

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

weekly half holiday is given, the hours of labour upon the other working days of the week may be increased sufficiently to make a total of forty-eight hours for a week's work. (*See Exhibit B. (6).*)

Mr. MACDONELL.—It is very nicely worded.

#### THE KANSAS ACT, ITS SCOPE.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Is it the custom in a great many trades?—A. Yes. Now as to the Kansas Act, which, as I said, was the earliest made and passed by any of the states. The Act applies, in its contract section, to all public contracts 'for the performance of any work or the furnishing of any material manufactured within the state.' Here, again, the actual interpretation seems to be somewhat narrower than might be expected from the terms of the law. In response to the request for specific illustrations of the scope of the Act, the Commissioner of Labour replies that the contracts 'cover only the manufacture of material and the delivery thereof, in connection with what you would call "public works," and what we would call "municipal contracts," such as the quarrying and cutting of stone for building, the manufacture of mill-work for buildings, or any and all materials that enter into construction of municipal work.' Its scope is in practice wider than that of the New York law, as it includes, for example, sub-contracts for sashes and doors for buildings, which I shall show in a minute are ruled out from the scope of the New York Act. The ruling hours in private employment are ten, except in some places where union organization has secured an eight-hour day in the mechanical building trade. The law expressly provides that the current per diem rate of wages be paid. The law is said to be strictly observed and enforced, and in the opinion of Commissioner Johnson has led to the adoption of a shorter work day in several trades by its example. (*See Exhibit B. (2).*)

*By Mr. Macdonell:*

Q. You are referring there to correspondence with the different Bureaus of Labour?—A. Yes.

Q. That is your own recent correspondence?—A. My own correspondence in the past few weeks.

Q. I see, personal correspondence?—A. Yes, with the men who are in each case entrusted with the enforcement of the law.

Q. And not merely excerpts from reports?—A. No, I sent out about a hundred letters to authorities in the states, some of whom answered and some of whom did not. These letters I am trying to digest as I go along.

The Massachusetts law, which has frequently been revised within the last few years, applies to 'every contract, except contracts for the purchase of materials or supplies,' or, as the following section phrases it, to all labourers engaged on any *works* which are, or are intended to be, the property of the commonwealth. The provision of the Massachusetts law is practically the same as in the federal state law which applies to public works.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. And the same as the Wisconsin Act?—A. Yes, although it is phrased somewhat more differently, and somewhat more comprehensively one would think on the surface.

*By Mr. Knowles:*

Q. Do you know whether they have state-owned telephones in any of these states?—A. I feel quite sure they have not in any of the states. The commissioner in Kansas, for instance, pointed out in that respect that the states of the union are pro-

PROF. SKELTON.