

It may be convenient here to call attention to the enormous increase in the burden of these social services, pointing out yet again that those who benefit from them and imagine they are themselves unaffected by the high cost of them, are greatly mistaken.

Before the war the total expenditure of the country upon social services was approximately £63,000,000 per annum. To-day the amount so spent is nearer £400,000,000 per annum, which is double what was spent before the war on the whole cost of government of this country. This amount is in part contributed to by Local Rates, and it should be noted includes about £50,000,000 per annum on account of War Pensions and in any comparison this should be borne in mind.

The Unemployment Insurance Fund is bankrupt. The only means whereby it is enabled to continue to pay any benefits are by so-called Treasury advances, in other words, by further contributions from the tax-payer. These further contributions amounted at the end of October, 1930, to another £53,000,000; by the end of this year it will be nearer £70,000,000.

Again, it is necessary to point out that the money advanced for these purposes is so much money withdrawn from the total available for Industry.

It is a matter of common knowledge that in fact there exists no longer any scheme at all which is properly described as Unemployment Insurance. It is unemployment relief, because the benefits are paid to large numbers of persons who never have been insured and in some cases even are never likely to be.

Speaking at the Mansion House on October 15th, 1930, Mr. Snowden, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that in this current year he had to find £21,000,000 in order to supplement the unemployment benefits paid to those who have either exhausted their legitimate drawings from the Insurance Fund, or never have been insured at all. Still further money will have to be raised for the same purpose before the end of the year.

The Minister of Labour said, as far back as the end of July, that the additional money then to be borrowed for the purpose would be exhausted by the end of the year even if unemployment did not much exceed on an average 2,000,000. Actually the most recent figures show that it is already over 2½ millions.

EDUCATION.

One of the items included in Social Service costs is education. It is not possible here to dogmatise on the limits to which education,