

not right for one party to it to break it without the consent of the other, or, in other words, to treat it as a scrap of paper of which we heard so much in days gone by.

Moreover, I am constitutionally opposed to anything in the nature of compulsion. I do not like the thought that men shall become naturalized against their will. Further, if they have not a sufficient appreciation of the rights of the franchise, of citizenship, to make the application themselves, I doubt very much whether it is worth while to make them citizens. I would add this as a qualification: If you are going to do that, I see no reason, as the hon. member for Comox-Alberni has said, why you should make a distinction, naturalizing Indians because they are worthy of being citizens, intelligent, industrious, and should assume all the responsibilities as well as possess all the advantages of citizenship, and not apply the same rule in the case of foreigners who have been in this country for five years or more, who have all the qualifications of citizenship and who yet do not avail themselves of their right to become naturalized. I might even go so far as this, that as regards men from other countries, I do not care where they come from, from the white countries if you like, from the countries of Europe, who have made Canada their permanent home and who for some reason do not become naturalized, it ought to be brought to their attention that it is their duty to assume all the responsibilities of citizenship. I should not make naturalization difficult in cases of that kind. Perhaps I am going a little too far afield in saying that. Instead of making it difficult for these men to become naturalized if they are willing to become citizens, I would make it easy.

I rose more particularly to dwell upon what my deskmate said a moment or two ago. I do not ordinarily attribute sinister motives to anyone. I remember very well some seven or eight years ago when the Hon. Mr. Copp, who is now in the Senate, was Secretary of State and as such introduced an amendment to the Naturalization Act under which the Secretary of State was empowered to naturalize those who applied instead of the procedure before the judges as is the case at present. I recall what severe resistance was offered by our Conservative friends who were then in opposition. They gave as their reason that it would be very easy, just prior to an election, for a secretary of state, at the behest of a government that naturally wanted to be reelected, to naturalize these foreigners in shoals and hordes, in hundreds and thousands, knowing all the time they would vote in a

[Mr. Euler.]

way that would be advantageous to the government. I do not say that would be done in this case, but as my hon. friend to my right says, it becomes possible for a government so to act. The amendment was withdrawn. The only reason that has been given by the minister for the introduction of this amendment is that there are a few Indians who have refused to pay their just obligations and who have taken refuge behind their privileges. I would say to him: While that argument may be sound, I do not think it is of sufficient importance; I do not think the instances would be so numerous—I believe they would be very few—as to justify him in breaking a sacred treaty with those Indians.

Mr. MURPHY: A moment ago I asked that this clause might stand in order that the suggestion made by the Minister of Justice might be considered and we might make some progress. I have no desire to shut off discussion; further discussion may be had at the next sitting. Perhaps we would make greater progress with another clause.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Cowan, Port Arthur): Section 7 stands.

Mr. DUPUIS: May I ask the minister when this clause will be reconsidered.

Mr. MURPHY: On the next government day, when it is called or appears on the order paper.

Section stands.

Mr. MURPHY: I move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Cowan, Port Arthur): Shall I report progress?

Mr. DUPUIS: Before this motion is decided I should like to say a few words concerning it. I am afraid that this—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Cowan, Port Arthur): I suggest that the motion to report progress is not debatable.

Motion agreed to.

Progress reported.

SUPPLY—INSPECTION OF CANNED SALMON

STATEMENT OF MR. NEILL ON MOTION OF MR. GUTHRIE FOR COMMITTEE

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice) moved that the house go into committee of supply.