

## SOURCE 3

Part of a letter written in 1903 by Mr Ernest Campagnac, an official in the Blackburn Board of Education

(PRO ref:PC8/584)

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### HOW TO USE THIS SOURCE TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE BIG QUESTION :

You need to study the source carefully before you decide whether it supports or contradicts any of the reasons in the Big Question.

### ASK YOURSELF:

- What issue seems to be the main concern of Mr Campagnac?
- What is causing the problem (in his opinion)?
- Is his opinion convincing?
- Can you suggest possible reasons why the problem is happening?
- What could a government do to help with this problem?

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In Blackburn, though the general mortality rate has markedly decreased in the last twenty years, the infantile mortality has increased: e.g. the last ten years give a much higher rate than the previous ten years. It is not merely an inference, but a matter of medical observation that the children who have survived early infancy have been correspondingly feeble or impaired in one way or another. It is to be noted that in the last 15 years the proportion of women engaged in spinning (and weaving) has greatly increased, and Dr. Ramsay and Dr. Greenwood both attribute the higher rate of infant mortality and the enfeebled condition of the surviving children to the fact that the women are at work during the time of pregnancy and begin work again too soon after child-birth.