

**Paupers' Progress** charts the exclusion and degradation of older people over the last seven centuries and, in doing so, exposes the roots of the present paternalistic and demeaning attitudes towards older people and the inadequacies of public pensions. The case for public risk pooling for old age was made in Britain as early as the Thirteenth Century and periodically reiterated over the years. As Joe Harris shows, older people were identified as the deserving poor in the Nineteenth Century, partly due to the work of Charles Booth, and then ensured the long campaign for a decent pension. The campaign continued and, indeed, still does today.

Alan Walker  
 Professor of Social Policy and Social Gerontology  
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to  
Old Age Pension

by Joe Harris



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 Picture prophesy of January 1st 1911

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