

8(23(a))

AN APPEAL FOR Underfed School Children.

A Parliamentary Select Committee (which issued its Report in August last), inquired further into the question for Providing Meals to Underfed Children attending public elementary schools, and held ten sittings and examined twenty-eight witnesses. The verbal and documentary evidence laid before the Committee enabled them to state (for the consideration of Parliament) that they fully recognised that the inadequate feeding of children attending public elementary schools was a real evil in large towns, and they, in addition, urge the desirability of encouraging and strengthening existing voluntary efforts in the following words:—

“That the local education authority should as far as possible associate with itself and encourage the continuance of voluntary agencies in connection with the work of feeding the children.”

The Food and Betterment Association would, for momentous sociological reasons, direct special attention to an extract from the Chairman's speech in which he (Mr. Lough) states:—
“The work should not be taken out of the hands of voluntary agencies.”

Mr. H. Lee J. Jones gave evidence before the previous Committee, based on thirteen years' experience. The 1906 Committee commended the “zeal and sacrifice of those who carried on the voluntary work of making provision for, and dealing with the underfed children in public elementary schools,” thus stamping with an important hall-mark the usefulness of the work done in the past by the Food and Betterment Association (as *one* Society, whose methods have been copied by other towns, including London), which enables us with entire confidence to appeal to the residents of Liverpool, Bootle, and Birkenhead for funds to enable the vitally-needed work to be carried on. Knowing what has been done in the past, and it being imperative that more should be accomplished, we trust and believe those who have not yet given to this object will contribute.

It is being increasingly acknowledged that poverty in the main is no crime but a misfortune, therefore, and especially in view of the winter fast approaching, your help is earnestly sought. The absorbing question is, “Shall the children go hungry, parental fault or not?” The child to-day is to be the parent of the future, let us not forget. Patriotism, local and national, is dear to all hearts; and surely in bettering child-life we are creating a most valuable national asset.

With these thoughts we once more state our additional need to enable us to carry on this work completely, which, practically speaking, amounts to the same as last year, viz., **£750**. The constant use of the cooking apparatus, which, owing to the many meals provided, creates the need from time to time of overhauling, and the renewal of worn out parts, entails further expense.

We again quote the estimated number of children who are more or less seriously underfed in schools at which meals are needed, and appeal on behalf of about 3,000 children in Liverpool, about 400 in Bootle, and 600 in Birkenhead Schools. Practically the whole of this demand in Liverpool and Bootle has to be met by the Association, but in Birkenhead it shares the work; and, whilst it is true that half these children could doubtless bring a halfpenny to pay for the meal, most of the remainder really need a free breakfast as well as a free dinner. Taking, then, the full demand of winter and the lessened demand of summer together, it is found that the Association cannot do the whole of the work now undone, which lies ready to its hand and for which it has the machinery, unless it receives the additional income of at least £750.

1/- WILL PROVIDE 24 MEALS.

£1 WILL PROVIDE 480 MEALS.

£5 WILL PROVIDE 2,400 MEALS.

N.B.—The Association's increasing work of clothing ill-clad school children (also adults) renders any gifts of cast-off or new garments, headgear or footgear very welcome.

Headquarters and Central Cookery: 119 & 121, Limekiln Lane, Liverpool, N. Telephone 6429 (Central).



To the
Food and Betterment Association.

*I have pleasure in contributing £ s. d.
towards the £750 additionally required for com-
pleting your scheme for feeding underfed school
children, which I shall be happy to repeat yearly (?)*

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____

Address to either:—

FRANCIS SALISBURY, President,
General Post Office, Victoria Street, Liverpool,

J. HARVEY FARMER, Co-Hon. Treasurer,
17, Water Street, Liverpool,

J. ROBY, Co-Hon. Treasurer,
5, Cook Street, Liverpool,

H. LEE J. JONES, Hon. Director,
119 & 121, Limekiln Lane, Liverpool, N.

Noteworthy, Comprehensive Opinion.

"He was not prepared to say that it was so [drink the cause of poverty and distress amongst the poorest people of the Hornby Street area] in the main."—DR. ED. W. HOPE, at the Liverpool Health Committee, 27th September, 1906.

"But drink was by no means alone responsible for the poverty of the United Kingdom. There are many thousands of sober, clean-living men and women in this country who to-day suffered the privations of unmerited poverty."—Extract from a Speech by the RT. HON. D. LLOYD GEORGE, at Merioneth, Sept. 25, 1906.

". . . there exists an enormous amount of desperate poverty, for which neither drink nor laziness is responsible."—Extract from a special series of articles in *The War Cry*, 1903.

"Poverty and suffering you have met on all sides, but 'the hopeless' were few, and their condition was their misfortune more than their fault."—The late MONSIGNOR NUGENT, in a letter to MR. LEE JONES, 1903.

N.B.—Please work for or purchase from the Food & Betterment Association Great £5,000 "Garden City" Bazaar, to be held at St. George's Hall, on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th of February, 1907. Grenadier Guards Band.