

APPENDIX No. 4

far reaching in effect and in time all mechanics will be insisting on an eight-hour day. That is the strong objection I see to it. I would like to ask Prof. Skelton how eight hours a day has affected other work, outside of government contracts, where it is in operation. You mentioned a few minutes ago that the eight-hour day law is in operation in quite a number of places, particularly in the United States.

Prof. SKELTON.—Yes.

Mr. MARSHALL.—Can you tell us how that affects other work outside of government contracts?

Prof. SKELTON.—That is one thing I am trying to find out.

Mr. MARSHALL.—I would like to know that.

The CHAIRMAN.—You were going to make a suggestion, Prof Skelton.

Prof. SKELTON.—It was this, Mr. Chairman, I think that obviously one of the things which I for my own information and I suppose members of the committee would like to determine, is what is the scope of the Bill as it at present stands. I understand also that it will be important to look into what has been done by other countries regarding public works and public contracts. I imagine that it will be possible incidentally to do as Mr. Marshall and Mr. Smith suggested, give some statement as to the general condition of eight-hour legislation in other than these limited spheres, but it would have to be pretty general and condensed if given at all.

Mr. SMITH.—Yes.

Mr. VERVILLE.—You will find this legislation is pretty similar to the New York law, it is almost the same.

Prof. SKELTON.—Precisely, with one exception.

Mr. MACDONELL.—I think perhaps, Mr. Chairman, we cannot do other than this: Prof. Skelton has the Bill before him and it is before us. That is the Bill we are bound to consider and that he is bound to investigate and in anything else he will have to get the best light he can along the lines of similar legislation to what is proposed here.

The CHAIRMAN.—Prof. Skelton will get as much information as he can.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Get as much as he can. I quite agree with Mr. Smith as to the wisdom of inquiring into the effects of the eight-hour day movement—the results upon extra work and upon workmen working on other contracts side by side, and what effect the law had in time on the other works—all that arises out of this Bill, and that would naturally arise out of it, matters of that nature.

The CHAIRMAN.—Certainly.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Prof. Skelton should investigate this Bill and the experience that other countries have had with similar legislation, and in connection with that should obtain all the extra information spoken of that he can obtain and he knows pretty well now what we need. In the course of his general research he can get much of it. I suppose beyond that he can not go.

Mr. SMITH.—I suppose that the authorities to whom Prof. Skelton writes for information about the application of this principle will send a description of their laws regulating the hours of labour. You will get a good deal of information that way.

The CHAIRMAN.—Have you any suggestion to make, Mr. Prowse?

Mr. PROWSE.—I would suggest that Prof. Skelton ascertain the extra cost of production.

The CHAIRMAN.—You have an abstract, Prof. Skelton, which you wish to give the Committee?

Prof. SKELTON.—What I have prepared for this morning is chiefly a summary of the legislation that has been enacted in the United States by the federal government and in the separate states.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think it would be well if you could give us that.

Prof. SKELTON.—Shall I go on with it?

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes.

Mr. MACDONELL.—It would be very useful to us.