

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

Federal legislation followed in the wake of legislation of the states or it has preceded?
—A. No and yes.

Q. Perhaps you could arrange a chronology of that?—A. To put it briefly; the first important action taken by the Federal government preceded any action by the state, but since then some of the states have gone further, have caught up to and gone ahead of it.

Q. You say the first important action?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you mean the first legislation enacted?—A. The first legislation, the first hour law enacted was by the Federal government. It was at first in advance of the states, but very little.

By Mr. Knowles:

Q. Before any amending laws?—A. Yes, even before the amending laws. The amending laws were passed within the past eight or ten years, but since then the states have caught up and gone ahead of the Federal government.

By the Chairman:

Q. Do you think you could point out the chronology?—A. Yes.

Mr. MACDONELL.—The New York law was ahead of the Federal.

By the Chairman:

Q. What is the date of the Federal enactment upon the statute book at the present time?—A. 1892. Of course in 1868 there was an enactment providing for an eight hour law for government employes directly employed. In 1892 the main Act now in force was applied to contracts as well.

Q. It is the law that is on the statute book at the present time?—A. Yes.

Q. There have been several Bills introduced since then?—A. In practically every session. There is a Bill before the House of Representatives at the present moment.

Q. Could you devote perhaps part of a sitting to giving us the various attempts that have been made to introduce Bills modifying the Act of 1892 and the reasons, so far as you have been able to gather them, why these attempts have not been successful?

Mr. SMITH.—The effect?

The CHAIRMAN.—The effect.—A. I can do that.

By the Chairman:

Q. And the Act of 1892, can you trace it up and find out when it was first introduced?—A. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN.—As I understand it, there have been several important Committees of the House of Representatives and of the Senate of the United States. If you could give us just an outline of these various bodies, what they have attempted and the line of argument presented before them. I think that would be very helpful.

Mr. VERVILLE.—I was before that Committee three years ago at Washington when they were discussing the matter.

Prof. SKELTON.—What session was that?

Mr. VERVILLE.—I think it was 1906.

The CHAIRMAN.—That is one of the committees that was dealing with proposed amendments.

Mr. VERVILLE.—I was there all the forenoon hearing evidence.

The CHAIRMAN.—Did you give any evidence?

Mr. VERVILLE.—No, I was just listening.

Mr. STAPLES.—All the morning we have been following—which appears to be the object of the committee—the legislation which has been passed or considered in the United States. Why do we restrict ourselves to the United States? Why do we not go to other republics, or to the mother country?

PROF. SKELTON.