

Candidate 5 evidence

Question: How successful was the Liberal Government of 1906–1914 in solving the problems of poverty?

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- Booth and Rowntree, one third of the population in poverty.
- Winston Churchill: if we see a drowning man we do not drag him to shore, instead we are providing help to swim ashore.
- The free school meals act – 1906
- 10 • 1907 education act – medical inspections
- G. R. Sims as referenced by Sydney Wood - "I've earned nothing these days... I found a bit of bread wrapped in newspaper, that did me yesterday. I am 54 years old."
- National insurance act part to 1911
- 15 • The Workman's Compensation Act 1906 – injuries at work – too costly to sustain and too difficult to prove liability to workers.

References

- Higher History - Britain and Scotland - Sydney Wood
- 20 From the Cradle to the Grave - Simon and Claire Wood

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50 Assignment

The Liberal Government of 1906–1914 moved away from the idea of laissez-faire as investigators Booth and Rowntree showed that one third of the population was living in poverty. Winston Churchill stated that: “if you see a drowning man we do not drag him to shore, instead we provide him with help to swim to shore.” Therefore, the Liberal Government passed a number of legislation to help the young, old and workers in society. Although legislation was passed it only helps solve the problem of poverty to a certain extent.

The Young were a difficult bunch in society as they were automatically born into poverty through their family. One way the Liberals helped is by introducing the Free School Meals act of 1906. This ensured every school child one free nutritious meal a day which was more than what they were getting at home. However, the act was not fully successful as it was not compulsory in all local authorities and this didn’t ensure children had enough to eat during school holidays. Another way the Liberal Government helped the poor was by introducing the Education Act of 1907 (Medical Inspections) which introduced free medical inspections for children which helped identify illnesses that children had such as rickets. However, this was not fully successful as it did not provide treatment for the children which was still very costly. Therefore, the Liberal Government were successful in solving the problem of poverty to a certain extent with young as on the one hand it helped them be fed at least once a day and identify illnesses they had but on the other hand it didn’t provide meals during holidays and medication still cost far too much money that the poor could not afford.

The Old were at a disadvantage in society as most people had to retire from jobs or were too ill to work therefore no money was coming into their household. As referenced by Sydney Wood, G. R. Sims stated: “I’ve earned nothing these days...I found a bit of bread wrapped in newspaper. That did me yesterday. I’m 54 years old.” The Liberal Government introduced the Old Age Pensions act in 1907 which provided financial support for old people over 70 years old to try and help them get through the week. This was successful as it provided financial support for the old, however, it was not successful as the pension age was too high and most people didn’t live to see the age of 70 years old. Therefore, the Liberal Government were successful in solving the problems of poverty with the old in society to a certain extent as on the one hand they provided money that the old could use to get through the week on the other hand they were not successful as the pension age was too high as many old people didn’t live to this age.

Workers were at a disadvantage in society as if they got injured at work or fell sick, they could not take time off to rest so that they could heal and go back to work. The Liberal Government introduced the National Insurance Act (part 2) 1911 and helped workers who fell ill and could not work. This provided money so that the worker could still provide for their family whilst sick. However, this was not fully successful as it was only the worker who was covered not the whole family therefore it wasn’t enough to keep the whole family going. The Liberal Government also introduced the Workmen’s Compensation Act 1906 which provided compensation for those injured at work. This was a success as people who worked in dangerous jobs with now covered so that if they had a really bad injury, they could take time off to recover. However, this was not fully successful as it was too costly to sustain and too difficult to prove liability to the workers. Therefore, the Liberal Government was somewhat successful when solving the problems of poverty with workers as on the one hand it provided in the actual support to help those injured at work but on the other hand it was not successful as it was very expensive for the government.

In conclusion, the Liberal Government of 1906–1914 was successful in solving the problems of poverty to a certain extent. Yes, it helped the poor and changed the government’s view of the poor

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in society but there were bad points to some of the acts such as the Free School Meals act was successful as it provided one free nutritious meal a day but it wasn't compulsory in all local authorities and it didn't ensure all children had a meal during school holidays. The Old Age Pensions act gave the old money to help with the necessities of daily life, but the pension age was too high as many old people didn't live to see the age of 70. The National Insurance act (part two) gave money to cover those sick at work but it didn't cover the worker's families therefore the money didn't go a long way. Therefore, the Liberal Government of 1906–1914 were successful in solving the problems of poverty to a certain extent.