**Monday 2nd October**

**What Somerset Did**

***Vagrancy***

* Does little for Somerset’s reputation as a humanitarian – this is evidence that he was a bad duke.
* Probably a stop gap measure in the face of rising prices and local food shortages.
* Somerset had a fraction of the money Henry had – had to use hand-to-mouth approach.
* Believed vagrancy was the cause of the problem of money shortages as well as enclosure.
* However, these are just the symptoms. Inflation is the cause.

***Enclosure***

* Somerset says he will stop enclosure. Raises hopes among the masses and then consequent disillusion.
* Upsets local elites who thought this would prevent estate improvement.
* The government were then limiting the size of leaseholds and putting a tax on wool (excess sheep tax) which only increased fears.

***Law and Order***

* There were three proclamations passed in 1548:
  1. Ban on violent sports (like football).
  2. Offence to spread rumours.
  3. Unlawful assembly forbidden.
* These proclamations showed that despite Somerset’s claim that he was for the people, he only stuck to the status quo.
* All of these were vigorously enforced and carried the penalty of being sent to the galleys for two years – average life expectancy was 6 months.
* This is emergency legislation which tells us that Somerset believed he faced a crisis in terms of law and order.

***Why does Somerset fall?***

* Alienated Privy Council.
* Alienated people through sheep tax and enclosure.

***Causes of the fall of Somerset*** (The short/long term distinction is hazy)

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| **Short Term** | **Long Term** |
| Devaluation | He’s a regent |
| Taxation | Tudor population explosion |
| Vagrancy Act | Inflationary pressures |
| Removal of remaining “conservative” ceremonies. | Enclosure |
|  | Harvest failure |
|  | Injunctions issued – attacked many features of popular Catholicism |
|  | Dissolution of chantries and religious guilds – Crown needed money to pay for expensive foreign policy. |