

be the year immediately preceding the date of the application, and four years of which must be within a six-year period—I am omitting certain exception, to which I shall return later—fourth, that he is of good character; fifth, that he has an adequate knowledge of either the English or the French language, or, alternatively, that he has resided in Canada continuously for more than twenty years; sixth, that he has an adequate knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges of Canadian citizenship, and, seventh, that he intends, if his application is granted, either to reside permanently in Canada or to enter or continue in the public service of Canada or of a province thereof.

I draw the attention of the committee to one or two exceptions which are made. Paragraph (a) makes an exception in the case of two classes of persons; first, the spouse of a Canadian citizen residing in Canada, that is, a husband or wife and, second, a British subject. Those are the two exceptions. If the applicant has either one or the other of those two attributes he is absolved from filing a declaration of intention. That is the only benefit that accrues to the British subject under subsection 1.

Mr. MARTIN: He still has the other rights which were mentioned, the right to vote and the right to old age pension.

Mr. FLEMING: We are dealing now with the acquisition of Canadian citizenship under this bill. I am pointing out that the one exception made by this section in favour of a British subject as such is that he is absolved from filing a declaration of intention under paragraph (a). That is the one difference provided by section 10, subsection 1, between an applicant who is a British subject and an applicant who is not a British subject. The filing of a declaration of intention can hardly be regarded as an onerous undertaking. It is merely the act of filing the declaration in a court office. That is the extent of the benefit extended to a British subject under this section in respect of his application for Canadian citizenship. If that section is enacted in its present form and the renowned Winston Churchill chose to take up residence in Canada, he could not become a Canadian citizen in less than five years.

Mr. MARTIN: Nor could he for the past twenty-seven years.

Mr. FLEMING: I am going to come to that point the minister has been raising. I suggest that what the minister has raised in what he has just said and in what he has said

very often during the debate is simply a strawman and I am going to deal with it in a moment.

Mr. GRAYDON: Not a very good strawman either.

Mr. FLEMING: Reference has been made to persons who come to this country for temporary purposes. Yesterday the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart said that people who had come to this country—this is, as I recall his remarks—from the British isles, not intending to make this country their final or permanent abode, up to the present time had rights of citizenship which, rightly speaking, should not be accorded to people who come for a period limited in point of time.

Mr. COLDWELL: I did not quite say that.

Mr. FLEMING: That is the sense in which I apprehended the remarks of the hon. gentleman. Whatever his meaning was, I think it is quite fair to say that no one, regardless of one year's residence or five years' residence, can qualify under this bill for Canadian citizenship unless he has established domicile here. Five years' residence is the minimum, but it is five years after he has acquired domicile within the definition of that term given in section 2 (j), which is as follows:

"domicile" means the place in which a person has his home or in which he resides and to which he returns as his place of permanent abode and does not mean the place where he resides for a mere special or temporary purpose . . .

We can wash out all those cases to which I understood the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart was referring. No one, whether a British subject or anything else, can acquire status under this bill to apply for Canadian citizenship or to begin to fulfil the necessary qualifications unless he has first established domicile. This means that he must have come to Canada with the firm intention of making this country his permanent home, that he has left the country of his origin with no intention of returning to it. That is the effect of this section. The applicant must first have established domicile in Canada and then, in order to qualify under the section dealing with Canadian domicile, he must thereafter have five years' residence.

If hon. members will look at section 10 (1) (g) they will see that he must have this permanent intention. That is reinforced by section 10 (1) (g) as well as by the section defining "domicile". So that we start with that point, that he must have come to this country with the intention of making it his permanent home. Then, domicile here having