

The Prime Minister stated that the Order in Council empowered the Secretary of State to issue naturalization certificates to people who complied with its terms. The election came immediately afterwards and nothing then was done in this matter. Immediately after the election, early in 1918, some ninety-three residents of the city of Kitchener made application for naturalization under the terms of this Order in Council. They presented their case through the proper channels, and in all cases recommendation was made by the local judge that they were worthy of receiving naturalization, but this was refused by the Government at Ottawa.

Mr. MURPHY: The election was over then.

Mr. EULER: Yes, but I should make one exception. Although these people who had been in the country from twenty-five to fifty years and had all voted were denied naturalization, one man received naturalization who was an alien enemy. This man, living in the city of Kitchener, came directly to this country from Germany fifteen years ago, and he applied for and received naturalization on January 12th of last year although he did not come under the terms of the Order in Council at all. He knew he was not a Canadian. There was no possibility of a misconception in his case.

He had not lived here very long. He had had opportunities to become naturalized, but had not taken advantage of them. That man who had been here fifteen years and did not come under the terms of the Order in Council was given naturalization by the Union Government, and all the others, many of whom had lived in Canada 50 years, did not receive it.

An hon. MEMBER: Why?

Mr. EULER: I was just going to mention that. The reason was—that the recommendation made by the one who was responsible stated that he was a good supporter of the Union Government. While this discrimination has been practised against the people of Kitchener, I find in the annual report of the Secretary of State a list of all who were naturalized during the year 1917, and among them there were 471 Austrians, 43 Germans, and 2 Turks. Nobody from the riding I have the honour to represent is included, unless he stated that he had supported the Union Government. Surely these men ought to be given naturalization.

I had not intended to make any personal reference, but a remark made by the hon.

[Mr. Euler.]

member for Victoria (Sir Sam Hughes) must be my excuse for the statement I am about to make. In giving the names of members of this House who had sons at the front, he gave my own, and in his remarks he said that he did not know whether Mr. Euler had German blood in his veins or not. Mr. Speaker, I have only contempt for the men who will deny his father, or his racial origin. I want to say that the blood that flows in my veins is exactly the same kind of blood that courses in the veins of every other hon. member in this House. It is not English, it is not French, it is not German; it is Canadian. Now, I want to speak so plainly that there can be no misapprehension. The man who is my father came from Germany at the age of two and a half years, long before Confederation, and has lived in this country for nearly seventy-five years, and, what is much more important, he is to-day just as good a Canadian as is his grandson, who is still carrying arms overseas.

An hon. MEMBER: A volunteer.

Mr. EULER: Yes, he was not conscripted. I make this personal reference only for one reason—to give force to my plea for men, who, I think, have not been given justice such as we are accustomed to. We have here people without a country, and in order to express what I mean with regard to them I will read what I wrote to the Secretary of State in connection with this matter, which never received any consideration at the hands of the Union Government:—

I would like to ask on behalf of these men careful re-consideration. They are in a most unfortunate position through no fault of their own. To-day with the loyal desire to be technically as well as morally, citizens of Canada they have no country and no legal claim to the protection which citizenship ought to provide. Let the Government make all diligent investigation, before granting naturalization, and they will find that the large majority of these men are thoroughly worthy. Recognition of that fact will make for harmony and for the loyalty and true national feeling which a government should make easy rather than difficult.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, when I decided to intervene in this discussion it was at a very much earlier stage of the debate, and there were many things I had in mind to refer to which have since been dealt with by other speakers. There still remain, however, a few things which I would like to deal with briefly. I was struck with the chorus of approval which met the words of the mover and the seconder of the Address, and it occurred to me when I listened to the high tone of their speeches that the people of