

Good copy

CHAPTER X ✓

Various
SPECIAL CAUSES

Temperance

Poor Law Reform

Town Gardens

Agricultural Co-operation

Humane Slaughter

Housing

CHAPTER XI

Various
SPECIAL CAUSES

Temperance

If I am to report on the motives which have led to public work in my life, I should say that I am indebted to the desire which was fostered by the example of my parents and of the Liberator to promote social order and to relieve social suffering. The first of these which roused me arose from my being in the brewing trade. I was conscious, of course, even before going into the business, of the debatable question ~~whether~~ it was a business that a would-be Christian should enter at all. Having, largely by Father's advice, decided that it was a trade, like many others, only ^{un}desirable in the comparatively small section of it which represented laxity, I still felt that the problem of Licencing Reform was the proper business of the members of the trade. I was particularly stirred through being constantly in the least orderly quarter of London, where in the 1890's drunkenness was common, and degraded specimens of both sexes could sometimes be seen in certain streets hopelessly boozed and attacking each other with broken bottles.

I naturally deplored the regrettable character of a large class of English public houses. I was very much taken with the idea of disinterested management compared with the corresponding houses of the Continent. There

was much talk at that time of the Gothenburg system, under which the manager of the licenced house had no interest in the sale of intoxicants. An opportunity of studying this system came in 1895 when the family went to Australia, C.R.B. and I had friends to visit in Scandinavia and Denmark. We made for Stockholm and Gothenburg.

I afterwards induced the Board of the Brewery to make the experiment in certain public houses, of giving a commission to the manager on the sale of non-alcoholics and food. I wrote an article on the results, and in order to secure attention and avoid the charge of bias I persuaded Mr. Charles Booth, whose fame as the author of "Life and Labour in London" was then at its height, to publish the article with a preface by himself and without my name.

I took part afterwards in two movements for experimenting in disinterested management on a large scale, originally promoted by the Bishop of Chester, and afterwards by Lord Lytton. The first was the People's Refreshment House Association, the second the Public House Trust Association.

Poor-Law Reform

Another cause for which I worked arose from my becoming a Poor-Law Guardian for Whitechapel. This was to introduce a system for dealing with vagrancy, which would provide both a decent opportunity for those who really wanted work, and squeeze out those who did not, by leading the public not to give to vagrants. A great deal had been done in this direction in Germany, and in 1897 I went to study the system there, afterwards pushing the plan at Poor Law conferences.

Town Gardening

This was an interest implanted by Rollo Meyer, and an attractive one to pursue, all the more when Lucy came on the scene, and became leader of the movement. Even the slums of Spitalfields lost their unrelieved gloom when a window-box appeared in a sunless court. When I had Lucy's help that movement was enlarged to all London in the London Gardens Guild, with the help of Herbert Stead of the Browning Settlement. It even had a settlement of its own in Walworth, with the Secretary of the Guild as Warden. The final competitions were judged by Ministers of Agriculture.

Agricultural Co-operation

Another aspiration was followed up after I left business in 1904 and had lost my seat in Parliament in 1905. It was the cause of co-operation in agriculture. In this I was prompted - as in the cause of gardening for urban workers - by Rollo Meyer, who in the neighbourhood of his parish in Bedfordshire had seen the urgent need, both social and economic, of co-operation for the small growers in buying supplies and also in selling their products, and had conferred benefits on them by organising co-operative societies on the continental model. I was a keen member of the Committee of the Agricultural Organisation Society, and in our neighbourhood I founded the Epping Society, holding a meeting in the dining room at Warlies at which the Copt Hall agent, Mr. Ormond, was elected chairman.

Humane Slaughter

Among other aspirations I ought to record two which followed the Great War. One was the cause of humane slaughter of animals. I introduced a bill in the House, and visited slaughter houses, both reformed and unreformed, in London, Brighton, and Cambridge. I also went to Rotterdam to see the system in vogue there. My bill made no concession to the Jews, whose system I consider cruel, though better than the pole-axing of cattle, and I was naturally the object

of a violent campaign in the Jewish press. I was specially unpopular with a Jewish M.P., who had to sit up every night at the end of parliamentary proceedings to "block" my Bill (which is done by saying "I object" when the titles of the bills are read out). I was ruthless to the poor man, having seen the Jewish method of slaughter. My bill never reached debate in the House, and afterwards, when another bill was passed, the Jews obtained exemption. But we cannot be too thankful that most animals are now humanely killed.

Housing.

The other reform which moved me in recent times was that of housing. I made several speeches in the Lords on the subject, and I have found nothing more compelling than the one-room dwellings which I have seen in such large numbers. I wish I could have done more in the matter, but it naturally belongs to members of the L.C.C. and other great municipal bodies. There is nothing that a Christian can feel more obviously contrary to any idea of the will of God than the intolerable limitations of life due to crowded housing.

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Chapt. X

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TEMPERANCE REFORM.

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I afterwards induced the Board of the Brewery to ^{make the} ~~let me~~ experiment, ⁱⁿ with certain public houses, ^{of giving a} in which a commission was given to the manager on the sale of non-alcoholics and food. I wrote an article on the results, and in order to secure attention and avoid the ^{charge} ~~appearance~~ of bias I persuaded Mr. Charles Booth, whose fame as the author of "Life and Labour in London" was then at its height, to publish the article with a preface by himself and without my name.

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Another ^{cause for which I worked} ~~keen~~ aspiration arose from my becoming a Poor Law Guardian for Whitechapel. This was to introduce a system for dealing with vagrancy, which would both provide a decent opportunity for those who wanted work, and ^{really} squeeze out those who did not. ^{by leading the public not to give to vagrants.} A great deal had been done in this direction in Germany, and in 1897 I went to study the system there, afterwards pushing the plan at Poor Law conferences.

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HUMANE SLAUGHTER.

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Odious as Hitler's anti-Jewish policy *was* is, I cannot shed tears over his prohibition of Jewish ritual slaughter. *could not*

HOUSING.

The other reform which moved me in recent times was that of housing. I made several speeches in the Lords on the subject, and I have found nothing more compelling than the one-room dwellings which I have seen in such large numbers. I wish I could have done.

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