

APPENDIX No. 4

The CHAIRMAN.—I might explain, Mr. Staples, that at the last meeting of the committee we arranged a scheme which takes in exactly what you had in mind. We thought it better to take the United States first, because they were close to us, and perhaps had enacted more legislation along this line. Then, Prof. Skelton was to give us at another meeting what was done in Great Britain, Europe and Australia.

Mr. MACDONELL.—We had quite a review of the Australian and New Zealand laws, and we are taking a glance at the United States at the present time.

Prof. SKELTON.—Ninety-five per cent of the legislation on the matter has been passed by the United States. I have sent to Europe for data regarding some of the French and Swiss measures, as well as the British which I already have, but thought I would not bring the information in until it was complete.

By the Chairman:

Q. Are you in possession of a report of the United Kingdom?—A. I have some data, but am not quite sure that I have the latest information available. I have sent over to find out whether any measures were passed within the last two or three years.

Q. And as far as you are concerned, you want a little more time on that branch of your investigation?—A. I think it would be better. The French government about two years ago passed some experimental legislation for eight hours a day in their own workshops. How it has worked out I have been unable to find out yet.

Q. In regard to Australia and New Zealand, do you wish to add anything to what you said the other day?—A. I have no further fresh data as yet.

The CHAIRMAN.—The reason I have asked Prof. Skelton these questions is to determine whether it will be advisable to have him again at the next meeting of the committee or begin taking the evidence of some other witness and allow him to work out his data further.

Mr. VERVILLE.—I think it would be better to give the Professor a chance to get all his data together, because he has written to Europe for some further information, and it will require a little time to obtain and prepare that.

Prof. SKELTON.—So far as information on European or Austrian experience is concerned, it will probably be some weeks before that could be presented. As for going on with the experience of the United States in throwing any light on the points regarding which the Chairman and others spoke, that can be done at any time it suits the committee. I am quite prepared to go on in another week or wait until you have some further evidence.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Would it not be better to complete Professor Skelton's statement on this matter rather than break in upon the narrative. Any information he could give the committee on the point raised by Mr. Smith as to how the payment works out per day would be useful, and also on the point as to the Saturday half-holiday.

Mr. SMITH.—And, Professor Skelton, your record of the application of this law in the United States is very important, and the extent to which any law of this nature in the United States has gone. Still we must remember that while many of these states have passed laws, as a matter of fact not five per cent of them are applied.

Prof. SKELTON.—I confined myself to discussing the Acts which I have found out were really enforced.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Another point you might make a note of, and accentuate in some way, is, where they have passed these laws that have become a dead letter.

Mr. SMITH.—That is what I mean.

Mr. MACDONELL.—Let us see how the public accept these laws.

Mr. MARSHALL.—And why they have become a dead letter.