

The National Archives
Education Service

Britain 1906-1918

Gallery Seven: revision



Gallery seven: review and revision

This gallery is not like the other galleries in this exhibition! It is a review and revision gallery, where you look back and see what you have learnt about Britain in the period 1906-18.

Imagine you are in this situation:

You work for the National Education and Training Research Council in the Central Management department. One day, you and the other people in your office are clearing out some old desks and filing cabinets.

You find a box full of documents. Your boss says they should be thrown out, as there is simply no room in the offices for 'a load of old junk'. You tell your boss she is an idiot and she sacks you.

The only way you can get your job back is to convince the head of the National Education and Training Research Council that you were right and your boss was wrong. Your only hope of doing this is to convince the Public Record Office to take the documents and make an exhibition out of them.

There are no case studies or useful notes to make it easy for you. All you have is the collection of raw documents and your knowledge of the period 1906-18. Good luck!

Sources

Source 1 Old Age Pension Book Postal Order, 1909 (PRO ref: POST 66/13)

Source 1a

OLD AGE PENSION

Not to be paid before

No. 1	1 Jan 1909	Pensioner's Name	
2	8	Addresses	
3	15		
4	22	No.	
5	29		
6	5 Feb		
7	12		
8	19		
9	26		
10	5 March		
11	12		
12	19		
13	26		

CAUTION

The Postal Orders in this book are of no value except to the Pensioner. Unless prevented by sickness the Pensioner himself must take the book, together with his Identity Certificate, to the Post Office. Sick certificates, for use in case of need, are included in the book. The Pensioner must sign his name in the receipt space, but he must not tear out the order. As each order is paid, it will be detached by the Postmaster who must at the same time stamp the Certificate of Identity in the next vacant space.

This book must be kept in a place of safety apart from the Identity Certificate.

Source 1b

NOT NEGOTIABLE. Payable when due on production of Identity Certificate. **F 47 000000**

OLD AGE PENSION
BRITISH POSTAL ORDER
To the Postmaster General

Pay to _____ when due
the sum of **5 FIVE SHILLINGS 5** at the Post Office

at _____
within Three Calendar Months from the last day of the month of issue, on production of Identity Certificate.

RECEIVED
the above-named sum

SIGNATURE _____

Postage Stamps
POSTAGE STAMPS
total value may be affixed to these spaces, but **NOT ALLOWED** amount (excluding an odd half-penny).

5/-

OLD AGE PENSION

ISSUING OFFICE STAMP
WITH DATE

PAYING OFFICE STAMP WITH DATE
CANCELLING THIS ORDER

Source 2 Poster issued by the Metropolitan Police, 1908 (MEPO 2/1138)

PUBLIC WARNING.

CHILDREN ACT, 1908.

Among other provisions of the Children Act,
Parents or other persons having the charge of
Children are made liable to fines or other
penalties for

- (1) Leaving a child under the age of 7 in a room with a fire without a fireguard, or without taking other precautions, if the child is burned to death or seriously injured.
- (2) Taking or sending a child under the age of 14 into the drinking bar of a public-house, or any part of the premises exclusively or mainly used for the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquor.
- (3) Giving to a child under the age of 5 any intoxicating liquor (except in cases of illness, &c.)

Persons, other than relatives, undertaking for payment, and for more than 48 hours, the care of one or more infants under the age of 7 away from their parents, must send notice of the fact to the Clerk to the Board of Guardians (in London to the Clerk to the London County Council, Spring Gardens, S.W.; in Scotland, to the Clerk to the Parish Council).

Exceptions may be made where the infants have been boarded out by a charitable society.

PAWNBROKERS must not accept goods from children under 14 (in London and Liverpool, under 16).

DEALERS IN OLD METAL must not buy from children under 16.

TOBACCONISTS must not sell to persons under 16 cigarettes or cigarette papers (nor any other tobacco if there is reason to believe it is for the use of the person under 16).

This does not apply to boys employed in the trade or to boy messengers in uniform employed by messenger companies.

