

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

not intended to compel them, or to make it possible for the contractor to compel them, to work eight hours on Saturday. So that must be supposed to be left as a matter of arrangement between the men and the contractors.

*By Mr. Verville:*

Q. Have you ever heard, Professor, how many large cities in Canada are working in that way, getting a half day's holiday on Saturday, during the summer especially?—A. I was just instancing those two cities.

Q. Only those two?—A. There are a good many others of course.

The CHAIRMAN.—We will be very glad to get the fair wages officers of the department to give that information.

Mr. VERVILLE.—I was just asking the Professor for information. The fact is, it is the case in most of the large cities now. In the case of Massachusetts I imagine it applies too in the cities generally. In the summer months they go to work earlier in the morning and then leave at one o'clock on Saturday, and have the rest of the day off.

Prof. SKELTON.—I do not think it is a matter of law, but they arrange that themselves.

Mr. MACDONELL.—It would be useful, Mr. Chairman, to get that information from your Bureau as to the total number of hours worked per week.

The CHAIRMAN.—And also information as to the Saturday half-holiday.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Yes, how they work out the Saturday half-holiday.

Mr. MARSHALL.—There are some manufacturers in Hamilton that I know of, that put in sixty hours a week. They do it by starting in early in the afternoon, taking off half an hour at noon, and working until a quarter after six. They put in the whole sixty hours but they have their Saturday afternoons just the same.

Mr. VERVILLE.—That is not shortening the day but lengthening it.

Mr. MARSHALL.—They have the Saturday half-holiday. A great many manufacturers in Hamilton put in the sixty hours a week, but they have their Saturday afternoon and it is done in that way. In these typical cities alluded to, do they get the full day's pay for the Saturday or are they paid per hour?

Prof. SKELTON.—They are paid by the hour.

Mr. VERVILLE.—That is no concession.

Mr. SMITH.—Wherever the eight-hour law applies in British Columbia, that particular place works eight hours on Saturday the same as any other establishment.

Prof. SKELTON.—That is an interesting point.

Mr. SMITH.—I think it can be proven that in certain instances before the eight-hour day was enacted, they had a shorter day than they have now. Since the enactment of that law it is taken to mean by the employees eight hours every day. That is a very important point.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Yes, it is.

Prof. SKELTON.—I might mention that in the case of the British government workshops where, as I shall mention later on, in the navy yards and in the War office arsenals and ordnance factories, &c., the eight-hour day, so-called, was introduced about fifteen years ago, the arrangement is for a forty-eight hour week on the average of the year, but no one week in the year do they work exactly forty-eight hours, and no one day in the week do they work exactly eight hours. During the summer a good deal more than forty-eight hours a week are worked, and in the winter less than forty-eight hours a week. During the summer the hours of work are something like nine hours and during the winter, something like seven hours.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. They average it up by the year?—A. Yes.

Mr. MACDONELL.—They reverse our procedure here. We work less in the summer and more in the winter.

PROF. SKELTON.