

Sir Benjamin Louis Cohen, Bt.

Date of Birth. 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1844.

Name of Mother. Floretta Keyser.

Married. 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1870

1892, elected M.P. for East Dorset (majority 465)

1895, do. do. do. do. . . . . (majority 1224)

1900, do. do. do. do. . . . . (majority 1619)

1906, election do. . . . . (defeated by 767)

Became interested in National Politics as a development of Philanthropic and Local Government work; partly as a result of friendship with Sir Robert Fowler.

Religious convictions: Jewish.

Favourite Newspaper: Times.

Income from business when first a candidate, partly earned and partly unearned, £12000, approximately.

Experience of Public Works: L.C.C. Various charities.

Spent on Constituency; £500 to £600 a year; in addition, about £800 in year in which Election took place.

Being in Parliament certainly checked earning capacity, less time being devoted to business; partners did more, and expected larger share of profits.

Have general support to Conservative Party.

Believed <sup>fully</sup> in Free Trade. Have only qualified assent to protection when brought forward by Joseph Chamberlain.

Elected member of the L.C.C. on its first formation in 1888, remained a member until 1901. Was never an actual leader, but recognized as one of the leaders of the Moderate party. Was for a time, Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Gave evidence before Royal Commission on London Government as a "moderate" member of the L.C.C., about 1895.

Was member of various Parliamentary Committees, especially Telephone Committee which preceded termination of National Telephone Company.

As to his education:- I believe it was entirely private, from tutors who came to his father's house, being one of a very large family this would be fairly easy.

Cole Sir Benjamin Louis, Bart.

Points from Election Addresses. 1892: 1895; 1900: 1906.

1892. Of foremost importance the maintenance of integrity of U.K.  
• opposed to sep. Parl. for Ireland on ground that it w. be a  
"bare abandonment of millions of law-abiding Irish subjects" desiring  
to remain under rule of British Parl.  
Declared support for meas. tending to improve conditions of poorer classes.  
Advoc. creat<sup>n</sup> of special Gov<sup>t</sup> Dept. for labour to solve the  
industrial disputes betw. employed & employers.  
Advoc. mitigation of harsh Poor laws, and state scheme of  
support for ~~aged~~ disabled old people.  
Regarded ~~incidence~~ of local tax<sup>s</sup> as unjust in its incidence &  
occupies to exclusion of owners.  
Held maintenance of Col<sup>d</sup>. ties as "supremely imp<sup>t</sup>."

1895. Re-iterated belief in importance of integrity of U.K. & oppos<sup>n</sup> to Irish H.R.  
• hoped for consent<sup>ts</sup> on domestic legislat<sup>n</sup> w. w. achieve  
social reform by improving housing, encouraging thrift & cheapening educ<sup>n</sup>;  
remodelling Poor laws. & provision for old people.  
Advoc. re-adjust<sup>n</sup> of local & Imp. tax<sup>s</sup> & reform of  
hard<sup>ly</sup> local Gov<sup>t</sup> & held that centraliz<sup>n</sup> in one governing  
body has led to extravagance & inc<sup>d</sup>. tax<sup>s</sup>.  
Welcomes meas. to enfranchise leaseholders.  
Warmly advoc<sup>s</sup>. stat<sup>n</sup> of Boards of Conciliat<sup>n</sup>. to deal with industrial <sup>(dispute)</sup>  
Upheld policy of adequate Naval defence for work. wide Empire.  
• Fair East-Enders

1900. Called for support for a settlement of S. African War by Lord  
Salisbury rather than by untried Lib. leaders.

1906. Hoped Chamberlain's policy of strengthening bonds of Empire w. not be interfered with.  
Promised utmost oppos<sup>n</sup> to H.R. and Disestablishment. Approves of late Gov<sup>t</sup> Educ. Act  
and Licensing Act. <sup>fav<sup>r</sup>ed</sup> ~~fav<sup>r</sup>ed~~ import<sup>n</sup> of duties on certain goods. not on food stuffs  
or raw materials. Satisfact<sup>n</sup> on app<sup>t</sup> of Commission<sup>rs</sup> on Poor laws; advoc. re-adjust<sup>n</sup> of local & Imp. tax<sup>s</sup>.