Persons giving entertainments to children, where there are more than a hundred children and any of them go up a staircase to their seats, must have a sufficient number of grown-up attendants to secure the safety of the children in case of fire, &c.

This does not apply to entertainments in private houses.

The Act is in force from April 1st, 1909.

Home Office, 24th March, 1909.

Copies of the Children Act, price 9d., or 11d. post free, may be ordered at certain Post Offices, or may be obtained from Wyman and Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C.; Oliver and Boyd, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh; or E. Ponsonby, 118, Grafton Street, Dublin.

(7148). W.L. 34532-113. 10,000. 3/09. A. & E. W.
(7803). G. 124. 10,000. 4/09.

Source 3 National Health Insurance Card, 1912 (PIN 900/42)

EMPLOYED CONTRIBUTOR
(MAN)

ENGLAND.

CLASS A *sm*

To 13th October, 1912.

*See return to
H.M. Ins. Com.
10/10/12*

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.
Contribution Card.

1st
Quarter

OWNERSHIP AND CUSTODY OF CARD.

This Card is the property of the Insurance Commissioners (England); during its currency it is entrusted to the Contributor, who must return it together with his Insurance Book to his Society or, if he is not a Member of a Society, hand the Card in at any Post Office immediately upon its expiry but in no case later than

26th OCTOBER, 1912.

As the stamped Card is the only evidence of payment of Contributions, no allowance will be made for any Stamps on this Card unless and until the Card has been returned as provided above.

The Card must be produced to the Employer at any time on demand, and must be delivered to him whenever he requires it for the purpose of paying contributions. It will be returned after stamping, but where the Contributor is in continuous employment the Card may be left in the hands of the Employer, who will be responsible for its safe custody. It must be returned to the Contributor upon its expiry, or at any time within 48 hours of its demand by the Contributor.

If the Card is not retained by the Employer, it must be delivered to him when he requires it for the purpose of production to an Inspector or other authorised person.

On the Contributor leaving his Employment the Card must be returned to him by the Employer, and may, if the Contributor so desires, be exchanged for a new one at the office of the Society or, if he is not a Member of a Society, at any Post Office.

If a Card is accidentally damaged or defaced it should be exchanged for a new one.

Any person having this Card in his possession must produce it at any reasonable time when required by an Inspector or other authorised person.

In the event of the death of the Contributor, this Card must be returned to his Society or to the Insurance Commissioners, London, S.W.

LOST CARD.

Any person finding this Card, unless he can at once return it to the Contributor, should drop it into a Post Office Letter Box.

Source 4 Cover of the Suffragist Magazine, October 1909 (HO 45/10338)



Source 5 Government poster from the 1914-18 war (EXT 1/315 pt17)



Source 6 Women's voting form, 1918 (POST 30/4202)

Source 6a

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

Instructions for filling up Form.

A woman serving abroad or afloat with the Military Forces, who is paid out of money provided by Parliament, and who has reached 30 years of age is entitled to be registered as a Parliamentary elector for any constituency in the United Kingdom for which, but for her service, she would have been in occupation whether as owner or tenant of a dwelling house (including unfurnished lodgings separately occupied) of any yearly value or of other premises or land of a yearly value of not less than £5.

The occupation of a dwelling house by virtue of any office, service or employment is equivalent to occupation as a tenant unless the employer also lives in the house. A dwelling house may be part of a house if separately occupied.

A card need not be filled in by a woman who is still the occupier as owner or tenant of the qualifying property or in cases where a married woman is entitled to be registered by virtue of her husband's local government qualification. These cases will be registered upon information obtained locally.

A card must **not** be filled up by any woman who is not a British subject or will not have attained the age of 30 years on the 15th April, 1918.

The particulars given on the Form will be treated as sufficient proof of qualification if there is no evidence to the contrary.

Please see, before posting, that this card is correctly addressed to the Registration Officer of the County or Borough in which the qualifying property is situated. Cards for Registration Officers in Scotland, however, should be addressed "Edinburgh" simply.

