

ALC/D/011

**NORTHAMPTON MERCURY - September 20<sup>th</sup> 1834**

*THE POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS*

The Assistant Commissioners under the Poor Law Amendment Bill have not been appointed, nor is it likely that a selection of the individuals for that office will take place until the Central Board shall have accurately determined the precise nature of the duties which they will be called to perform. With a view of ascertaining information as to the condition and management of the poor in the different parishes throughout the country, the following questions have been addressed to the parochial authorities by the Central Board:-

“OFFICE OF THE POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS FOR  
ENGLAND AND WALES”,

“4<sup>TH</sup> September 1834

“You are requested to forward, with the least possible delay to the Board of the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, answers to the following preliminary queries:-

“1. Have you any local act for the poor in your parish? If so transmit a copy of it to the Board.

“2. Is your parish united or incorporated with others for the management of the poor?

“3. Have you a Board of Guardians or elected vestry established under Mr Sturges Bourne’s or any other act, and how often are their meetings held for the transaction of business relating to the poor?

“4. Have you a poorhouse, or workhouse, or any other houses belonging to or held by the poor in your parish, for the reception of paupers?

“5. State for what number there is room in such poorhouse, or workhouse, or other houses and also the greatest number which have been in the workhouse, poorhouse, or any other houses at any one time?

“6. Have you any rules or regulations for the management of your poorhouse or workhouse? If so transmit a copy of them to the Board.

“7. State whether your in-door paupers are farmed by contract, or how else otherwise supplied?

“8. What is the gross cost per head weekly of the paupers in your poorhouse, workhouse including clothes,

fuel and medicine, and what is the total amount of the monies expended for the relief of your in-door paupers, for the year ended Lady-day, 1834?

“9. Do you give any relief or allowance to the able bodied poor – in employment – in money, without employment – in payment of rent, or how otherwise? If in employment state the kind of work provided for the able bodied as accurately as you can, whether on the roads, or as rounds men or otherwise. If in money – state the rate of relief or allowance per head weekly given to the individual and his family?

“10. State the number of persons relieved in your parish during the year ended Lady-day, 1834?

“11. Have you any paid officer employed in the management of the poor in your parish? If you have, specify whether vestry clerk, permanent or overseer, schoolmaster or mistress, master or matron, or what others?

“12. Name the unpaid overseers and churchwardens now in office in your parish?”