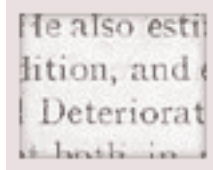


SOURCE 5

Extract from a resolution at a conference of Labour Party members calling for the government to introduce school meals for children
(PRO 30/69/1828. Material in the copyright of Ramsay MacDonald is reproduced by permission of the granddaughter of the late Malcolm MacDonald.)



SOURCE 5A

SOURCE 5B

SOURCE 5C

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 are the main concerns expressed about child welfare?
- Do these concerns agree with those expressed in other sources in this case study?
- What exactly does the Labour Party want the Liberal government to do?
- How would a leading Liberal MP like Winston Churchill react to this source?

Labour Representation Committee.

Special Conference

ON

UNEMPLOYMENT

AND THE

Provision of Meals for School Children at
the Public Expense,

TO BE HELD IN THE

Sun Hall, Kensington, Liverpool,

On WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25th, at 2 p.m.,

Chairman, Mr. J. KEIR HARDIE, M.P.

and THURSDAY, JANUARY 26th, at 10 a.m.

Chairman, Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON, M.P.

RESOLUTIONS,

WITH AN EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

*28, Victoria Street,
Westminster, S.W.*

*J. RAMSAY MACDONALD,
Secretary.*

SOURCE 5B

There are no statistics for the whole country showing how common it is for children to be sent to School so inadequately fed as not only to be unfit to benefit by education, but to be injured by it. Dr. Eichholz, one of H.M. Inspectors of Schools, estimates that 122,000 children of London, or 16 per cent. of the elementary school population are under-fed. He also estimates that in Manchester, 15 per cent. are in the same condition, and evidence was brought before the Commission on Physical Deterioration, 1904, which showed that under-feeding was prevalent both in rural and urban districts throughout the country. On the general subject the Commission reported:—

“With scarcely an exception, there was a general consensus of opinion that the time has come when the State should realise the necessity of ensuring adequate nourishment to children in attendance at School, . . . and it was further the subject of general agreement that, as a rule, no purely voluntary association could successfully cope with the full extent of the evil.”

From the point of view of the child, and of the responsibility of the community to it, the necessity for providing meals at school is admitted by nearly everyone, and there is no satisfactory way for doing this except at the public expense.

SOURCE 5C

RESOLUTION.

To be moved by Mr. J. HODGE.

“That in the opinion of this Conference the time has come for the provision of meals for School Children at the public expense, and it asks the Labour Members to introduce a Bill next Session giving effect to the demand. It also calls upon Labour Town Councillors to urge their Councils to provide money for the work at once, pending a final settlement of the question by Parliament.”