To
The Registration Officer
for the
County (or Borough)
of

Source 6b

Army Form W.3942.

Women Serving with the Military Forces.
Representation of the People Act, 1918.

Unit.....

Service description.....
and regimental number if any.

Surname.....

Christian Names.....
(in full)

State if over 30 years of age on 15th April, 1918.....

Description of qualifying property.....
(dwelling house, shop, land, &c.)

Rental value.....
(if not a dwelling house)

Full postal address of qualifying property.....
(including the County, or, in London, the Metropolitan Borough)

.....

.....

The foregoing particulars are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of abovenamed woman.....

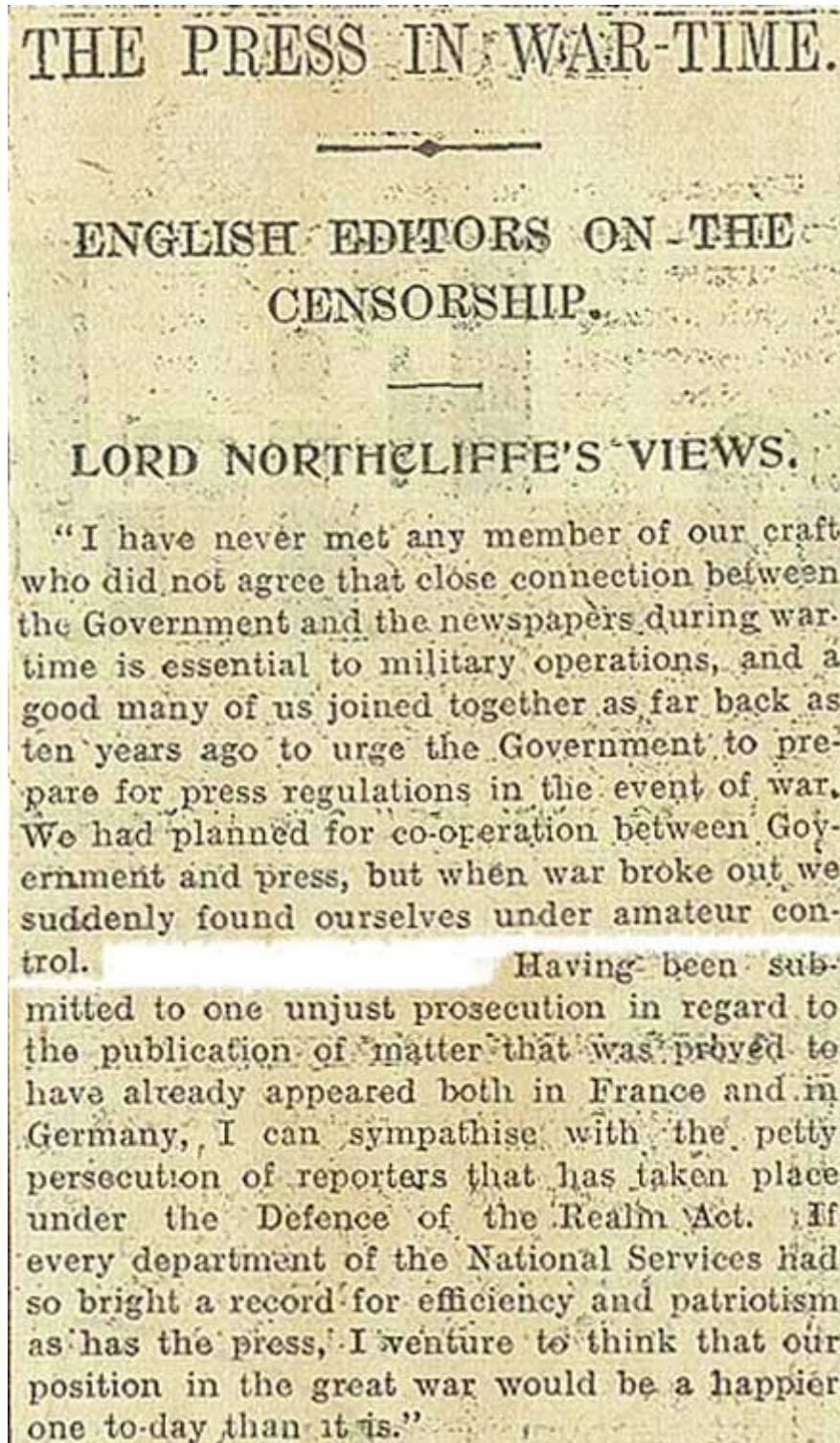
Countersignature of Officer or Administrator.....

