

Mr. GRAYDON: He is not moving it.

Mr. MARTIN: It is not strictly in accordance with the rules and that is why I did not read it earlier. It might facilitate the discussion and the passage of the section if I gave the details of the new subsection. I am in part following the constructive suggestion of the hon. member for Macleod. It is as follows:

Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection one of this section, the minister may grant a certificate of Canadian citizenship to any person who is not a Canadian citizen but who is a British subject and who makes to the minister a declaration that he desires such certificate and who satisfies the minister that he possesses the qualifications prescribed; provided that in any case where, in the opinion of the minister, there is doubt as to whether the applicant possesses the said qualifications, the minister before granting such certificate may refer the declaration and the material in support thereof to the court in the judicial district in which the declarant resides, and it shall thereupon be dealt with as an application under subsection one of this section.

I think that meets the point to which my hon. friend referred.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): I rise to make a brief comment on the remarks of the Minister of Agriculture, but in particular to reecho what was said by the hon. member for Calgary West, and indeed also by the Minister of Agriculture. This bill at its inception had every chance of being carried unanimously and our whole purpose has been to try to eradicate differences in order that there may be a common feeling of unanimity. That is most desirable.

First of all, I should like to comment upon one remark made by the Minister of Agriculture who said that it was just a matter of time. Time is an important element, and I might tell a story that I heard the other day about a professor of geology who was asked to make a speech before the inmates of a penitentiary. I believe at Stony Mountain, for their edification. He dealt with his own profession and described the geological formation of the Churchill river and how it had changed through the years. He said that these changes had taken some hundreds of years, but that in the contemplation of geologists a thousand years were really no more than one day. A vote of thanks was moved by one of the convicts who said that he was certainly glad that the judge who sentenced him was not a geologist who would think of a thousand years as being just one day.

I submit to the Minister of Agriculture that time is important in this matter. However, the thing I really rose to say was not that at

[The Acting Chairman.]

all. The hon. member for Calgary West has expressed my views so well that I want merely to underline what he said. There is one point I should like to add and I believe this is an important point.

The Minister of Agriculture wisely and eloquently emphasized his belief in the need for unanimity. I think he felt, as we so often feel, that if we are to have unanimity other people will have to change their views. I am going to suggest that that is not true in this case. The hon. member for Eglinton has agreed with the provisions of the Immigration Act and we raise no question as to deportation. Besides, there is another section in this bill which also contemplates deportation.

Therefore, as I see it, the position is simply this: However much hon. gentlemen opposite, or some of them, may disagree with us in attaching importance to this, I think they realize that we are sincere. If that is so, then I put this to them, and again I am echoing what the hon. member for Calgary West has said, does this derogate in any way, however small, from the citizenship of any one who is going to be affected by the terms of the bill? If it does not, as I think it does not, then I suggest that here is a case where, by generosity or cooperation or what you will, people who have different views can accept the view which we sincerely believe to be of some importance.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): I should like to say a word as one of those people about whom some of my hon. friends to my right are perturbed. I never felt that it was any hardship at all for me to wait for five years before I could be a Canadian, even though I could not then call myself a Canadian citizen. I came to this country to get a better chance than that the old world offered me. I do not see why we should not have to serve an apprenticeship in this country to show ourselves qualified and fit to become Canadians, a designation which I think stands very high in this world. I can see no reason at all why immigrants to Canada, no matter where they come from, should not all be treated on the same basis. I do not see why a person born in Scotland, the Ukraine, Germany or France should be put on a different level so far as citizenship is concerned. A knowledge and an appreciation of democracy are not confined to the people of the United Kingdom. We know that during the war certain people over there had such a poor concept of democracy that they were hanged by the neck as an object lesson to others. Democracy is not the prerogative of any one