

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

Prof. SKELTON.—In line eight of section one of the Bill as printed a comma is inserted after 'contractor.' In the New York Bill that comma is omitted. Perhaps I had better read the section with and without the comma to make it quite clear. The Bill as here printed reads:

'Every contract to which the government of Canada is a party, which may involve the employment of labourers, workmen or mechanics, shall contain a stipulation that no labourer, workman or mechanic in the employ of the contractor or sub-contractor, or other persons doing or contracting to do the whole or part of the work contemplated by the contract, shall be permitted or required to work more than eight hours in any one calendar day, except in cases of extraordinary emergency caused by fire, flood or danger to life or property.'

It is somewhat different to the New York law which omits the comma and reads:

'No labourer, workman or mechanic in the employ of the contractor, sub-contractor, or other person doing or contracting to do the whole or a part of the work contemplated by contract, &c.'

In the case of the Canadian Bill the measure is made to apply both to labourers, workmen or mechanics in the employ of the contractor and to other persons doing or contracting to do the whole or part of the work. That might be held to extend to principals or contractors themselves. I imagine, Mr. Verville, it is not the intention to put a comma in there, but I just suggest that point.

Mr. MACDONELL.—It is very effective.

The CHAIRMAN.—The intention was there all right, if Mr. Verville had anything to do with it.

Prof. SKELTON.—I brought the question up for my own information.

HOW FAR CONTRACTS WOULD BE AFFECTED UNDER BILL NO. 21.

Mr. VERVILLE.—As the Bill stands supposing we were to put up a building right across here, would not everything that goes into the building have to be manufactured on the footing of eight hours?

Prof. SKELTON.—I would think so myself.

Mr. VERVILLE.—Do you mean to say that even the paint and the glass that goes into the windows would have to be supplied on an eight-hour basis?

Prof. SKELTON.—If provided by special contract, not if purchased in the open market. I believe this Bill applies not only to the contractor for public buildings but to all men to whom he sublets the work, or with whom he enters into contractual agreements for the purchase of any material, but it would, I should think, apply to no materials which that contractor bought in the open market, for which he had not any contract.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Why not, there is no exception for goods bought in the open market? That is not covered in the Bill.

Prof. SKELTON.—The Bill says 'labourers, workmen and mechanics in the employ of the contractor or sub-contractor.' It does not say that materials used by them must invariably be manufactured on an eight-hour basis.

The CHAIRMAN.—You are right. The Bill reads: 'that no labourer, workman, or mechanic, in the employ of the contractor or sub-contractor, or other person doing or contracting to do the whole or a part of the work contemplated by the contract, shall be permitted or required to work more than eight hours,' &c. That is to say it extends down to all the sub-contractors until you get to the very last of them—

Mr. MACDONELL.—Unless exceptions are made.

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes.

Mr. MACDONELL.—For instance, exception in case of goods bought in the open market. That is one of the class of exceptions that have been contended for in the

PROF. SKELTON.