

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

Q. Were there not Bills introduced as far back as 1864?—A. One Act was introduced and passed in 1868, as I have stated. (*See Exhibit A. (1).*)

*By Mr. Verville:*

Q. That was the first one?—A. Yes. It was rather ambiguous, and was not clearly understood.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Was there much discussion between 1868 and 1892?—A. No, most of the discussion has been later. The next important step was the introduction in 1897 of a Bill to extend the scope of the existing law. Since that date there has not been a session of Congress where an eight-hour measure of one variety or another has not been introduced. On nearly every occasion committees of the House or of the Senate have held hearings on the Bill before it, which have been reported at length. The reports of the hearings before Congress cover thousands of pages. On at least three occasions the Bill passed the House of Representatives, without discussion, but was rejected by the Senate, or never reported from the committee. During the present session of Congress, the measure has again been introduced, promoted by representative Gardner of New Jersey, the father of the 1898 measure. It does not seem to have been pressed quite as strongly as it was in previous years, not because those behind it have any less faith in it, but simply because the legislative activity of the American Federation of Labour, its chief sponsors, has been applied to grappling with the injunction powers of the courts in labour disputes. (*See Exhibit C (1) and (4).*)

*By Mr. Verville:*

Q. And trying to keep out of jail?—A. Yes, and they are trying to have the anti-boycott legislation amended. For that reason there has not been as much stress laid on the Bill this last session.

As a result of the discussion many important changes have been made in the Bill as first submitted, mainly in the direction of making concessions to meet specific objections. I have here a brief statement of the principal changes that were made in the different Bills as they were submitted to the United States Congress during the thirteen years since 1897. The first Bill was introduced in 1897.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. These are all the proposed amendments, none of which have been actually carried?—A. Yes, these are simply proposed amendments. They show the evolution in the Bill as amended by its sponsors, to meet one objection after the other.

*By Mr. Verville:*

Q. These are the last amendments?—A. Yes, the Bill before the House at present is practically the same as the 1904 and 1906 measure.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. As I understand it, the law on the statute book to-day is the law passed in 1892.—A. Yes.

Q. And it has never been amended since?—A. No.

Q. Since 1892 there have been several Bills amending the law, none of which have been carried?—A. Yes.

Q. The Bill of 1897 was a proposed amendment of the law of 1892?—A. Yes.

Q. Then in 1898, a Bill going much further than the Act of 1892, was introduced?—A. Yes. (*See Exhibit C. (1).*)

Q. Since that time discussion has centred around the Bill of 1898, and it has led to an amendment of that Bill?—A. Precisely. For example, in 1897, when the first important Bill was introduced, it was sought to amend the Act of 1892 by ex-

PROF. SKELTON.