

## SOURCE 1

**Letter from the Amalgamated Society of Engineers to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, September 1916**

**(PRO ref: T 172/123)**

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### **HOW TO USE THIS SOURCE TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE BIG QUESTION :**

Look carefully at this source and consider what it tells you about shortages and rationing and how they affected people. You should consider:

### **ASK YOURSELF:**

- This source is a request to increase old age pensions. Why is this useful?
- What problems are facing old age pensioners?
- What does this suggest about the cost of living?
- Is there any evidence that the hardships of the old people are caused by war?

# SOURCE 1

Telegraphic Address, "EDIFYING, PECK, LONDON"



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AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF  
ESTABLISHED 1851.  
Engineers.

Gateshead 5<sup>th</sup> Branch No. \_\_\_\_\_

September 20<sup>th</sup> 1916.

5 Deckham Terrace,

Gateshead,

To the Chancellor of the Exchequer  
Dear Sir.

I have been instructed by the Members of the above Branch to forward you the following resolution viz:-  
That we the Members of the Gateshead 5<sup>th</sup> Branch ask the Government to grant the extra 2/6 per week Old Age Pension to all Old Age Pensioners without any further investigations as we are firmly convinced that even with the extra 2/6 per week the position of the

said Old Age Pensioners is a very precarious one owing to the extremely inflated cost of the necessities of life.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,  
R. Anderson.