

*Immigration Act*

I remember going one time on a trip, or a mission if you like, with the United Nations relief and rehabilitation administration which took me for two and one-half years to China. There I dealt with people of many nations. At one time under that UNRRA program there were probably 2,000 personnel on the staff in the China field. The majority of them were Americans because after all, while many nations contributed to the program, the basis of the contribution was a percentage of the national income. As the United States had a much larger national income than the others, they made over 70 per cent of the whole contribution that was made. Hence naturally 70 per cent or probably a little bit more of those on the staff were Americans.

I lived and worked with those people for two years or two and one-half years. I was rather amazed at the Americans who were always singing the praises of their country, saying it was the greatest country in the world, the country that had the brightest future, the country that had the highest standard of living and even going on to say—although they could not very well do it now—that it was the country that had a dollar that was worth more than that of any other country in the world. I will admit that at times they made me tired and annoyed me, but I must confess that in many ways I admired them for doing that.

I think we as Canadians can borrow some of that plan from our American friends. Why should we be modest about the country in which we live? Do we not live in a country that has had the greatest expansion in her history in the last 10 or 15 years? Never in our lifetime have we had such great expansion and such development as we have had in the last 15 years. It is the belief of many people who are in a much better position to judge than I that we are on the threshold of a much greater expansion and a much greater development than we have ever had before in our history. Further, I believe the Prime Minister of Britain emphasized this matter the other day.

In my opinion, and I know it is the opinion of many other people, there is no country in the world that is held in higher regard among the nations of the world than is Canada today. I therefore think that we as Canadians should impress on the minds of not only our new Canadians but our associates the great privileges we enjoy and the great future we have in this country.

The amendment I have submitted here to the Immigration Act is a simple one, and it is proposed with the thought in mind of creating among new Canadians who come to our land more incentive to take out their

citizenship papers. It is true that many who come here are British subjects. Many come here from the British commonwealth of nations. Those people also must be domiciled here for five years before they can take out their own naturalization papers. They have, however, some advantage over the people who come here from other lands owing to the fact that when their five years of residence in this country are up, they may make direct application to the registrar of the citizenship department here and they are issued their citizenship papers without going through the process in court which the other people must do, with a three-month stay before they can finally get their papers.

I find that some of the people who come from the British commonwealth—and I admit that it is a limited field I am speaking of now—feel that as British subjects they do not necessarily need to take out citizenship papers—they feel that it is not required—and some of them are rather reluctant to do so. On the other hand, many of the immigrants that live in my district—and many of them are central Europeans who come from war-torn districts—are extremely anxious to take out their citizenship papers, and they make their application as soon as their five years of residence has been completed here.

While living in China I remember running across some people who came from central Europe. They came through the rise of Hitler and settled in Shanghai, not knowing where to go. Seeing the rise of the communist regime, they wanted to come to Canada or the United States, to the North American continent. One couple over there whom I knew very well decided they would like to come to Canada. I told them to put in their application because I felt sure they would be accepted. I had known them for two or three years, and in my opinion they were a very fine type of citizen.

This summer I visited Vancouver and they met me at the depot. After exchanging greetings the first thing they said was, "Do you know you are looking at new Canadians now?" They were delighted to think they were now Canadians. Sometimes immigrants who come to this country have the mistaken idea that the filing of what is called a notice of intention is going to hasten their citizenship papers. Of course that really is not true. The notice of intention has no bearing at all on the ultimate issuance of citizenship papers. It only means you intend to apply for citizenship papers when you have completed your five years of residence in this country.

There is a somewhat similar situation in the United States. A few days ago I was talking with a consular attache at the United