

Mr. REID: If you went to Japan, the fact that you are registered there as well as in Canada, although born in British Columbia, the Japanese government would have first claim upon you if you stayed four months. You would become repatriated, you would become a full-fledged Japanese citizen.

Mr. HEAPS: That is a legal question. I am wondering in my own mind, if a Canadian citizen leaves this country for a period of time, whether he can really shed his Canadian citizenship.

The CHAIRMAN: I think it will be possible for this committee, before disposing of this problem, to get accurate knowledge of that.

Mr. HEAPS: I should like the legal aspect of the whole situation cleared up in my own mind. I should like to know if the Japanese government can make a claim upon a person of Japanese birth in this country who goes back to Japan. I think there is some international law that can be invoked. Before we discuss this matter here, I should far rather have the legal opinion of the law advisers of the crown on the whole situation.

Dr. BANNO: Mr. Chairman I should like to say a few words about this dual nationality. Prior to 1924 Japanese nationality law said that every Japanese child of Japanese parents, no matter where they were born, were Japanese subjects. But in the session of 1924 in Japan that clause was changed to read that unless we wanted to register here we did not have to. So that a child born of Japanese parents in British Columbia, if he does not register with the Japanese consul in Vancouver, is entirely Canadian, and that is the only nationality he has. There is an increasing proportion of children who are registered only with the Canadian office.

Mr. TURGEON: In British Columbia?

Dr. BANNO: In British Columbia.

Mr. TURGEON: That gets back to the point I was trying to make. Franchise has nothing at all to do with custom.

Dr. BANNO: I was trying to explain.

Mr. REID: The question I was going to ask, Doctor, was, have you any figures on how many Japanese born or British Columbia born boys have gone back to do military service in Japan?

Dr. BANNO: Well, I suppose there are some who went back to Japan and were conscripted. We have no figures available. I think they are a very few, anyway, from my knowledge of the subject.

Mr. NEILL: Is it not a fact that before a Japanese national can get in this country he has to produce a certificate from the Japanese government to show that he has done his military duty or has been exempted there?

Dr. BANNO: No, I do not think that is correct.

Mr. NEILL: That is so. You can take my word for it. I can produce evidence.

Mr. HEAPS: Mr. Chairman, I think we are discussing a great many of these questions without knowing very much about them.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. NEILL: I got that information from the Immigration Department not three weeks ago.

Mr. CAMERON: That would be our own regulations?

Mr. NEILL: No, the Japanese regulations.

Mr. HEAPS: The same point comes up in connection with other nationalities.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, gentlemen, please.

Mr. HEAPS: I would just as soon allow the matter to rest where it is, and discuss it at another time when we have had a chance of going through some

[Dr. E. Chutaro Banno.]