

## SOURCE 10

**Government notice on the Defence of the Realm Act, 1918**

**(PRO ref: EXT 1/315 pt7)**

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# DEFENCE OF THE REALM ACT

# NOTICE.

A stoppage of work has taken place in the West Cumberland Iron Ore Mines. It is suggested that the cause of the strike is that the Government by calling up young Iron Ore Miners born in 1899 have broken an undertaking. It was announced to the men's representatives in January last that in view of the paramount need of men all undertakings with regard to recruitment were cancelled and that this undertaking was cancelled with the rest.

In the circumstances therefore the strike is nothing else than a protest against the calling to the Colours of young men in the highest medical category of fitness and is thus a claim for exceptional treatment which is not made by any other class of citizens.

It is difficult to believe that at any time the Cumberland Iron Ore Miners would strike as a protest against the recruitment of such men. It is impossible to believe that they will persist in striking at this time of all others.

The Government will not recognise any claim for the special treatment of these men and they will not permit the strike to continue. They call therefore upon all loyal citizens to resume work immediately and they give notice that all persons who incite to any stoppage of work on war material or who do any act calculated or likely to restrict the production of such material are guilty of an offence under the Defence of the Realm Regulations the penalty for which is penal servitude for life or such less punishment as may be awarded. If work is not resumed the Government will not hesitate immediately to put this power into operation.

**ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF MUNITIONS OF WAR.**

(B 12719) Wt. —g6765 500 6/18 H & S