

Taken from the *Leeds Weekly Citizen*, 4th April 1918: part of a series of articles looking at the early history of the socialist movement in Leeds. It is a leaflet authored by Tom Maguire and issued in 1887 on the need for a new party.

A definite step is now being taken towards the foundation of a Socialist Labour Party in Leeds. In all of our large towns and in all civilised countries a similar movement is gathering force and wherever there is enlightenment among working men, there is also Socialism. The objects of Socialism, are briefly, to make life easy for all who are willing to do their fair share of work; to put a stop to the mad competition for existence, which is the cause of poverty on all hands and to establish a co-operative Commonwealth, by restoring the means of production to the control of their proper owners - the people. The argument for Socialism is briefly that the means of production have been and are still being wrongfully wrested by the classes from the masses and, further, that no minority of persons by either moral or constitutional right to the possession of such means for their own private ends, when it entails loss and misery on the majority.

During the winter months lectures will be given and discussion held at 17 Chesham Street, Sweet Street, Holbeck. Working men desirous of seeing a thorough going Labour Party established in this town are invited to attend. Fellow workers are you satisfied with your life of anxiety and hardship and have you no wish to see a change for the better in your conditions? If you are so satisfied and have no such wish, you must be slaves in body and soul. If you are men however, you will not need much exhorting to come out of your apathy and do your part towards emancipating yourselves from the thralldom of capitalism.

SUNDAY LECTURE LIST

Oct 9 th	The need of a Labour Party - T.Maguire
Oct 16 th	The lesson of the Trades Congress - T.Paylor
Oct 23 rd	The National Loaf. Who Earns and Who Eats It - T.Braithwaite
Oct 30 th	The Labour Struggle - W.Hill
Nov 6 th	The Principles of Socialism - F.Cockwell