

SOURCE 2

Police report from 1910 on children and drinking

(PRO ref: MEPO 2/1138)

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 problems and difficulties in child welfare are described in the source?
- What is causing the problems?
- Would you trust the account given in this source and why?
- How would Lloyd George react to this source?

SOURCE 2

(6) Has the section benefited the children, or has it been detrimental to them by exposing them to such dangers as those of getting run over, lost, catching cold in the streets, or coming to some harm owing to being left at home.

Supts. C, D, G, K, L, M, S, W and Y and Acting Supts. B and J report that they do not consider that the section has benefited the children. On the contrary, (except Supts. D and G), they are of opinion that it has been detrimental to them for the reasons mentioned *above*.

Supt. G adds that the section affords every facility for children to get into mischief while left outside licensed premises. With respect to children being left at home he cites a case in which a woman left five children (~~rea~~ (ranging from 4 years to 8 months of age - three being her own and two a neighbour's) while she went out for 1½ hours. Three were burned to death before her return and the other two died during the day from severe burns.

Although there is no evidence that she was drinking at public houses during the time, the Supt. states that it is quite the usual thing for women to leave their children at home while they go out drinking.