

SOURCE 6

Letter from the Ministry of Food encouraging food economy, March 1918

(PRO ref: ED 138/59)

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:

- What does the Ministry of Food want the Board of Education to do?
- What does this source tell you about shortages in March 1918?
- Does this provide evidence that rationing was or was not working?

SOURCE 6

" MINISTRY OF FOOD,
 "*Flour and Bread Section.*
 " 2, Waterloo Place, S.W.1.
 " 14th March, 1918.

" SIR,—I am directed by the Food Controller to state that in order to conserve available supplies of Flour, it is essential that as large a percentage of Potatoes as possible should be used in the manufacture of all Bread.

" It is suggested that about 20 lb. of Potatoes per 280 lb. sack of Flour is a proportion which will in the initial stages give the best results, and this will effect an improvement in the Bread rather than otherwise.

" The Ministry is making arrangements in some areas to make the use of a certain percentage of Potatoes compulsory, but it is most important that every effort should be made throughout the country to start the use of Potatoes at once, as every day lost means a depletion in the cereal supplies.

" It is presumed that the specification in the tenders for baking Bread at present issued by the various Educational Authorities would not permit the use of Potatoes, and I am, therefore, to ask whether the Board of Education will represent to the Authorities the desirability of making an alteration in all future contracts. It is also extremely desirable that existing contracts should be altered so as to allow of a percentage of Potatoes being used.

" I am, SIR,
 " Your obedient Servant,
" (Signed) OWEN BAINES,
 " For J. FIELD BEALE,
 " *Assistant Secretary.*"