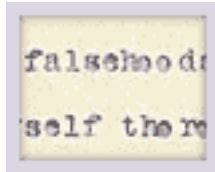
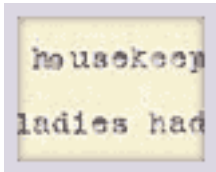


SOURCE 5

Private letter to Lloyd George concerning opposition to National Insurance for servants, November 1911

(PRO ref: T172/ 49)



SOURCE 5A

SOURCE 5B

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:

- Why is the writer sending this letter to Lloyd George?
- Does his story tie in with any other sources in this case study?
- What would the letter writer like to see done to help the situation?
- How would Lloyd George make use of this letter in a speech about National Insurance?

SOURCE 5A

Dear Sir,

My housekeeper told me this morning that in her absence two ladies had called to see her and the servants (two in number) and on the ground that "all the servants in Clifton were petitioning against the Insurance Bill" had induced them to "sign a paper". I asked her if she or the servants understood the provisions of the Bill and she said that none of them did but that the ladies had told the servants that they would have to pay 3d per week in future and that if for any reason they omitted to pay the 3d for eight weeks they would be fined £10 or sent to prison. There appears to have been a good deal of the same sort of thing but I have given you the gist of this information.

I have requested the housekeeper to invite these ladies to see me on the occasion of their next call, but I have thought it fair to write and tell you this example of the method of agitation. It so happens that

SOURCE 5B

in politics I am a moderate Liberal who would probably not agree with you on many points, but this method of political warfare thoroughly disgusts me. Would it not be possible for the provisions of the Bill as affecting domestic servants to be issued in pamphlet form in such a way as to enable them (and their masters) to combat these ridiculous falsehoods? I am a desperately busy man and I do not myself thoroughly understand the Bill but I approve very heartily of its principle and I would go to some trouble to explain to my own servants its advantages, if I could get them in convenient form.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Ernest A. Belcher.