

Mr. FORKE: I have read a good many of Stefansson's works. I have read his book on Wrangel island. He attaches no blame to the government in regard to that expedition. If he blames any one it is the British government for being slow to move. Sometimes he is an American and sometimes he is a Canadian, just as it suits him or wherever he happens to be living.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am not considering the question as to whether Stefansson attaches blame to anyone or not, that is not what I am arguing at all, I am arguing that it was a Canadian expedition.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I cannot let my right hon. friend say that. It was not a Canadian expedition. To say that it was putting an entirely wrong construction upon the matter. All the records go to show that it was not a Canadian expedition.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Is this company registered?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I do not think it is registered in Canada. It was registered in the United States, I think.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Is that what the departmental officers think?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am pretty sure that I am correct about that. However, the whole thing was organized in Seattle.

Mr. MEIGHEN: If the company owning the vessel is an American company then I would not contend for a minute that it was a Canadian expedition or the responsibility primarily Canadian. But as I understood it Stefansson was a Canadian and his company was Canadian and the boat owned by them, and the man in charge—although that makes very little difference—was a Canadian. The whole question is, was it the expedition of a Canadian company or was it not? If it was, our responsibility is considerably greater than it would be merely from the fact that there was a Canadian on board. Of course we have some responsibility from that fact also. I would like to know definitely whether the company was Canadian or not, and also the nationality of Stefansson. I never entertained any doubt on the matter. I always held that Stefansson was a Canadian and nothing else. I do not know what authority the leader of the Progressive party had when he claimed that Stefansson was an American. I never heard him so claimed.

[Mr. Meighen.]

Mr. FORKE: I should like to be allowed to set myself right. I have no authority to style him an American, but I have read his books and sometimes he speaks as a Canadian and sometimes as an American.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I never heard of that.

Mr. FORKE: I am inclined to believe the minister is right, and that Stefansson did take out naturalization papers in the States. He got his education in the States and lived all his life there.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Oh, no.

Mr. FORKE: He went to South Dakota when he was quite a boy.

Mr. MEIGHEN: He lived there to young manhood.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): If we have the records, I shall be glad to verify where the company was organized. I know the outfitting was done from an American port, but the expedition as regards Crawford was for the purpose of taking possession of Wrangel island for the British crown.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, of course.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There was never any suggestion that the Canadian government knew a single thing about it.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not think there was.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Therefore, I object to my right hon. friend saying that it was a Canadian expedition.

Mr. MEIGHEN: There have been, especially in the last few years, many things Canadian that the Canadian government knows nothing of. That is not the point. It was Canadian if the company was Canadian, and you cannot give it any other title. If the company was an American company, then, of course, there would be a good deal to say. In fact, I think there is no use arguing whether it was Canadian or Canadian responsibility at all. It was a Canadian company that owned the boat and launched it.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): My right hon. friend surely would not argue that if some company took out letters of incorporation in Canada and then started off on an expedition, the Canadian government would be in any way responsible for that expedition?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I never said that it would be responsible. What I say is that if it is a Canadian enterprise and if, following that Canadian enterprise which has a laudable