

many foreign systems, now makes nationality depend much more upon parentage than birthplace; still, the son born in France of a father who was also born there is counted a Frenchman. C. will therefore be both an Englishman and a Frenchman, and such cases of what is called "double nationality" are by no means uncommon. The practical difficulties arising from this ambiguity of status are got over by the comity of nations. If the state in which a man resides claims him as one of its citizens, the other state which has a claim upon him will not protect him in the country of his residence. In the case we have given the British government, though bound to regard C. as a British subject while he is on British territory, or anywhere except in France, would not interfere to protect him, so long as he was in France, against any obligation imposed upon him by the French law. C., for example, could not avail himself of his British nationality to escape his military service in France if he were caught in that country. This policy is followed pretty consistently by civilized nations, and constant friction can be avoided only by some such understanding.

The third group of British subjects consists of those who have become so by naturalization. The conditions of naturalization vary in different parts of the Empire, but everywhere one of them is that the alien shall take the oath of allegiance. In England the chief qualification is five years' residence, while in Canada residence for three years is sufficient. In regard to Canadian naturalization there is an alleged grievance to which attention was drawn by Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the last Imperial Conference. An alien, naturalized in Canada, is not, it is said, a British subject except while he is on Canadian soil. To quote Sir Wilfrid Laurier, "In Canada, where we receive annually at the present time some hundred thousand American citizens who generally take out letters of naturalization as soon as it is possible for them to do so, we are in this condition: those hundred thousand American citizens are British subjects in Canada, but if they come to Great Britain they are still American citizens."