

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

The CHAIRMAN.—Do you remember the date at which Dr. Flint communicated with you?

Prof. SKELTON.—It was about the 31st December, I think, that I received formal notification.

The CHAIRMAN.—And when did you begin on this work?

Prof. SKELTON.—Well I had actually done two or three days' work before that, because I had communication by telephone regarding it, but it has been chiefly since the 1st of January. I worked for about a week at it before the college session began at Queen's and some odd times since then. I have been corresponding with the chief sources of information in Europe and with sources of information in the United States—the various labour bureaus, and of course manufacturing and labouring organizations—and am comparing whatever experience they have been able to offer.

The CHAIRMAN.—Then what you are doing at the present time is taking up the different countries and classifying their legislation in regard to hours of labour connected with public works?

Prof. SKELTON.—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN.—Whether by the federal governments or the state governments?

Prof. SKELTON.—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN.—That I understand is what the committee wish Prof. Skelton to do in the first instance. What steps are you taking to ascertain how any such legislation is working out in practice?

Prof. SKELTON.—It is rather difficult to get hold of unbiassed and definite information in that regard. I have sent a circular to the bureaus of labour in every state which had legislation of this sort specifying eight or ten points upon which I would like information. In the first place, as to the scope of the law, and what employments or trades were included. In the next place, to what extent, if at all, the hours of labour observed on public works in those employments differed from private works. Another query is what, if any, complications had resulted from this discrepancy where it was found to exist. Another query as to the wages paid as compared with private work in these lines. Again a query as to the observance of the law and the definition of the exception as to emergency which is usually included in such laws. Also a query as to the effect, if any, exercised on private employment by the public work law. These are, generally, the lines which I have followed. Then I have also gone—to some extent—into some of the hearings which were held before various committees of the United States Congress on the subject.

The CHAIRMAN.—Are you prepared to give that information?

Prof. SKELTON.—I am trying to synopsise that so far as I can. There is a very great deal of repetition, of course, and some of the arguments have now been rendered obsolete by later laws, but I have been trying to synopsise the available information. I have not yet obtained all the data desired, and I have not yet been able to wade through all the material I have obtained.

The CHAIRMAN.—Will you be able to give us the results of your investigations, not necessarily to-day, but at some later sitting, into the sittings of the different committees that have been appointed to look into these matters?

Prof. SKELTON.—Yes. I have a general idea of the various committees that have been appointed, and I thought I might perhaps in that connection give an abstract of the arguments of both sides, and not merely the arguments but any important data brought forward in support of the arguments.

The CHAIRMAN.—That would be part of the memorandum, so to speak, which you have prepared.

Prof. SKELTON.—I would think so, if the committee wish to hear it.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think it would be very desirable that Prof. Skelton should give us in brief form the essence of the evidence given before these several committees in other countries. The evidence is voluminous but I should say that one with a trained

PROF. SKELTON.