

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

'Nothing in this Act shall apply to contracts for transportation by land and water, nor shall the provisions and stipulations in this Act provided for so much of any contract as is to be performed by way of transportation, or for such materials as may usually be bought in open market, whether made to conform to particular specifications or not. The proper officer on behalf of the United States, any territory or the District of Columbia, may waive the provisions and stipulations in this Act provided for as to contracts for military or naval works or supplies during a time of war or a time when war is imminent. No penalties shall be exacted for violations for such provisions due to extraordinary emergency caused by fire or flood, or due to danger to life or loss to property.' (See Exhibit C. (3) and (4).

Those were the outstanding provisions of the Bills which have provided the bone of contention before the United States Congress in the years from 1898 to the present when at nearly every session of Congress a Bill on these general lines was up for discussion.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Can you tell us what the objection was to the 1906 Bill? That did not pass?

Prof. SKELTON.—That did not pass.

OBJECTION TO BILL OF 1906.

Mr. MACDONELL.—What was the chief objection to it?

Prof. SKELTON.—I might say the chief objection was the practical one based on the difficulty of keeping the public and the private work separated, the importance of which has been referred to by several members of the Committee, the difficulty of having workmen on government work working for eight hours, while workmen in the same shop on private work were putting in ten hours a day. That was I think the strongest objection brought against the Bill. Then a great many objections were raised as to the wording, as to whether or not provision was made for exempting the purchase of supplies in the open market. But the main, practical objection was as to the effect on the shop, the internal organization.

The CHAIRMAN.—Your plan was to go on and give legislation with regard to the several states, was it, or have you more information with regard to federal legislation?

Prof. SKELTON.—The evidence that I have given covers the legislation that has been actually enacted by the federal government and refers to the chief lines of further legislation sought from them.

The CHAIRMAN.—What do you propose to give us after that?

Prof. SKELTON.—I had also prepared a résumé of the laws in force in the several states, nearly one-half of which have passed laws, some broader and some narrower in scope.

Mr. VERVILLE.—The giving of that information would take a whole session of the Committee.

Prof. SKELTON.—It would take quite a while.

The CHAIRMAN.—My reason for asking that was I think we had better determine the plan of business for our next meeting. I would like to know what the views of others members of the committee may be as to the hearing of evidence first or continuing the hearing of Prof. Skelton until he has concluded the presentation of all that he has to give us.

Prof. SKELTON.—If you desire I shall go on next day with the endeavour to show what steps have been taken by the federal and state governments of the United States in the direction of the legislation which you are seeking.

Prof. SKELTON retired.

Committee adjourned.

PROF. SKELTON.