

aliens is lacking in ceremony, impressiveness and especially in instructiveness; and that these defects ought, in our national interests, to be speedily and effectively remedied.

That we approve of the action of our Winnipeg Club in the initiation by it of ceremonial distributions of naturalization certificates, and approve of those proceedings.

That is the point, I think, that the Canadian Club is interested in.

Speaking from my own experience when I was on the bench in Alberta, I did have before me probably a couple of thousand applicants for naturalization. All that amounted to was that on a certain day an applicant would appear just by himself—on chamber day or something of that sort. He went in the witness box and the judge's only duty apparently was to ascertain whether he could make himself reasonably clear in English or in French. That was the principal object of the appearance in court. All the inquiries about his character and that sort of thing were done by the Mounted Police under the Secretary of State's department; so it was really a pure formality so far as the court proceedings were concerned, merely examining the man to see if he could make himself intelligible in English or French. If we found that he was able to speak fairly well, get along in ordinary business, we certified or approved of a certificate of naturalization. That went to the Secretary of State and after he examined all the material in the case he would either grant or reject an application and a certificate was issued by the Secretary of State. As I say there was no ceremony at all. After the report came to Ottawa and the certificate was issued by the Secretary of State, the certificate was forwarded to the Clerk of the Court in the district in which the man resided and he was notified by the clerk—that is, the applicant was notified by the clerk—to attend before him and take the oath of allegiance. So he went into the clerk's office and signed the oath of allegiance there in a very informal way. After that was done, the certificate was handed to him. Under the law the certificate would not be given to him until he took the oath of allegiance. That did not amount to anything. Many of these foreigners really did not appreciate what the thing meant at all. There were many of them who wanted a certificate of naturalization in order to get their homesteads or something of that sort.

*By Mr. Ross (Calgary):*

Q. Or to get on relief?—A. Or to get on relief, perhaps, too.

*By Mr. Black (Yukon):*

Q. Old age pensions?—A. Yes. So that really the ceremony, so-called, did not amount to anything. In Winnipeg they realized that situation. Judge Dysart, at any rate, in the case of examining a man, would always have, you might say, a little bit of formality or ceremony in connection with it, although at the time he could not say whether the man would be naturalized or not. At the time of his examination he impressed on him the seriousness of the matter.

*By Hon. Mr. Stirling:*

Q. May I ask if it was after his attendance on the clerk that he appeared before the judge?—A. No.

Q. It was before?—A. Yes. There was no further appearance. He simply came into town, went to the clerk's office, would take the oath of allegiance before the clerk, the clerk would hand him a certificate, he would go off and that was the end of it.