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SCOPE OF VARIOUS LABOUR LAWS.

To go on to the scope of these various laws. In the first place personal, the character of employees affected. In fourteen states the law is declared to apply to mechanics, workingmen and labourers; in one, also to clerks and other employees on public works, and in two, also to prison guards and janitors of public institutions. In two states it applies to manual labour engaged by the day. In seven states the wording of the law is impersonal, as, 'eight hours shall constitute a day's labour on public works.'

As to the method of operation. In four states the law applies only to work carried on directly by the state or municipality; in one, it applies only to work done by contract; and in eighteen, both to work carried on directly by the government and to government work done by contract. Three states apply the law to works and undertakings aided by the state and local government. I imagine that would be something like the fair wages' clause in Canada. Is not that applied to railways that are subsidized by the Dominion Government?

Next as to the character of the work, what lines come within the scope of the measure. In the first place employment by the government. In one state, Nebraska the law applies only to work on streets and in parks; in eight—California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming—applies to public works; in fourteen—Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Porto Rico, Washington, West Virginia—to all lines in which the state or municipality employs labourers, mechanics or workingmen, with some specific exceptions. For instance, in Indiana agricultural or domestic work; in Maryland, employees of fire, asylum and jail departments at Baltimore; in Massachusetts, persons employed in government institutions on farms, grounds, domestic service, &c.; in Minnesota, agricultural work; in New York, persons regularly employed in state institutions, parliamentary house force, work on highways in country; in Porto Rico, where the law covers all work paid out of municipal funds, police, internal revenue force, telegraph operators, and clerks at the option of departmental heads.

By Mr. Marshall:

Q. That does not apply to manufacturers at all, does it?—A. I was speaking first of the employees of the government.

By the Chairman:

Q. What Mr. Marshall means is that all you have been giving has no relation to the manufacturing interests?—A. No. I shall take that up next, Mr. Marshall.

To take then the second operation, by contract. In one state (Nebraska), the law apparently applies only to contracts for work in streets, parks, &c. In nine states it applies to 'public works'—California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Pennsylvania, Utah, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Wyoming. In one (Massachusetts), it applies to 'every contract to which the State is a party, except contracts for the purchase of material or supplies.' In two, it applies to 'any work' in city or state—Maryland Minnesota—in one (Washington), to 'all work' though the title of the Act refers only to public works; in three—New York, Delaware and Montana—to 'all contracts let by state or municipality which may involve the employment of workmen, mechanics or labourers'; in one (Kansas), to contracts for the 'performance of any work or furnishing any material manufactured in the state.' As will be shown later the actual scope of these laws is narrower than might be supposed from these wide terms.

NON-OBSERVANCE OF LABOUR LAWS IN CERTAIN STATES.

I thought it would be probably of most service to take up a few of these laws which were of the greatest significance. Not all the laws are of equal importance. In several cases the Act is a dead letter. In Maryland, for example, the Chief of the
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