

APPENDIX No. 4

Prof. SKELTON.—Yes. The average is eight hours a day, but practically on no day of the year are they working exactly that average.

By Mr. Macdonell:

Q. Those men are employed from year to year. In the navy yards and arsenals men are practically permanent employees?—A. Yes.

Mr. SMITH.—I would like to mention another point. In Great Britain an eight-hour law for miners was passed at the last session of parliament, but the Northumberland miners worked seven hours a day for twenty years by voluntary determination. In consequence of the eight-hour a day law they have to work eight hours a day by compulsion. That is a very important point. I mention it for your benefit, Professor, in making an investigation. Of course, they have trouble at the present time within particular counties to which that applies.

Prof. SKELTON.—It is eight hours from bank to bank.

Mr. SMITH.—Eight hours from bank to bank? Most of their associations and unions twenty years ago provided that the men digging the coal should work seven hours a day. Since the recent law has passed the men who worked seven hours a day for twenty years are compelled by law to work eight hours a day.

Mr. VERVILLE.—There is no fear of that in this country.

Mr. MACDONELL.—It is a funny result, is it not?

Mr. SMITH.—I am mentioning this so that it may go on record.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Will you investigate it, Professor?

Prof. SKELTON.—It should be made explicit whether eight hours is compulsory or only a maximum limit.

By Mr. Verville:

Q. There are places where the employees are working eight hours a day, and during the summer—we could say for four months—they do not work on Saturday afternoon, nor do they lose that time —A. They are on a per hour basis.

Mr. VERVILLE.—The fact is that is the way now, per hour.

THE MASSACHUSETTS REGULATION *re* 48 HOURS PER WEEK.

By the Chairman:

Q. Did we understand from you that in Massachusetts they have this regulation of a maximum of eight hours per day, but that it was construed that if on Saturday they worked only four or five hours they would work longer on the other days?—A. Precisely; that is stipulated in the Act. I shall read the clause.

Q. Yes, read it please?—A. (Reads):

“Eight hours shall constitute a day’s work for all labourers, workmen and mechanics now or hereafter employed by or on behalf of the Commonwealth, or of any county therein, or of any city or town, which, prior to the twenty-eighth day of June in the year of one thousand nine hundred and seven had accepted the provisions of section twenty of chapter one hundred and six of the Revised Laws. No labourer, workman or mechanic so employed shall be requested or required to work more than eight hours in any one calendar day or more than forty-eight hours in any one week except in cases of extraordinary emergencies. Only in case of danger to property, to life, to public safety or to public health shall be considered a case of extraordinary emergency within the meaning of this section. Threat of loss of employment, or threat to obstruct or prevent the obtaining of employment or threat to refrain from employing in the future, shall be considered within the meaning of this section. Engineers shall be considered mechanics within the meaning of this section. But in cases where a