

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

Mr. MACDONELL.—It refers to work done in factories all through Canada.

The CHAIRMAN.—If it is government work?

Prof. SKELTON.—If they are engaged partly on government work.

Mr. MACDONELL.—That is true, but it necessarily means the addition because the factory cannot have two complete outfits.

The CHAIRMAN.—That is one of the points involved in the inquiry. It seems to me there are two distinct inquiries: the question of an eight-hour day generally and the question of an eight hour day on government contract work.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN.—As I understand it Mr. Verville's Bill is limited to the question of government work. It does not take up the question of eight hours on industries generally which would be a terrific question.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Practically in working it out that would be the result. That will be the claim of many who will be heard here, that it means practically the imposition of eight hours a day on all factory work because of the impossibility of separating government work from other work.

The CHAIRMAN.—That is a point I think the committee ought to decide, whether it will mean that.

Mr. MACDONELL.—We can hear the evidence of the public and see how they are affected.

Mr. STANFIELD.—How will the Bill affect departments like the Marine, Mounted Police and Militia departments that give contracts for clothing? Take the case of a manufacturer who is filling contracts of that kind. Supposing Mr. Woods, for example, had a contract for government supplies. I assume the employees of his factory work ten hours a day. Well, if he were carrying out a contract for the government and this Bill goes into effect some of his employees will be working eight hours and others ten hours a day.

The CHAIRMAN.—That is one of the questions we would have to deal with. The point to be considered just now, as Mr. Macdonell has said, is as to the scope of Prof. Skelton's inquiry. We can give it a very wide range and make it an inquiry into the question of the eight-hour day wherever it exists. For example, in New Zealand and some of the states of Australia they have enacted a straight eight-hour day law. In British Columbia there is an eight-hour day law applicable to the mines. That takes in the whole question of provincial legislation on the question of hours for employment, which is a terrific subject. I say a terrific subject, I mean it is enormous and vast in its extent. On the other hand, the measure which has been referred to this committee is a Bill respecting hours of labour on public works.

Mr. MACDONELL.—It says that, but it is not in effect.

Prof. SKELTON.—It is really much broader than the titles indicates.

Mr. MACDONELL.—The title is not a correct synopsis of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN.—Whatever the contents of the Bill are I suppose the inquiry should be as broad.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Necessarily.

Mr. SMITH.—When you are making an inquiry systematically into the operation of eight hours a day on public works in the different countries it will be a good opportunity to learn exactly what these countries do in the matter of hours of labour on private works. It would not involve very much extra effort to ascertain exactly what has been done in all those countries in regard to hours of labour generally.

The CHAIRMAN.—That is a good thing but it will mean a very extensive investigation.

Mr. MACDONELL.—That would involve going into the factory laws would it not?

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes.

Mr. MARSHALL.—That is the strong objection to this Bill. While the meaning of the Bill, so far as I understand it, is just to cover government contracts, it will be

PROF. SKELTON.