

province of Ontario to which my hon. friend has alluded. The remarks I am about to make will also have some application to certain conditions mentioned by the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Carvell) a few days ago. It would appear that in the communities mentioned by these hon. gentlemen there are men who for twenty, thirty or forty years have been citizens of this country, and who during that period, or for the greater part of it at all events, have believed themselves entitled to exercise all the rights of British citizenship. They have voted at elections, taken the oath of allegiance, filled positions of trust and responsibility in the community, have served as aldermen and members of municipal councils; and they now find, sometimes to their surprise, that, although they have been engaged in all these national activities for many years, they have never been naturalized and have never technically acquired the rights of British citizenship.

At the commencement of the war there was correspondence with the British Government with regard to the granting of naturalization under the Act of 1914—the Act which was passed in that year both by the Parliament of the United Kingdom and by this Parliament, after a great deal of negotiation and after much discussion in both Parliaments. Hon. gentlemen will remember that under the terms of that Act naturalization is to be granted by the certificate of the Secretary of State, and not by a judicial tribunal as under the Act which was previously in force in this country. It will also be recalled that under the provisions of the previous Act the period of residence was three years instead of five, and that that Act conferred naturalization which was valid and effective in this country only, and not beyond the limits of our Dominion. The policy laid down by the British Government under the Act of 1914 was to refuse, during the period of the war, naturalization to men of alien enemy citizenship. We acquiesced in that policy, and we have hitherto acted upon it.

So far as naturalization under the law in force previously to the Act of 1914 is concerned, there has been a divergence of judicial opinion. The courts of the country were entrusted with the power of granting naturalization under that Act. In some of the courts it has been held that, notwithstanding the war, naturalization can still be granted in proper cases. Other courts have held that the existence of a state of war debarred the judges absolutely from granting naturalization to a person of enemy nationality.

The conditions in this country with regard to those who have come to Canada to make their home here are somewhat different from those which prevail in the United Kingdom, and we think that these differences of condition ought to be taken into account. The subject has been brought to our attention during recent weeks, and an Order in Council was passed only a few days ago, a copy of which will be laid on the table of the House either to-morrow or Monday. That Order in Council sets out the policy hitherto pursued will be in the naturalization under the Act of 1914 to persons of the class and character and residence described by my hon. friend from North Waterloo in the very interesting address which he has just given to this House. The purport of the Order in Council is this: That where men of enemy nationality have for many years resided in this country, where no exception can be taken to their character, and there is good reason for believing that their sympathies are with the Allied Powers in this war, where they have had reason to believe that they were British citizens and have exercised their rights as such, we shall depart from the principle hitherto pursued, and the Secretary of State for Canada will be prepared to grant naturalization to such persons. I am very glad to believe that this divergence from the policy hitherto pursued will be in the best interests of this country, and also that it will be appreciated by those who find themselves in the position described by my hon. friend from North Waterloo.

**Sir WIFRID LAURIER:** Is it the opinion of the officers of the Crown that the Governor in Council has that power under the statute?

**Sir ROBERT BORDEN:** Yes. It is a question of policy under the Act. While the policy of the British Government is of the character to which I have alluded, we have thought, in view of the considerations which have been brought to our attention in respect to persons falling within the description placed before the House by my hon. friend from North Waterloo, that it would be a proper departure from the policy heretofore pursued, for the Secretary of State for Canada to grant naturalization in such cases. That is the policy which will be pursued.

**Mr. PUGSLEY:** Will my right hon. friend allow me? As a result of this, will the present Bill be amended or any supple-