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GCSE**

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HISTORY B (MODERN WORLD)

British Depth Study, 1890–1918

SOURCE BOOKLET

MONDAY 10 JUNE 2013: Morning

MODIFIED ENLARGED 18pt

HOW WAS BRITISH SOCIETY CHANGED, 1890–1918?

THE LIBERAL WELFARE REFORMS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Liberal Party came to power in 1906. By 1911, the Liberals had passed several major welfare reforms. These included the introduction of free school meals and the Children Act which provided protection for children. Old Age Pensions were also introduced to provide a small income for the elderly. The National Insurance Act in 1911 helped workers who were sick or out of work. It was the largest programme of welfare reform which had ever happened in Britain, but what impact did these reforms have? Did they make life better for people?

SOURCE A



A cartoon published in Britain in January 1909. It shows a frail elderly couple sitting on chairs in a dark cottage. An angel has entered, bringing light into the cottage with her. She is holding out a ribbon to the couple saying, 'Old Age Pensions 1909'.

SOURCE B

Dear Mr Lloyd George

I thought that I might bring to your attention the verdict of a jury in a coroner's inquest into the death of one of my constituents, Edward Heath, who died last month aged 85.

The jury found that he died from poverty. They also called on the government to supervise old age pensioners who are single and have no other income apart from their pension, and to provide these pensioners with extra support if they need it. They called upon you, Mr Lloyd George, to make changes to the Pension Act to make these measures law.

I thought that you might not have heard about this event and I wanted to bring it to your attention.

From a letter written by a Labour MP to David Lloyd George in 1909.

The letter was published in a newspaper which supported the Labour Party.

Constituents = people who live in an area represented by an MP.

SOURCE C



A poster published in 1909. The first picture is labelled 'The Start'. David Lloyd George is shown standing at the top of a hill. He is saying, 'There's old wealthy down there. I guess I'll make him hop with this boulder'. He is rolling a stone labelled 'Budget' down the hill towards a rich man in a suit who is sitting on a rock. A working man in tattered clothing has put down his spade and is resting at the bottom of the hill behind a fence. The second picture says 'The Finish'. Lloyd George is holding his head and saying 'Confound it! It only just grazed him and the beastly thing has hit a poor man behind a fence'. The picture shows the wealthy man whose hat has been knocked off holding his arm. The rock has crashed through the fence and has knocked the poor man over.

SOURCE D

QUESTION: In your opinion has the Children Act benefited the children in your area?

ANSWER: In my opinion the Act has not helped children overall. Police Constables in my district report that few parents know or care about the Act and it is quite the usual thing for women to leave their children at home while they go out drinking. Constables also report that now the Act bans children from entering licensed premises this results in children getting into mischief while they are left outside, leading to more crime. Some constables also believe that the Act has exposed children to dangers such as being run over.

Many constables believe they should not involve themselves in matters concerning families and children. They are most uncomfortable in bringing prosecutions against parents in matters relating to their children. Constables believe that their time is wasted in prosecuting shopkeepers and publicans for minor offences relating to children when they should be tackling more serious crimes.

A response to a survey question sent out by the government to chief police officers in 1910. This response was from one chief police officer in a district of London.

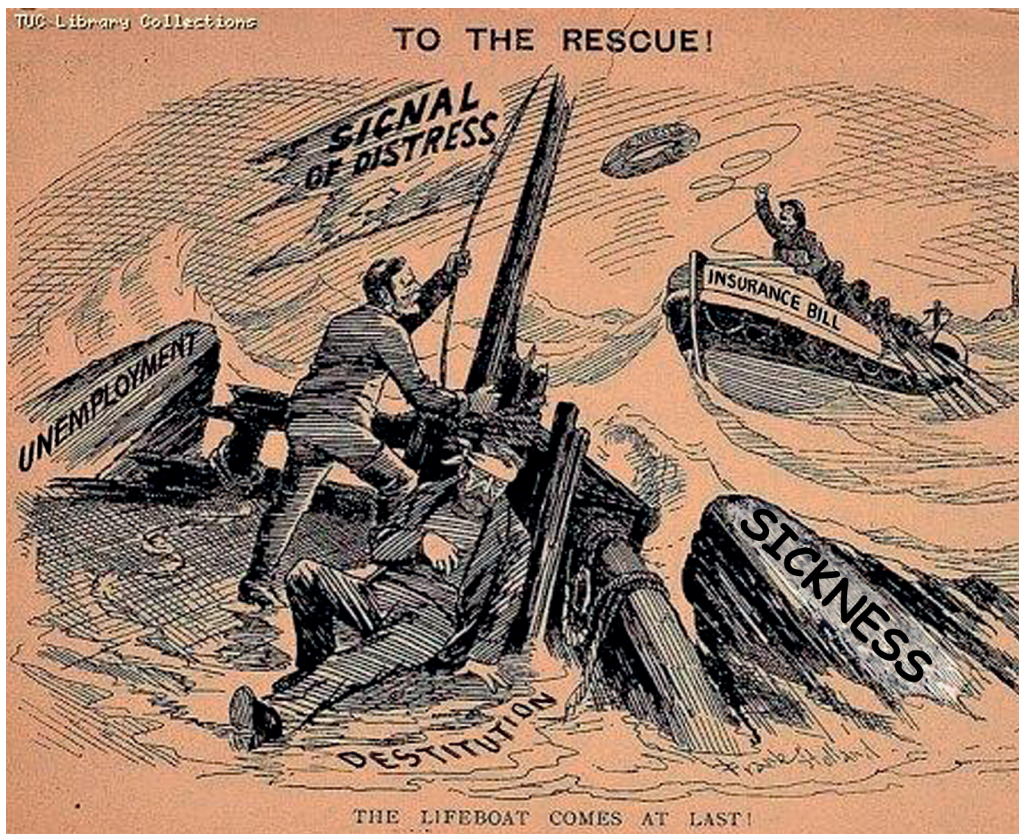
Licensed premises = pubs

SOURCE E

It has been claimed by MPs from other parties and in some newspapers that the Children Act is failing to protect children. This is simply not the case. This year there have been 39 prosecutions in London alone against shopkeepers selling cigarettes to children. A publican in Liverpool was fined only last week for allowing children into his premises. There have also been numerous prosecutions of neglectful parents. I do not think it is necessary to interfere with the Children Act, which appears to be working satisfactorily.

Winston Churchill speaking in Parliament in 1911. Churchill was a senior minister in the government and was head of the department which was responsible for the Children Act.

SOURCE F



A poster about the introduction of National Insurance published by the Liberal Party in 1911. On the poster it says 'To the Rescue! The Lifeboat comes at last!' A ship has run aground on two large rocks labelled 'Sickness' and 'Unemployment'. A sailor is injured and has waters of 'destitution' around his feet. Another man has raised a flag labelled 'signal of distress' and is watching a rowing boat labelled 'Insurance Bill' coming towards him. A man at the front of the boat is throwing a lifebelt labelled 'Benefits' towards the ship.

SOURCE G

All employed persons in this country are affected by the National Insurance Bill. Are they all treated equally? I think they are not. Self-employed men such as small traders, bootmakers and window cleaners will not benefit.

I am not at all certain that women under the Bill are going to benefit as much as men. I am inclined to think the Bill will make the position of women much less secure than men.

A Conservative MP speaking in Parliament about the National Insurance Bill in 1911.

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