

*prob contracts
repts of select committee on Fair Wages 1917
Synopsis of Recommendations*

C 17426
Proceedings of select committee '17
L X K 111

of the committee this amendment the 'lost' gives an abstract of some of the chief recommendations

Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the Report:—

"I. That, subject to special circumstances, there should be an uniform Fair Wages Clause in all Government contracts.

"II. That every such clause should specify that the wages paid in the execution of the contract shall be those generally accepted as current in each trade for competent workmen in the district in which the work is carried out.

"III. That every such clause should state that, in the engagement and employment of workmen and others required for the execution of the work, no preference shall be given as between 'unionists' and 'non-unionists.'

"IV. That, when tenders are invited, a notice should be issued in every case drawing the attention of those who desire to tender to the Fair Wages Clause in Government contracts; and stating that the Department concerned will expect the contracting firms to conform to the spirit and intention of this clause; and that any firm wilfully disregarding its provisions will render itself liable to be disqualified for further Government employment.

"V. That all sub-contracting, without the leave of the Department concerned, should be prohibited. That sub-contracting should only be permitted where such sub-contracting is customary in the trade; and for work which the contractor in question does not himself perform in the ordinary course of his trade.

"VI. That where a sub-contract is allowed the principal contractor should, as regards the Fair Wages Clause, be held responsible for his agent.

"VII. That a money penalty for breach should be attached to the Fair Wages Clause.

"VIII. That, where a complaint of the non-payment of the current rate is substantiated, any order made for the payment of the full rate by the contractor should be retrospective to the date on which the complaint was originally made to the Department.

"IX. That (where practicable) the text of the Fair Wages Clause should be conspicuously affixed to the work in progress under the contract.

"X. That all cases of dispute in reference to the 'current rate,' and conditions of employment, and whether a particular contractor was or was not carrying out the terms of the Fair Wages Clause in spirit and in letter, should be referred to the Labour Department of the Board of Trade for inquiry and for report to the Department concerned.

"XI. That a list of Government contractors, together with the nature and amount of their contracts, should be from time to time laid before Parliament and published"—(Mr. Sydney Buxton).—~~Question put, That the proposed paragraph be inserted in the Report. The Committee divided:~~

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(not in original)

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