

ship? Under this section, if a person takes out foreign citizenship we assume the right to declare that he is not a British subject.

Mr. CASE: We cannot do that.

Mr. MARTIN: These people acquire Canadian citizenship under Canadian law. Of course we have the power. They have the status of a British subject. But if they become nationals of another country—

An hon. MEMBER: British subjects?

Mr. MARTIN: Yes. Australia has acted thus and South Africa has done so. There is no doubt about that. They are British subjects by virtue of naturalization in Canada.

Mr. RAYMOND (Beauharnois-Laprairie): Did I understand the Secretary of State to say that we had the right to take away British citizenship? I believe we have no power to do so. This is absolutely unconstitutional. We cannot invade the field of legislating as to the citizenship of another country. At least I do not know how that can be done. Besides this, I would ask another question: if a person ceases to be a British subject, does he cease to be a Canadian citizen?

Mr. MARTIN: There is no doubt about the first question. I did not hear the hon. member's second question.

Mr. RAYMOND (Beauharnois-Laprairie): I wish to know if a person ceases to be a British citizen if he ceases to be a Canadian citizen?

Mr. HACKETT: British subject.

Mr. RAYMOND (Beauharnois-Laprairie): Yes, British subject.

Mr. MARTIN: If he is a Canadian citizen. A person who lives in South Africa would cease to be a British subject if he goes to live, let us say, in Yugoslavia as a citizen of that country.

Mr. RAYMOND (Beauharnois-Laprairie): I understand section 19 provides that when a person ceases to be a Canadian citizen he thereupon ceases to be a British subject. Is it reciprocal? If a person ceases to be a British subject, does he cease to be a Canadian citizen?

Mr. MARTIN: If he is a Canadian citizen, certainly. The two are joined together.

Mr. RAYMOND (Beauharnois-Laprairie): I just want to remind the minister of a discussion which took place in 1921 on the subject of Canadian nationality.

Mr. MARTIN: All Canadian citizens are British subjects. Surely that should help the hon. gentleman in understanding the nature of my reply.

[Mr. Reid.]

Mr. RAYMOND (Beauharnois-Laprairie): That means that we have dual nationality.

Mr. MARTIN: No, it does not. It means that under this bill we are citizens of Canada, at the same time enjoying the common status of loyalty to a common king.

Mr. REID: Suppose a man leaves some continental country, France we will say for the sake of argument, resides in Great Britain for a few years, becoming a British subject, then comes to this country and after five years takes out Canadian citizenship papers. Following that, he returns to the continental country and takes out papers there. I am questioning the right of this country to declare that he is not a British subject in view of the fact that he might have had that status in the first instance when he came to Canada.

Mr. CASE: I have listened to the minister's explanation and what I have in mind is this. A man comes as a British subject when he arrives and then becomes a Canadian citizen. If he renounces his Canadian citizenship, does the minister mean to say that we can declare that he is no longer a British subject?

Mr. MARTIN: The section says that where one ceases to be a Canadian citizen as provided in certain sections, if he is at such time or thereupon becomes a national or citizen of a country other than a country of the British commonwealth he thereby ceases to be a British subject. He does under this law, under the law of New Zealand, and of all the dominions. He joins another country. Should we allow him to continue to be a British subject?

Section agreed to.

On section 20—By residence outside of Canada for six years.

Mr. GREEN: Was consideration given to inserting a provision such as there is in the United States law to the effect that if a citizen other than a natural-born citizen returns to his country of origin and becomes domiciled there, the time of residence is only two years, or is a shorter time than if he goes to a third country? I have the report of Professor W. P. M. Kennedy, published in 1943.

Mr. MARTIN: I may say that we have not adopted the suggestion.

Mr. GREEN: At page 18 the following remarks appear:

If after naturalization and the acquisition of Canadian domicile, they return to the country of their origin and remain there for two years,