

Belcourt), it appears to me it would not be necessary for a French citizen who becomes an officer in our army to be a naturalized British subject. Every man when he enters the army takes the oath of allegiance, and it appears to me that that would be sufficient.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT—The gentleman in question has been advised that it would be necessary for him to be naturalized. Let me draw attention to subsection 3 of section 2 of chapter 44 of the Naturalization of Aliens Act. It is quite possible that under that subsection the Secretary of State could grant the certificate of naturalization in the case I have mentioned. The subsection reads as follows:

The grant of a certificate of naturalization to any such alien shall be in the absolute discretion of the Secretary of State of Canada, and he may, with or without assigning any reason, give or withhold the certificate as he thinks most conducive to the public good, and no appeal shall lie from his decision.

I have no doubt under this section a certificate could be granted, were it not for the preceding section, which reads as follows:

The residence required by this section is residence in Canada for not less than one year immediately preceding the application, and previous residence either in Canada or in some other part of His Majesty's dominions, for a period of four years within the last eight years before the application.

Possibly the Minister of Justice might be asked whether, under subsection three, the Secretary of State could grant the certificate in the case I have mentioned, and that would obviate the necessity for legislation.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Has the gentleman to whom my hon. friend refers not resided in the British dominions previously?

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT—I think he has, but not for a period of four years within the last eight years.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I shall mention the matter to the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—I should like to throw out a suggestion which emanates from the Westminster Gazette of recent date, which I think should be carried out here. It is that in face of the situation of the British Empire now, all the difficulties, in Ireland especially, have been apparently wiped out, but the paper suggests at the same time that they ought to disappear permanently, and there should be no delay in passing the Home Rule Bill, in order that

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all grievances between different citizens of the Empire should be entirely wiped out. The suggestion is a good one, and I hope it will be accepted over there. But the same thing could be adopted in this country. We have so far shown a united front. This country has done everything possible for the safety and defence of the empire, but there are also grievances here, and this is the proper time to remove them. It can be very easily done. This is neither the time nor the place to discuss these grievances, but I throw out the suggestion to the leader of the Government in this House and ask him to place it before his Prime Minister, and I will ask the Prime Minister of this country to call the attention of his friends, the Prime Ministers of Ontario and Manitoba, to endeavour to wipe out discrimination which causes grievances in those two provinces. It seems to me the time is opportune to carry out entirely the entente cordiale, and put all the citizens of this country on the same footing. We have seen the Czar promising his Polish and Jewish subjects full rights and liberty, and the Westminster Gazette repeats that statement and says that it will also be the proper time to remove every grievance which may divide the citizens of its own country. I throw out this suggestion with regard to Ontario and Manitoba, in order that those who, in matters of language, religion and education, are suffering, may be given the rights to which they are entitled, so that we may hear no more about their differences. The schools will be reopened very soon, and the regulations which infringe on the rights and privileges of the minority in those provinces should be abolished. I ask that the minority in those provinces be placed on the same footing as the minority in Quebec. You never hear in Quebec complaints of discrimination in matters of nationality, religion and education. The minority is receiving a full measure of justice according to the constitution. I ask my hon. friend to look at the article in the Westminster Gazette of recent date to which I have referred and consider whether the suggestion cannot be adopted here at the present time.

The motion was agreed to, and the House adjourned until 2.30 p.m.

## SECOND SITTING.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.30 p.m.

Routine proceeding.