

SOURCE 6

A letter from the Wakefield Incorporated Chamber of Commerce and Shipping on National Insurance, March 1911
(PRO ref: PIN T1/11284)

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 concerns raised in the letter?
- Does the letter writer feel that the German system is a good system?
- Would Lloyd George agree?
- Do you think Lloyd George would sympathise with this letter, or think that the employers were just trying to save themselves money?

Copy

TREASURY
6955
7 APR 1911

OFFICE OF THE WAKEFIELD INCORPORATED CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND SHIPPING.

21 King Street,
Wakefield.
8th March, 1911.

NATIONAL INSURANCE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT
SICKNESS AND INVALIDITY.

Sir,

In view of the intention of the Government to bring forward a scheme for dealing with the above problem, my Chamber have had the matter under consideration from the point of view of the Employers. Until the Government proposals are made known, it is of course impossible to say very much, but my Chamber wish me to urge upon you very strongly that in any proposal to throw upon the employers any part of the cost of insuring against Sickness, Invalidity and Unemployment, the present heavy burden which Employers have to bear under the Workmen's Compensation Acts should be taken into Account. My Chamber feel very strongly that as is done in Germany, the cost of compensating workmen disabled by accident should during the first few weeks after the accident be payable out of a fund to which the workpeople themselves contribute; and they hope that the Government proposals will provide for that the first month at least after the accident the compensation shall be paid out of the Sickness and Invalidity Fund to which they assume, that the workmen and the Government will contribute as well as the Employers.

I have &c.

(Sd) Basil S. Briggs.

Secretary