.....

W6088-R.P. 1440—20,000—3/18—M. & H., Ltd. (M68037).

Source 7 Report from the Manchester Guardian, November 1915 (HO 45/10795/303412)

Source 7a



Source 7b

Mr. A. G. Gardiner.

Mr. A. G. Gardiner, editor of the "Daily News" and president of the Institute of Journalists, wrote:—

"The point upon which all agree is this: that nothing should be published which would in any way advantage the enemy. This applies, it seems to me, without qualification, to the publication of news. It is very much more difficult to interfere in the matter of criticism, and we are all jealous of our tradition in that respect. Yet it would be easy to show that many of our failures during the present war have been substantially attributable to criticism made with the intention of rendering the existence of Government impossible. The main objections which have arisen in regard to the management of the Censorship have resulted from the fact that the purpose has been not to prevent information reaching the enemy, but to prevent information of which the enemy is in possession reaching the British public. That is the chief error into which the system has fallen, and it is an error that ought not to be tolerated, either in the interests of the press or of the country."

Source 7c

Mr. Robert Donald.

Mr. Robert Donald, editor of the "Daily Chronicle," wrote:—

"While I recognise that the liberty of the press must be restricted during the war so as to withhold all information from the enemy without misleading our own people, I consider that the present censorship system is anomalous and unequal in its application. It would be preferable to make every editor his own censor, acting under regulations drawn up under the Defence of the Realm Act."

"Export of Home-Made Libels."

Mr. J. A. Spender, editor of the "Westminster Gazette," wrote:—

"Briefly, I think we must make the best of the defects of the Censor's Department, and address ourselves to the departments which prescribe their regulations. The chief evil, I think, is the absence of correspondents at the front, which ought to be filled in some methodical way. I suggest that after a reasonable interval detailed accounts of operations, giving names and places and other details rendered innocuous by the lapse of time, ought in some way to be regularly provided. I am averse from arbitrary measures for suppressing criticism of the Government, but undoubtedly great harm is done when comments which misrepresent the mind of the country and underrate its efforts are repeated in Allied and neutral countries. There ought, I think, to be some way of preventing the export of home-made libels."

Source 7d

Chairman of Newspaper Society.

