

APPENDIX No. 4

tending the definition of public works to include all labour on behalf of the United States requiring the employment of mechanics or labourers, and providing that the law should cover work done off the construction premises. Then in 1898—and this is really the Bill which has formed the basis of the later discussion—a Bill introduced in the United States Congress this year took much the form of the Bill before this committee, I shall read the essential part of it. It is as follows:—

BILL OF 1898, ESSENTIAL PART OF.

'Each and every contract to which the United States, any Territory or the District of Columbia as a party, and every contract made for or on behalf of the U.S., or any Territory or said District, which contract may involve the employment of labourers, workmen or mechanics, shall contain a stipulation that no labourer, workman or mechanic in the employ of the contractor or any sub-contractor doing or contracting to do any part of the work contemplated by the contract shall be required or permitted to work more than eight hours in any one calendar day.' (See Exhibit C. (4).

virtually the same as the Bill before us. If we go on to the Bill presented in 1902, omitting the 1899, 1900 and 1901 proposals, we shall see that the result of the hearing before that committee, and the result of the objections raised, and the concessions made to meet these objections, was that the Bill took a different form.

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR BILLS APPOINTED.

Q. How many committees were appointed?—A. At least nine.

Q. Between 1897 and 1902?—A. Yes.

Q. Those were committees of the House of Representatives?—A. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committees on Labour, of the House of Representatives and the Senate: some years to the Committee of the House, and some years to the Committee of the Senate, and some to both.

BILL OF 1902, ITS EXCEPTIONS.

Q. Did they take much evidence?—A. Of a voluminous nature. I shall later give its main points. The Bill of 1902 (H. R. 3076), explicitly limited the application, to the workmen in the contractor's employ who were actually engaged on the government work and made the following exceptions. (See Exhibit C. (2).

"(1) Extraordinary emergency caused by fire, flood, or danger to life or property.

(2) Contracts for military or naval work or supplies in war or when war is imminent.

(3) Contracts for transportation by land or water.

(4) So much of any contract as is to be performed by way of transportation."

For example, if a man had a contract for providing stone for a government building, on a sub-contract, he would not have to secure the observance of the eight-hour law by the transportation company engaged in hauling it from the quarry.

By Mr. Knowles:

Q. Would that include teamsters?—A. I think it would include all engaged in transportation.

(5) Contracts for such materials as may usually be bought in open market, whether made to conform to particular specifications or not. Passing on to 1904; as a result of further discussion, and amendments by the Senate Committee of 1902, the Bill then introduced made it clear by adding the words, 'upon such work,' after 'eight hours in any one calendar day,' that it was not forbidden to employ the same men on other work after the expiration of eight hours on government work, and added to the exceptions.