

even amongst these a considerable amount of confusion prevails.

It is, therefore, felt that not only in the interests of the national life of the Union but also in those of the component parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations, it is highly desirable that the meaning of the term "British subject" should be defined definitely and clearly, in order to put its true import beyond a shadow of doubt.

11. Briefly, the attitude of the Union with regard to the meaning of the term "common status" is as follows :-

A person possesses the common status by virtue of the fact that he belongs to a particular class of subjects of the King who have become such in conformity with requirements agreed upon between the members of the Commonwealth. It is a status of non-alienage. Its essence is that a subject of the King hailing from one part of the Empire is not an alien in another, but not, however, that he therefore necessarily is a member of whatever community he finds himself in.

The minimum that he is entitled to is that he is not classed as an alien. When, therefore, a possessor of the common status moves from one part of the Empire to another he finds himself in a more favourable position than others who are not subjects of the King. In other words, in those parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations of which he is not a national he is entitled to the enjoyment of such rights and privileges as are accorded him voluntarily by the Legislature of those parts and no more; that, once admitted into one of those parts, the only right he may lay claim to is that as long as the common status is maintained he shall not be classed as an alien; and that he is debarred from the rights accorded exclusively to nationals and not merely withheld from aliens.