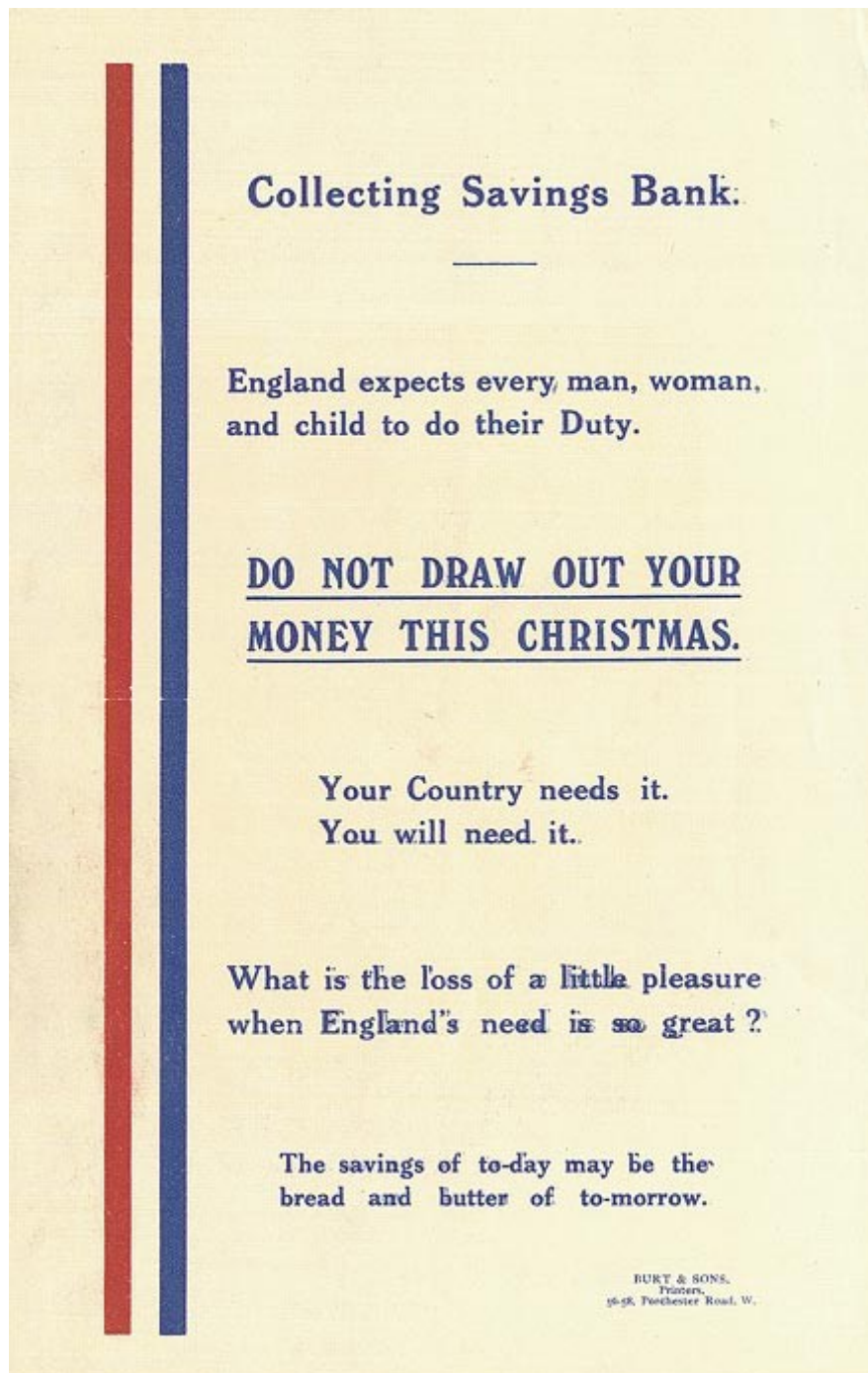
Mr. J. S. R. Phillips, editor of the "Yorkshire Post" and chairman of the Newspaper Society, wrote:—

"I do not know much of the inner workings of the Press Bureau; but I do know that this institution is in the hands of able men, who endeavour to put into operation the rules laid down by the War Office and the Admiralty, who alone can be supposed to understand what value the enemy may be likely to find in any statements that may be published.

