

tries. For instance, in some of the western states, it has been adopted in irrigation works; in the mining states it has been adopted in the mines; and so on. In some of the large manufacturing states it has been adopted, but only for certain large industries. Farm work and domestic service, as a rule, have been excepted. It is true, there is also on the federal statute book of the United States an eight hour law; but from what we know in the Department of Labour it is hardly enforced. It is enforced in those states where it dove-tails, so to speak, with the state legislation. By the Bill introduced by my hon. friend last year, which he has been obliged to drop this year, and which I understand he intends to propose next year—

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is it expected that he will press it next year with the same vigour that has distinguished him this year and last year?

Mr. LEMIEUX. My hon. friend knows that many public Bills have been dropped this year. For many obvious reasons, the hon. member for Maisonneuve has not been able to press this Bill, as he would have liked to press it; but I will take my share of the responsibility for that, and my hon. friend will pardon me if I enter into a personal explanation. When the hon. member for Maisonneuve was ready at the beginning of the session to introduce his Bill, I unfortunately was unable to be present owing to the illness of my son; and I may tell my hon. friend that this is no excuse invented for the present hour. I can assure my hon. friend that on two or three different occasions the hon. member for Maisonneuve was obliged to let his Bill stand on the Order Paper because I was away on account of illness in my family. I am sure that my hon. friend will accept my word; I would not have ventured to make this personal explanation if I were not sure that he would do so. In fact, I may say that it is through my intervention that my hon. friend has been able to bring up the question to-day in another form.

Mr. MADDIN. May I ask the hon. member if it was due to his absence from the House that this Bill was not pressed during the last session, which lasted eight months, during which this Bill was on the Order Paper in the name of the hon. member for Maisonneuve.

Mr. LEMIEUX. My hon. friend knows full well that the hon. member for Maisonneuve is the President of the Trades and Labour Council, a very important body, and that he himself, at the last congress at Halifax, moved a resolution in favour of an eight hour law. His views

Mr. LEMIEUX.

on the subject are well known, and if through accident or otherwise he has been unable to press his Bill before the House, I think my hon. friend should not take advantage of that fact. This, at any rate, is a very small point, and I do not think we should stop to consider it. I say this with all due consideration to my hon. friend's objection.

Mr. VERVILLE. If the hon. minister will allow me? If I did not bring that Bill up during the eight months session of last year, it was simply because, like a good many other public Bills on the Order Paper, it was not reached, and I am in the same position this year.

Mr. LEMIEUX. At all events it must be admitted that my hon. friend from Maisonneuve (Mr. Verville) can have no political advantage to gain either by promoting or not promoting this matter this session.

Mr. HENDERSON. The minister, no doubt, means that as there is no election at hand, there can be no political advantage in pressing forward the Bill now.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I hardly think that inference is a fair one. If my hon. friend from Maisonneuve were actuated solely by political motives, he would have promoted his Bill very assiduously last session. But he is acting from a humanitarian point of view, and it is from that point of view that I commend his conduct.

Mr. BARR. Will the hon. minister assist him to pass the Bill next session?

Mr. LEMIEUX. I do not think I should be asked to commit myself in advance to supporting any Bill before I have had the opportunity of examining it. When I see the Bill next session, I will give my opinion on it unless some other hon. gentleman should have the good fortune to be Minister of Labour in my place.

Mr. MADDIN. Does the minister mean to say that during the two sessions this Bill has been on the Order Paper and during the discussions and consultations he has had with the hon. member for Maisonneuve, he never saw the Bill.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I have seen the Bill as it was framed last year and this year, and I may say at once that, as drawn, I would not support the measure, but I say that it is legislation well worth studying and investigating. My hon. friend, I am sure, would not rush into the acceptance of any legislation unless he felt quite safe in concluding that it was proper legislation to adopt. The principle involved is a very good one, but there are objections to the proposition of my hon. friend. He intends asking, by the Bill which he proposes to introduce next session, the enactment of an