

Notes on Recent Cases

THERE HAS been a sharp increase in the number of applications for naturalization investigated during the year 1935, comparative figures being as follows:

1933	—	15,254
1934	—	17,162
1935	—	23,698

A number of reasons are advanced for this increase, but without doubt the desire on the part of many to become British subjects is largely a result of the passing of the Old Age Pension Act.

A large number of unusual cases are investigated, and frequently it is found that applicants have resided in Canada for 30, 40 and 50 years before applying for their naturalization — one applicant who was interviewed recently, had resided in Canada for over 60 years.

Applicants are questioned regarding any police record they may possess, and occasionally persons known to have been convicted will deny that they have a record. In a recent case, the applicant, who was known to have a record, not only denied that such was the case but volunteered to supply the investigator with a set of his fingerprints. On forwarding these to our Finger Print Branch, it was definitely established that he had served one year's imprisonment for theft; had been convicted twice for contributing to the delinquency of a minor; and had also been convicted on two other Criminal Code charges.

It is also interesting to note that subjects of certain Foreign States, desiring to acquire naturalization in Canada, must first obtain the authority of the Head of the Government of the State of which they are subjects. Unless this is done, the new allegiance of the subject will not be recognized by the authorities of his country of origin.

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One of the most cruel and brutal cases of assault upon a woman was recently disclosed by members of the Force when investigating the death of a farmer's wife in one of the sparsely settled districts of Alberta.

During the early part of 1913, a young immigrant, aged 19, came to Canada from his native country. After working for a while in Montreal, he proceeded to Western Canada, where, in 1914, he took up a homestead and apparently started out to become a good Canadian settler, working his land and erecting the usual small buildings required by a recent arrival in a farming community.

In the Summer of 1921, this individual married a local girl of his own nationality. From then on nothing much was heard of him until 1929, when he came to the attention of the Police owing to the fact that the woman reported that he had shot at her with a rifle and driven her from her home. Although this was a very serious charge, the parties concerned became reconciled and endeavoured to make a fresh start.

The next chapter in this tragedy occurred during the Spring of 1931 when the woman charged her husband with wife beating, and again during