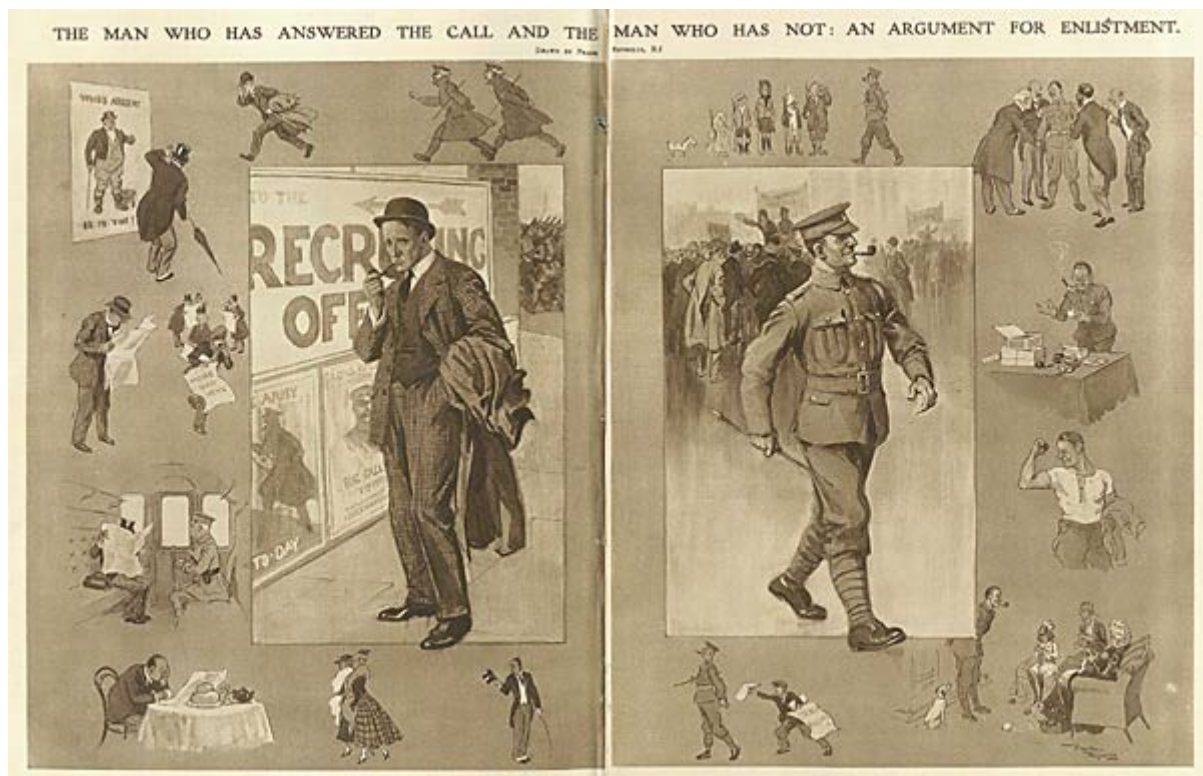
I see no ground for any serious complaint against the censorship as it has been conducted, and though as a journalist I like to publish all the news that I can, I am quite satisfied, in a period of peril like this, to acquiesce in the decisions of those in authority."

