Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Wednesday 12 June 2019

Afternoon | Paper Reference **9HI0/36**

History

Advanced
Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth
Option 36.1: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928
Option 36.2: Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923

Sources Booklet

Do not return this booklet with the question paper.

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Sources for use with Section A.

Answer the question in Section A on the option for which you have been prepared.

Option 36.1: Protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain, c1780–1928

Source for use with Question 1.

Source 1: From Andrew McBride, *The Rent Fight Past and Present*, a pamphlet published in 1921 by the Glasgow Labour Party Housing Association. McBride was a Glasgow councillor for the Independent Labour Party and was involved in the founding of the Labour Party Housing Committee in Glasgow in 1913.

With the declaration of war on the 3rd August 1914, the landlords, who all claimed that they were great patriots, found that houses were becoming scarce due to the absence of building in previous years. They therefore thought that the time was right to increase rents. In January 1915, all the landlords decided to implement the increases at the same time. Our committee sent resolutions to the government denouncing the actions of the landlords, but found that no attention was paid to such protests.

In March 1915 at a meeting in Partick*, tenants were advised to refuse to pay the rent increases. This policy failed for a time to attract tenants sufficiently courageous to put it into operation. Then in April at a meeting in South Govan* it was decided to fight the landlords. Hundreds of eviction notices were served by the courts on the tenants. In response, houses were fortified and women guarded the approaches. When attempts were made to evict tenants, the court officers had to retreat. The example of the women was followed in other parts of the city.

Our committee organised demonstrations with banners demanding that the government take action. The Secretary for Scotland invited our leaders to discuss the matter. They told him that the people desired that the rents should not be increased above the pre-war level and that the tenants who were away fighting for their country should be protected.

Less than a week later, the government sent down a committee to Glasgow to make enquiries. Although we gave strong evidence of the increases, the committee reported against us. Rents were still soaring and events were rapidly approaching a crisis. With the summoning of a number of munitions workers to attend court, the most dramatic incident of the struggle happened. At breakfast time, men employed in war work along the Clyde stopped working and marched in their thousands with the men summoned to court. This was an unprecedented occurrence.

As a result of this daring innovation, the cases in the Rent Eviction trials were dismissed and the rent strikers won a fight which justified the wisdom of the Glasgow Labour Party Housing Committee. A few days after this the government introduced an Act to limit rent increases.

*Partick and South Govan - districts of Glasgow

Option 36.2: Ireland and the Union, c1774–1923

Source for use with Question 2.

Source 2: From John Mitchel, *The Last Conquest of Ireland (Perhaps)*, published 1860. Mitchel was an Irish nationalist who was in Ireland at the time of the Famine. He was convicted of treason in 1848, but escaped to the USA where he wrote a series of newspaper articles in the 1850s which were published together in this book.

The Famine of 1848 was as fully destructive as any of the previous famines. The poor houses were all filled to overflowing and the demoralised people were either lying down to die or crowding into the emigrant ships. The whole code of the poor laws was a failure for their professed purpose of relieving the Famine. They were a complete success for their real purpose – that of uprooting the people from the land and casting them forth to perish.

Yet Ireland, we are told, is 'improving' and 'prosperous'. It cannot be denied that many of the people have been slain or driven to seek safety by flight. As a result of this the survivors begin to live better for the moment. There is a smaller supply of labour, with the same demand for it and therefore wages are higher. There are more cattle and grain for export to England because there are fewer mouths to be fed.

Everyone must see that the prosperity of Ireland, even such wretched prosperity as it is, has no guarantee or security. The British government can crush it again with greater ease than ever because the small farmers are destroyed, the middle classes are extensively corrupted and the poor never make revolutions.

In the Census of 1851, after five seasons of artificial famine, there were about two and a half million people fewer. What became of them? After estimating emigration, about a million and a half are unaccounted for. That million and a half were slain by the English government. They died of hunger in the midst of abundance which their own hands had created. It is quite irrelevant to distinguish those who perish in the agonies of famine itself from those who died of typhus fever, which in Ireland is always caused by famine.

Further, I have called it an artificial famine. That is to say, it was a famine which desolated a rich and fertile island. The English claim it was entirely due to the blight of the potatoes. But potatoes failed in like manner all over Europe and there was no famine, except in Ireland. The British account of the matter, then, is a fraud and a blasphemy. The Almighty, indeed, sent the potato blight, but the English created the Famine.

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