

APPENDIX No. 4

mind as he has, could go through the material and bring out the arguments pro and con. What do you think of that, Mr. Verville?

Mr. VERVILLE.—I think the committee would be very glad to receive the information.

Mr. MACDONELL.—I think it would be useful to have Prof. Skelton's report in such a shape that we could have it printed. I think it would be a useful document—useful not only to the country at large, but to this committee in connection with the particular matter that we are engaged in.

The CHAIRMAN.—Certainly.

Mr. MACDONELL.—It would be well, as Prof. Skelton has indicated to cut out much that is now obsolete. We all know that evidence taken ten years ago on this same matter is practically obsolete now. There is an immense quantity of most voluminous evidence and a lot of it is just repetition. What is needed is to boil down the essentials, bring them up to date and apply them to present day conditions. That would take a good deal of time but it would be very useful and well worth the time spent on it.

The CHAIRMAN.—Certainly.

Mr. MACDONELL.—If Prof. Skelton could weave that all in and make a report on the basis of a more or less comprehensive view of the situation, cutting down obsolete or voluminous material and getting the essentials applicable to present day conditions it would be very useful indeed. I think he knows pretty well what we are aiming at.

The CHAIRMAN.—It might be well at this stage, before Prof. Skelton begins to outline any research he has already undertaken, for the members of the committee to express their opinion as to the sketch he has already given, as to whether he is proceeding in the desired direction and whether there are any other matters to which they think he ought to give special attention.

Mr. VERVILLE.—Would you also deal in your report with the effect eight-hour day legislation would have upon production?

Prof. SKELTON.—It is rather a large question, but if desired, I shall of course endeavour to give a brief report.

Mr. SMITH (Nanaimo).—Is there any country in the world that has enacted this law?

Prof. SKELTON.—Nothing precisely the same.

Mr. SMITH.—I mean is there any country in the world that has legislative provisions for hours of labour on public contracts?

Prof. SKELTON.—Yes, the federal government in the United States and nearly one half of the states have laws more or less similar.

Mr. SMITH.—Providing for eight hours a day?

Prof. SKELTON.—Providing for eight hours a day on public works or public contracts.

The CHAIRMAN.—You will be able to give us a chronological statement of the time at which those measures were passed?

Mr. MACDONELL.—Take for instance any law in existence that has fixed the hours of labour; begin with that as a basis and then see to what extent that restriction prevails and how far it extends, and see how far other countries have restricted the hours of labour.

The CHAIRMAN.—Would you take the general question? You see there are two questions. There is the restriction of the hours of labour on all industries—

SCOPE OF PROVISIONS OF BILL No. 21.

Mr. MACDONELL.—The Bill now before the House refers to both classes. It refers to government contracts and also necessarily refers to other contracts because of its comprehensive character.

The CHAIRMAN.—Does it?