

nominal sum required. Would it be possible to have papers issued free of cost to these people? I have one case in mind where if the man were naturalized he could qualify for the old age pension.

Mr. CAHAN: I am afraid it is not within the power of the Secretary of State to provide that applicants for naturalization shall be exempt from paying the fee of \$5. This amount is not received wholly by the consolidated revenue fund through the Department of the Secretary of State; it covers in part the fees of the clerk of the court to which the application is made and the certificate granted.

Mr. HOWDEN: I should like to have some information in connection with a case in the town of Transcona. This man originally came from southern Europe; he was naturalized and raised a family, his boys now being all young men. He returned to the old country but is not now able to come back to this country. I should like to know why a naturalized citizen is prevented from coming back to this country.

Mr. CAHAN: We have fairly complete records of all naturalization certificates granted in this country. We have complete records since the Naturalization Act of 1914 and, with a few exceptions, we have the records of those granted by the courts under the old naturalization acts. When we took over in 1914 there had been one or two courthouses destroyed by fire and the records were not available, but otherwise they are complete. These records are available within an hour or two.

Mr. HOWDEN: May I interrupt for a moment? I applied to the office here in Ottawa and obtained this man's record and number, but still he is not permitted to return to this country.

Mr. CAHAN: If he has been absent from Canada for seven years or over without being in the employ of the Canadian government or an office or agency of that government or in the employ of some Canadian company or person doing business abroad, he loses his naturalization rights.

Mr. HOWDEN: He has been away only three years.

Mr. CAHAN: If the hon. gentleman will give me his name I shall have a complete examination made and give him a definite reply.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): Just before I left for the east two cases were brought to my attention. These parties had lost their

[Mr. Bradette.]

naturalization papers and I should like to know the procedure and cost of obtaining new papers.

Mr. CAHAN: If the person affected was naturalized under one of the old acts before 1914 his remedy would be to apply for a certificate under the new act. Prior to 1914 the naturalization granted in Canada made the individual a British subject while in Canada but such status was not recognized when he went beyond the three-mile limit. It became very important that those who had received their certificates prior to 1914 should apply for certificates under the new act. If the individual has been naturalized under the new act and the officer is satisfied that the application for a new certificate is made in good faith, a duplicate certificate is issued. We have found that we must exercise great care in this respect, especially on the Pacific coast. We have found that naturalization certificates have been traded in for certain fraudulent purposes. In certain cases applications have been made for new certificates on the ground that the old ones had been lost, but it was found that they had not been lost but fraudulently sold or transferred to persons who could not obtain naturalization. We have to be very careful but I am sure that the assurance of my hon. friend as to his knowledge of the particular facts would go a long way to satisfying the department in these particular cases.

Mr. SPENCER: What would be the position of an individual who had taken out naturalization papers in some other part of the empire and who was absent from Canada for seven or more years? I take it that he would have difficulty in getting back into Canada.

Mr. CAHAN: So far as the department of the Secretary of State is concerned he certainly would have no difficulty, but I could not answer as to what action might be taken by the Department of Immigration. Particular considerations might arise. Careful reports are made from time to time as to the conduct abroad of naturalized Canadian citizens. We have received complaints in the past which would seem to indicate that apparently certain aliens have been naturalized in this country in order to obtain a certificate of good character with which to go abroad and commit crime. We rely upon Scotland Yard and other sources of information in England as to the criminal conduct of naturalized subjects. If an individual has been found by a court to be guilty of crime, the Secretary of State may apply to the