

Mr. MARTIN: They are alternative, of course.

Mr. FLEMING: Then, if they are alternative the word "or" will have to be inserted after the semi-colon in line 20.

Mr. MARTIN: I believe under the Interpretation Act when the conjunctive is used, there is no need for a change of this kind. However, I have no objection to adding the word "or."

Mr. FLEMING: It would clarify the meaning. Therefore I would move:

That the word "or" be added after the semi-colon in line 20 of section 9 (1) of the bill.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. McMASTER: Would the minister explain paragraph (c)? I find it difficult to understand the meaning of it. Let us suppose this act were declared in force on June 1. Then let us suppose that on June 2 one of our soldiers overseas were to marry an English girl. Would she become a Canadian citizen?

Mr. MARTIN: She would not be a Canadian citizen automatically.

Mr. COLDWELL: I should like to refer to subsection 2 (a). I understand that many years ago there were two forms of naturalization. In the homesteading days in western Canada there was a residence of three years, at the end of which time those making application received certificates which were looked upon as naturalization certificates. Subsequently, however, when the imperial act was passed and we changed our naturalization procedure to conform with it, we stipulated a period of five years domicile before naturalization could be changed.

Mr. MARTIN: It was five years in 1919 and three years in 1910.

Mr. COLDWELL: Some of these people took out the second naturalization certificate. Should we not recognize the first certificate to this extent, that where the name of an applicant was included in a certificate of naturalization on, as stated here, "the date of the certificate", it should be the date of the earliest certificate?

Mr. MARTIN: I would call the hon. member's attention to section 2 (d) where it says that—

"Certificate of naturalization" means a certificate of naturalization granted under any act heretofore in force in Canada.

Mr. COLDWELL: That covers the point I have just raised?

Mr. MARTIN: Yes, that was the chief point we had in mind.

[Mr. Fleming.]

Mr. COLDWELL: Then that satisfies me. Section 9 agreed to.

On section 10—Grant of a certificate of Canadian citizenship.

Mr. FLEMING: This is a section of great importance. Up to the present time one might state fairly that there has been no disagreement in principle on the bill, although a number of textual amendments have been offered. But when we come to section 10 we have reached one of the leading sections in the bill. I suppose this section taken with section 26 would contain the nub of the bill, so far as debate is concerned.

May I draw the attention of the committee to the fact, first, that the bill contains no definition of "British subject". It has been indicated on all sides of the house that the correct interpretation of the term "British subject" is a person who owes allegiance to the crown. By section 28 it is made quite clear that such privileges as are extended to British subjects under this bill are confined to British subjects coming from one of the commonwealth countries. By section 28 these privileges are confined to those countries in the first schedule of the bill, which limits any benefits accruing to British subjects as such to those who come from the self-governing nations of the commonwealth. What I have to say relates to that class. We are not dealing with British subjects from other parts of the empire; we are dealing simply with British subjects from the self-governing nations of the commonwealth.

Mr. MARTIN: May I point out that this section deals with British subjects from all parts of the commonwealth. I do not wish to interfere with my hon. friend's argument, but I want him to know my point of view.

Mr. FLEMING: My remarks will be quite clear on that when I move the amendment which I propose to introduce. I draw to the attention of the committee the requirements of section 10. It will be found that it is permissive in empowering the minister, who is the Secretary of State, to grant a certificate of Canadian citizenship to any person who is not a Canadian citizen and who makes application for that purpose and satisfies the court that he has the qualifications within the terms of paragraphs (a) to (g) inclusive.

In a word, those qualifications are, first, that a declaration of intention to become a Canadian citizen should be filed; second, that the applicant has been lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence in Canada; third, that he has resided in Canada for a total period of five years, one of which must