merely a commonplace Conservative, with a commonplace programme.

About Mr. Esslemont it is necessary to say more. He is the representative of the Party that has always held the seat. He is not the man you would have chosen, but you were not asked to choose. That is not your business. You have to shut your eyes and open your mouths, and take what is given you. You are not considered fit to choose a Member of Parliament. That work is reserved for some ninety eager reformers who elect themselves to do the job.

They have not fixed on Mr. Esslemont because of his fitness as a politician. He was chosen because he was a local man and had a lot of friends on the Liberal Council. The fact that he was the son of his father also helped him. He couldn't help that, of course, but it was rather a lucky thing for him. In this life much depends on your choice of a father.

Mr. Esslemont has been eight years a Town Councillor. There have been worse Councillors. There have been many who have done things. Mr. Esslemont's virtues are purely negative. He has not made any mistakes, but then he has not made anything. He certainly has done nothing to further your interests. He has never, on the Town Council or on any other local body, been a helper when the working class were agitating on any question. You know all these things are true. Why, then, should you vote for him?

Mr. Bramley, the Labour and Socialist candidate, is not so well known to you. The men who have put him forward know the man and his record. They are working men, and they have put him forward to represent the interests of the working men. He has a long record of work in the trade union movement on behalf of his fellows. To the improvement of their lot he has devoted all his ability and energy. He has worked for them long before becoming a candidate, and will continue working in the same cause. His position is due to his own merit. It was not made for him by his father.

On all social questions he has an extensive knowledge. He has gathered experience in various parts of the country, and that experience has led him to have definite views on political questions. These views he can express in a clear and simple manner. Go and hear him before you decide how your vote is to be cast.

Perhaps you may tell me that you do not cast your votes because of the candidates, but because of the parties they represent. I do not think the Conservative Party attracts you, but I know the Liberal Party is making great claims on the strength of last session's work. They have done some

trifling things, and seem to imagine they have made mighty reforms. But how much have they done themselves?

Take the Trades Disputes Act. You will notice the Liberal candidate is issuing a booklet in which credit is claimed for that Act.

It is not theirs. The Liberal Government's Bill was a spurious imitation. It was introduced on a Monday by Mr. Lawson Walton, on behalf of the Government, and he explained why it was that the Government could not agree to the Labour Party's Bill. The Labour Party refused to accept the Bill, and introduced their own on Friday. Mr. Robson, on behalf of the Government, intimated that they would accept the Labour Party's Bill. *It was the Labour Party's Bill that was passed.* Don't forget that.

If you elect Mr. Bramley he will help the Labour Party to force the hands of the Government on other questions.

That booklet also claims that the Compensation Act has been extended to 6,000,000 workmen. It does not tell you that 3,000,000 of those workmen were not included in the Government's Bill, but had to be forced in when the Bill was passing through the House. It does not tell you that the payment of Compensation from the date of accident was secured by the Labour Party. It does not tell you that the Government proposed that no man who worked with an employer who employed only five men was to be entitled to Compensation. The Labour Party removed that restriction. It does not tell you that the Government placed the value of a man over 20 years of age at £25 to £50—the value of a draught horse. It was the Labour Party that struck out that. These things the Liberal does not tell you. He claims credit for work his Party did not do.

If you add Bramley to the Labour Party it means one more fighter to bring the Liberal Party up to the scratch.

The Liberal Party does not tell you that on November 14, 1906, on the Land Tenure Bill they sold the tenant into the hands of the landlord. Bryce and Pirie supported them in doing so.

There are many other things I might remind you of did space permit. The Liberals know there are many things they cannot afford to have discussed, and so they are raising the ancient cry against the House of Lords. The House of Lords is the best asset the Liberal Party has. It covers a multitude of Liberal sins. They blame the House of Lords for the exclusion of Scotland from the Feeding of Children Bill. The agitation against that Bill in Scotland was engineered by a Radical member who had not the honesty publicly to avow his opposition. When the amendment was made in the House of Lords, the Chairman of the Labour Party intimated to the Prime Minister that the Labour Party was prepared to continue sitting over Christmas to keep the House of Lords until they did pass the Bill.

But the Liberals were not so anxious about the measure. They preferred their own Christmas dinner to the inconvenience of providing one meal a day for hungry children. The responsibility for the omission of Scotland rests on the Liberal Party.

I wonder how long it will take you to realise that the difference between the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party is largely one of name. Both Parties are drawn from one class—the employing class. They are composed of the men you have to fight every day to secure your living. They are formed from the men you go on strike against, the men you keep up your trade unions to fight against.

The question for you at this time is whether you are to be found fighting with your fellow-workmen for your own interests—for Socialism—or whether you are to fight against your fellows and fight for Capitalism. The Liberal Party is not your Party. The Conservative Party is not your Party. The Labour Party is formed from your own ranks: it is financed and controlled by your fellows. It fights for you. Bramley represents the Labour Party. Vote for Bramley and send from Scotland the first increase to the Labour Party in the House.

Your fellow-workers throughout the country are looking for a Message of Hope from South Aberdeen.

JOSEPH F. DUNCAN.