

as it is known and practised in this country, is really beneficial or the point at which additional schooling is a waste of time and money.

It may be pointed out, however, that in the new School Bill already introduced in the House of Commons, it is proposed compulsorily to extend education by one year, as from September, 1932, thus involving great additional expenditure, local and national, for the provision of schools, school accommodation, teaching staffs, etc. But having provided this additional facility, which on the face of it they must be presumed to regard as a benefit to the children and therefore to the parents, they propose to pay the parents for making use of it. It is not necessary to emphasise the inherent absurdity of these proposals, because in fact they have very little connection with education and are mainly an attempt to bring down the figures of unemployment by preventing young persons at any cost from going into employment for another year. It is estimated that on the introduction of the new scheme industry will lose one-fifth of its new recruits just at a time when there will be a national decline in the number of juveniles available for employment.

In any case, however, the money which is so expended involves an additional burden on the tax-payer and by so much reduces the capital available for industry, and therefore will eventually help to increase the very unemployment which the measure is intended to combat.

### **NEW LEGISLATION.**

There are other burdens to be imposed upon industry by the Government. Another Factory Bill is threatened.

There is no desire in industry to escape proper obligations for ensuring life and health. Least of all is this the case in engineering.

But Factory Acts commonly involve fresh capital expenditure to industry for the putting in of this or that precaution or changing of former protective appliances to comply with new and rigid demands. There never was a time when capital for such purposes is so difficult for industry to obtain. Also, new Factory Acts usually mean more inspectors. These have to be paid either directly by the industry or by the tax-payer.

It is proposed to revise the legislation relating to Workmen's Compensation. On the basis of previous experience it is hardly reasonable to expect such revision to be in the direction of reduction in costs.