

governor in council to have his certificate cancelled. Such applications are made from time to time and even from week to week. Notice of such cancellation is sent to all foreign countries interested. The same procedure is followed in the granting of naturalization certificates.

Mr. ROBINSON: Is it not a fact that where a foreigner becomes naturalized, having been out of the country for two or three years and is living, say, in the United States, if he does not report once a year to the British consular officer he loses his domicile and cannot return?

Mr. CAHAN: As a matter of fact, it is provided in the law that one who is naturalized in Canada and goes abroad to live shall report to a British consular officer once a year with respect to his intention to return to Canada. My hon. friend from St. James can speak regarding the practice when he was in office, but speaking for myself I have not made a practice of attempting to cancel certificates because this annual declaration has not been made, because I find it would often work grave hardships. The fact is that many naturalized citizens of Canada go abroad, remaining away for over a year, with the clear and positive intention of returning and assuming Canadian domicile, and their default in reporting is due to ignorance. In such cases I think we should make very considerable allowances, and I have not attempted any rigid enforcement of the rule with regard to notification of intention to resume Canadian domicile. But in almost every instance, as regards those who are abroad for more than seven years, when that is proved satisfactorily, and after the person has been notified and has had personal service of notice to which he can reply and give his excuses, I apply to the governor in council for revocation. There are however exceptional cases. A very sad case came under my notice not long ago. I received from a district in Manchuria the Canadian passport and Canadian certificate of naturalization of a well known missionary priest from Quebec. He had come from France to this country with his family and had been educated in the institutions of Quebec, being later sent abroad to Manchuria as a missionary. He had his Canadian passport and Canadian certificate of naturalization. When British subjects were being rounded up in Manchuria in order that they might receive the protection of the British government, it was ascertained that this reverend father had been absent from Canada for over seven years and had not travelled a distance of some six

or seven hundred miles to get in touch with a consular officer to report. He had been attending to his duties as a priest. They took up the certificate and the passport and it was sent on to the office of the Secretary of State, and soon after there came a letter from this priest—a very touching letter. He said that he was a Canadian though born abroad, and that the one hope of his life had been to return to Canada to spend his last days among his family and friends. You may be sure that within twenty-four hours I returned the certificate and passport so that he could come back. Exceptions must be made in individual cases.

Mr. BROWN: I only wish that many other men who have to do with these matters exercised the same judgment as the Secretary of State.

Mr. CAHAN: I must say for my predecessor that I think he was as careful and assiduous.

Mr. BROWN: I am not speaking of either the minister or his predecessor. The fact is however that many men on both sides of the boundary line are absolutely callous. They enforce the law according to the strict letter, exercising no sort of discretion. The minister is to be congratulated on having acted as he has done.

Mr. POWER: Some time last fall the newspapers brought to the attention of the Canadian public the somewhat anomalous position of Canadian diplomatic representatives abroad. It appeared from an article which I read at the time that the children of, let us say, the Canadian representative at Geneva, born in Geneva, would not be regarded as Canadian nationals, and that if perchance later in life they returned to Canada and came under the disqualification of a person who was on relief they might be subject to deportation. I cannot conceive of a worse position than that. I have in mind certain representatives of Canada overseas, of French Canadian origin, whose children were born there. It might very well happen that later in life these children would come to Canada and if they became public charges they would be subject to deportation—that is, if the article which I read in this paper accurately represents the situation.

Mr. CAHAN: There is no doubt in my mind that the children of Canadian nationals born abroad should be deemed Canadian nationals. Two years ago, at the request of one of the missionary societies of the Catholic church, and on representations made through