

## SOURCE 1

Public notices from 1909 making people aware of the terms of the Children Act  
(PRO ref: MEPO/2/1138)



SOURCE 1A



SOURCE 1B



SOURCE 1C

### 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 do sources 1a, 1b, 1c tell historians about the dangers which children faced?
- How does the Act try to make sure that people actually obey it?
- Is this source evidence that the government really cared about young people?
- Do sources 1a-c provide evidence that government action was effective?

# POLICE NOTICE.

## JUVENILE SMOKING.

The attention of proprietors of premises at which cigarettes, cigarette papers and tobacco are sold is specially directed to the undermentioned provisions of the Children Act, 1908 (8 Edw. 7, Ch. 67) which come into operation on 1st April, 1909, and provide that :

**Section 39.**—If any person sells to a person apparently under the age of sixteen years any cigarettes or cigarette papers, whether for his own use or not, he shall be liable, on summary conviction, in the case of a first offence to a fine not exceeding

**TWO POUNDS**

and in the case of a second offence to a fine not exceeding

**FIVE POUNDS,**

and in the case of a third or subsequent offence to a fine not exceeding

**TEN POUNDS.**

# POLICE NOTICE.

## Exclusion of Children under the age of fourteen years from Bars of Licensed Premises.

The attention of proprietors of premises licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor to be consumed upon the premises is specially directed to the provisions of Section 120 of the Children Act, 1908 (8 Edw. 7, Ch. 67), which comes into operation on 1st April, 1909, and provides that :

“(1). The holder of the licence of any licensed premises shall not allow a child  
“to be at any time in the bar of the licensed premises, except during the hours  
“of closing.

“(2). If the holder of a licence acts in contravention of this section, or if any  
“person causes or procures, or attempts to cause or procure, any child to go to or  
“to be in the bar of any licensed premises except during the hours of closing, he  
“shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding, in respect of the  
“first offence,

**FORTY SHILLINGS,**

“and in respect of any subsequent offence,

**FIVE POUNDS.**

# **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.

**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.*