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The CHAIRMAN.—And also the various committees of the House of Representatives and Senate that had to consider measures of this kind and the nature of representations made before them. I think there is a lot of information embodied in the reports if you could go through that evidence and make a digest of the nature of the arguments pro and con. We might agree now to hear Prof. Skelton next Wednesday, and a week from then begin the hearing of witnesses who desire to appear.

Mr. SMITH.—What information can we have next Wednesday?

The CHAIRMAN.—Information pertaining to these various questions which the committee have been asking this morning. Prof. Skelton, you might look over the points raised this morning and be prepared to give further information on them at the next sitting.

Committee adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

COMMITTEE ROOM, No. 62,

Feb. 2, 1910.

The Special Committee on Bill No. 21 (An Act respecting Hours of Labour on Public Works) met in Room 62 at 11 a.m., the Hon. Mr. King in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN.—I desire to make an explanation in regard to my report to the House. I think I explained to the committee at the first meeting that I had had a conversation with the Premier at the outset in regard to retaining Prof. Skelton by the committee, and was informed that the best course to pursue was to see Dr. Flint, and make such arrangements as were necessary, he being Clerk of the House. Dr. Flint said he did not think it necessary to go before the House, that the committee had the power itself, but later on Dr. Flint said he thought it would be better if a formal report were presented to the House, asking permission to retain Prof. Skelton. The report was drafted, and I presented it on the spot, feeling it was a purely formal matter, as the committee had decided to retain Mr. Skelton. I might have given a fuller explanation in presenting it, but I did not, and it was questioned by one or two members of the Opposition, who seemed to think this work ought to have been done by the Department of Labour, a point which we had discussed before. I withheld the report, and have not asked the concurrence of the House since, as I thought it would be better to wait until the committee met to-day, and if the committee approved of my proposal, I would submit the report to the House. I think if the matter were explained to those who objected, there would be no difficulty in having the report adopted, because the objection was that it was work which the committee or the Department of Labour could do, but I think those who listened to Prof. Skelton must feel satisfied that what he has done was done much more thoroughly and satisfactorily than the committee would be able to do it. He has given us the benefit of his trained experience and knowledge, and has aided the committee in their work greatly. We certainly would be derelict in our duty if, knowing his capacity in this direction, we did not take advantage of it. I should be glad if members of the committee would express their views on the point.

Mr. VERVILLE.—It has been decided by the committee to do it. We have to abide by our decision.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Since the Chairman spoke to me in regard to this matter, I explained to the two members of the opposition who objected, to their satisfaction, the position of the matter. I concur completely in the Chairman's idea of the fairness of the work, and the value of it to the committee, and therefore I shall be glad to support the motion for the adoption of the report.

PROF. SKELTON.