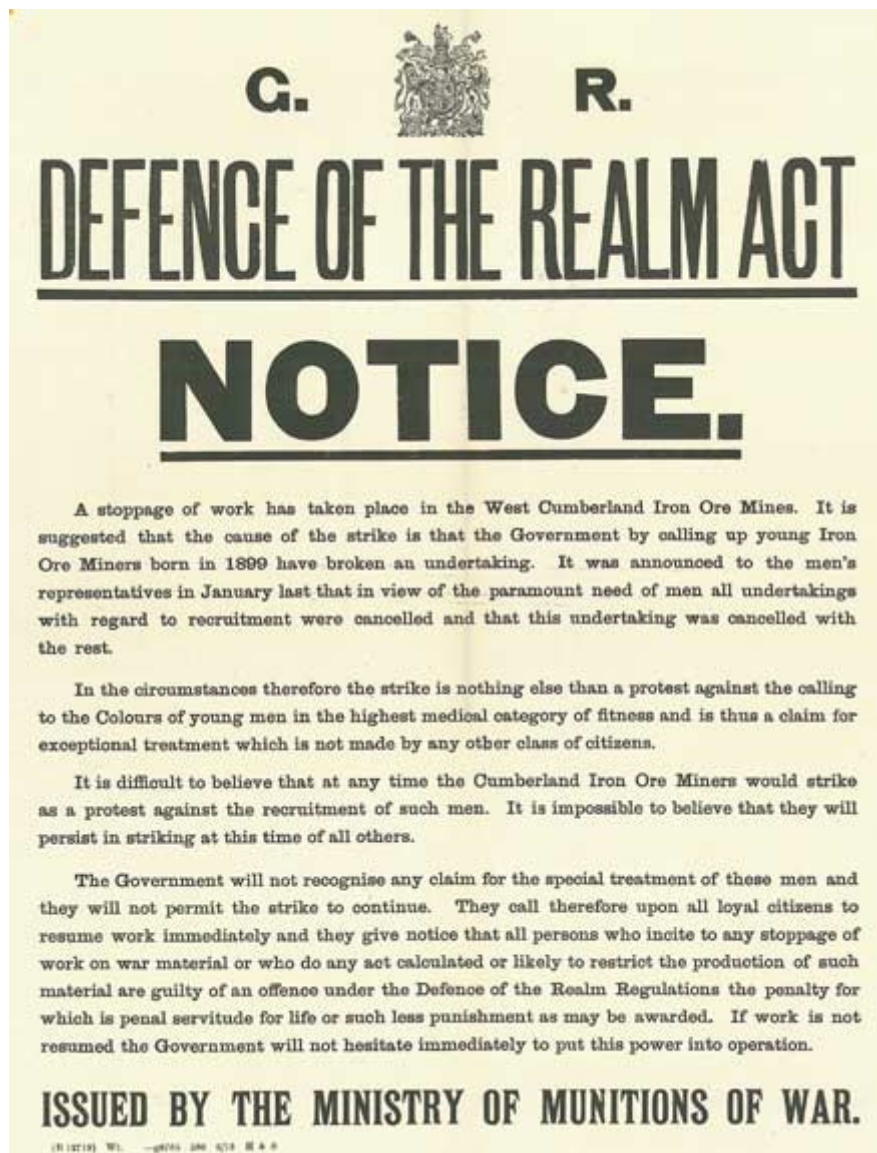
Mr. Hamer, in closing his review of the position, said that much of the friction and misunderstanding that had arisen could have been avoided if the Government had taken the press more into confidence and consultation. It was creditable to the Government that they had so readily removed certain grievances which had been pointed out to them, but these grievances need never have arisen if there had been a friendly interchange of views beforehand. The really live question of the moment was whether there has been such an abuse of the right of free criticism in, and by the press as called for active measures of repression. He did not think so. In any case repression of criticism would be a very dangerous practice to introduce.

Source 8 Government handbill, 1915 (T 1/11898/2655/1916)



Source 9 Drawing from The Illustrated London News, 20 November 1915 (ZPER 34/147)



Source 10 Government notice on the Defence of the Realm Act, 1918 (EXT 1/315 pt7)

Gallery seven: the Big Question

The Big Question in this gallery is: Can you convince the keeper of the public records that the sources in this gallery should not be thrown out?

Imagine you are in this situation:

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You find a box full of documents. Your boss says they should be thrown out, as there is simply no room in the offices for 'a load of old junk'. You tell your boss she is an idiot and she sacks you.

The only way you can get your job back is to convince the head of the National Education and Training Research Council that you were right and your boss was wrong. Your only hope of doing this is to convince the Public Record Office to take the documents and make an exhibition out of them.

Consider that the sources in this Gallery are some of the documents you have found in your office.

Your task in this Big Question is to decide which groups contributed most effectively to achieving the vote for women in 1918. You will need to organise your work into two stages:

Stage 1: Research

Study the sources in this Gallery and consider why and how they are useful to historians and school students who might be looking at aspects of life in Britain in the period 1906-18. You can use the research table we've provided here to take notes while you are looking at the sources. This will help you when you are creating your exhibition.

Stage 2: Write a letter

Write a letter to the Keeper (the boss) of the Public Record Office explaining why these documents are so important. You could set it out something like this:

Stage 3: Create an exhibition

You can plan your own exhibition or you can create an online exhibition here.

The online exhibition will have three sections:

1. Social and welfare issues, 1906-18
2. Women and the vote, 1906-18
3. Britain at war, 1914-18

You can choose 2 sources to show in each section. You decide where the sources go.

You also have to provide:

A title and date for the source

A detailed caption

Supporting information showing your ideas and knowledge.