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COST OF THE MINERS' WAR WAGE.

It is estimated that the cost of the war wage which it has been agreed to pay the miners i.e. 1/6 a day and 9d. to those under 16, will be approximately 22 million pounds per annum, and it must now be decided whether the whole or any part of this amount should be borne by the consumer or whether it should be borne by the State.

The present annual output may be taken as 250 million tons divided as follows:-

	<u>Millions of Tons.</u>
Allies	25
Neutrals	6
Bunkers	12
Admiralty	12
Domestic	35
Industrial	160
	<hr/>
	250

An all round increase of 2/- per ton should be sufficient to meet the increased cost, but the rate now charged to Allies is in excess of that charged to consumers in this country and it may therefore be desirable that no further increase should be made. But as regards all other consumers there appears to be no reason why they should not bear the additional cost and it is recommended that the Coal Controller be authorised to increase the cost of coal (except to Allies) generally by 2/- a ton.

A.H. STANLEY.

5th October, 1917.