

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY:- The following report of the Special Committee set up under reference of the Trustees Meeting of the 6th April 1959, having been circulated to the Trustees was taken into consideration:-

April, 1960.

PRISON CHARITIES TRUST  
: AND  
METROPOLITAN CONVALESCENT INSTITUTION CENTRAL FUND

R E P O R T of the Special Committee

At their meeting on the 6th April 1959, the Trustees expressed a wish to enquire into the possibility of widening the objects of these charities so as to include, for example, the housing and care of old people and we were appointed to enquire into the matter and to report.

Accordingly, approach was made to the Chief Charity Commissioner and on the 5th June 1959 he intimated that the Commissioners might consider an application for a Scheme -

- "(1) to amalgamate all endowments of the above two charities as one fund, and perhaps give it a new name, e. g. the Newgate Charitable Fund, or the Mercers' and others Aid for the Aged Fund, so as to remove the prisoner's aid implications, and perhaps lead to an amalgamation, with appropriate expansion of trusteeship, with similar funds administered by the Merchant Taylors, the Clothworkers, Drapers and any other of the Great Companies who may administer former charities for poor debtors imprisoned, or particular convalescence funds, as to which you might be ready to enquire; a Great City Companies Aid for the Aged Fund might conceivably be framed on due application;
- (2) to make income applicable in aid of poor persons who by reason of age, sickness or other circumstances are deserving of charitable assistance either in grants in aid of institutions established to give such assistance including accommodation, nursing or care and attention, or (directly) by grants in aid of the expenses incurred by such persons in receiving such assistance."

This preliminary outline was considered at our meeting on the 13th July 1959 and the Clerk was instructed to place before the Charity Commissioners the following views and to ask for their observations thereon:-

- (1) We considered that it would be beneficial if the endowments of both charities could be amalgamated in one Fund. If this were done, the question of the Trustees' powers of investment might be worthy of review but as it was understood that new legislation on this aspect might be introduced into Parliament before long, we did not wish to raise this particular point at this juncture.

With regard to the renaming of the Charity, we welcomed the suggestion as the name "Prison Charities" is still misinterpreted by certain donees and possibly, say "The City and Metropolitan Trust" might be happier.

As to the possible amalgamation, with appropriate expansion of trusteeship, with similar funds administered by the City Companies mentioned, we would like to pursue this point in the future but it was possible that those Companies concerned might prefer to retain their own funds.

(2) As regards application of income, we would like to delete the word "poor" so as to make it as wide as possible and thereby include deserving cases. As to those persons or organizations to whom grants could be made, we felt that the Trustees would wish to be empowered to make a grant not only to Convalescent Homes but also to the following:-

- (a) Almshouse Chronics
- (b) Homes for the Aged
- (c) Elderly Invalids Fund
- (d) Hostel of God
- (e) Distressed Gentlefolks' Aid Association
- (f) Discharged Prisoners Aid and other similar bodies

and from the wording suggested by the Chief Charity Commissioner it would seem that the Trustees would be so enabled.

Mention was also made that the report of the Ministry of Health's Working Party on "Convalescent Treatment", recently published, did not appear to affect the proposed amendments to the Scheme.

On the 22nd December 1959 reply was received from the Charity Commissioners to the effect that -

(i) they would be prepared to establish a Scheme amalgamating the two charities with objects as already indicated and, as a result of the Committee's views, the Scheme would allow for assistance to be given to deserving and necessitous persons and organisations, particularly those closely connected with the City of London and the word "poor" would be omitted.

(ii) the new title proposed did not find favour as it suggested that the area of benefit was limited and hardly seemed suitable for a charity. "The Newgate Aid for the Aged Fund" or "The Barbican Trust" were put forward as possible titles.

(iii) they considered that the new Scheme should include a reform of the trusteeship and suggested three nominees of the Mercers' Company, two from the City Corporation, and nominees from suitable bodies who have no denominational or local roots and could bring to notice suitable uses of the income such as the Family Welfare Association, Elderly Invalids Fund Trustees, the Distressed Gentlefolks' Aid Association and bodies of that character. These latter trustees to replace the co-optatives selected from persons suggested by other City Companies who retain their own "Prison" charities. The views of the Trustees would be welcome on this particular point.

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(iv) it was agreed that wider powers of investment would be catered for by new legislation in the near future and that the Report on Convalescent Treatment did not affect any of the foregoing proposals although it did suggest that there is considerable scope for aid in convalescence by Charities whether in the form of grants or direct assistance.

On the 12th April 1960 we considered the matter generally, particularly in the light of the observations made by the Charity Commissioners and beg to recommend as follows:-

(i) That the two charities be amalgamated into one fund and that, for the present, no action be taken on the suggested amalgamation of "Prison" charities administered by other Livery Companies.

(ii) That the objects be enlarged by a new Scheme which shall provide for the income to be applied as outlined in paragraph 2 of the Chief Commissioner's letter dated the 5th June 1959, except that the word "poor" should be omitted, and that the Scheme should refer to deserving and necessitous persons and organisations without any organisation being specifically named.

(iii) That the new Charity be given a suitable title. In this respect, while appreciating the Commissioners' comments on our original suggestion, we feel that the two alternatives suggested by them are not suitable and would welcome ideas from the Trustees so that a firm choice can be submitted to the Charity Commissioners and thus avoid them dictating the new Title.

(iv) That as regards reform of the trusteeship we consider that the number of trustees might well be limited to its present total, namely, ten but that as and when vacancies occur in the future they should be nominated as to two by the City Corporation, three by the Mercers' Company (as provided by the present Scheme), two by the Leathersellers' Company and one by the Grocers', Haberdashers' and Ironmongers' Companies respectively.

These Companies all make annual contributions to the Charity funds and this reorganisation such as we propose will entail the omission of the five Parish Charities and the Lady Elizabeth Rich Trustees, originally designated by the Scheme in 1876 and who now appear to have little or no active interest in the Charity.

We do not favour representation by those bodies mentioned by the Charity Commissioners in paragraph (iii) of their letter dated the 22nd December 1959.

RESOLVED:-

(a) That the two charities be amalgamated into one fund and that, for the present, no action be taken on the suggested amalgamation of "Prison" charities administered by other Livery Companies.

- (b) That the objects be enlarged by a new Scheme which shall provide for the income to be applied as outlined in paragraph 2 of the Chief Charity Commissioner's letter dated the 5th June 1959, except that the word 'poor' should be omitted, and that the Scheme should refer to deserving and necessitous persons and organisations without any organisation being specifically named.
- (c) That the new Charity be named "The City and Metropolitan Charities Fund".
- (d) That the number of trustees be limited to the present total namely ten, but as and when vacancies occur in the future they should be nominated as to one by the City Corporation, three by the Mercers Company, two by the Leathersellers Company, and one by the Grocers'; Fishmongers'; Haberdashers' and Ironmongers' Companies respectively. Should the Fishmongers' Company not wish to nominate a Trustee then two to be nominated by the Grocers' Company.
- (e) That a cordial vote of thanks be tendered to the Committee. /