

a Canadian can go where he likes and spend his pension. But with regard to those who are now employed on the Canadian National in Canada it might possibly be well for the management to just let it be known that if any of them are foreigners they had better become Canadian citizens. And what is perhaps more practical still, would it not be possible for the management to ascertain before they engage a new employee, from now on, whether or not he is a Canadian citizen?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: That would be easy, I should think.

Hon. Mr. EULER: Yes, that would be quite easy.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I will say very frankly that I think that is right. I believe that any individual who is in receipt of substantial emoluments from an enterprise in Canada, and particularly with respect to a state-owned railway, ought to become a citizen of that country. Now, if I may go so far, that is exactly the position which confronted me in England. I expected to spend the rest of my life in England. I had, incidentally, forfeited my American citizenship by going into the British army before the United States entered the war, and for three years I had no country, because I had not lived in England long enough, five years, to take out my citizenship papers. But I intended to live in England; I intended and expected to make my living in England, and I wanted to become a British subject, and as soon as my five years were up—and three days did not elapse after that five years were up—I took out my papers. The same thing applies to any other individual who gains his livelihood in a foreign country. He ought to join up and stop presenting a visitor's card to the club. With that we are all of us, every officer of the company and certainly the executive administration of the company, thoroughly in accord with that principle.

Hon. Mr. EULER: And then in future when new employees come on would it not be possible just to have them submit proof that they are Canadian citizens?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: No objection to that at all as far as we can carry it out practically.

Mr. FRASER: Primarily my question was not directed to the nationality of the pensioner at all. It was directed to the question of how many pensioners were living in the United States.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I understand. Now, just after this discussion, briefly, gentlemen, what information do you want? What would you like us to try to get?

Mr. FRASER: Well, now, my question in the first place was simply how many of your pension cheques go to the United States irrespective of the nationality of the pensioner.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: We can get that.

Mr. HEAPS: I was just wondering, Mr. Chairman, if that rule was carried out, how it would affect Canadian workers on the lines in the United States.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Well, of course, there again you get into a reciprocity situation. I suppose if you took a census of all of the Canadians who were working in the United States in responsible positions, and took a similar census here with respect to Americans, you would find that there was a very considerable number of Canadians who were in very responsible and profitable positions in the States and the balance would be really against us.

Mr. HEAPS: You are referring particularly to the lines operated by the system in the United States?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: In the United States. Of course, on the lines that we operate there the great bulk, necessarily, of the employees and officers are American citizens. It could not be otherwise. Just as I say in Canada the great bulk of our officers and employees are Canadian citizens.