

tion, referring to the position which they may obtain in the country without becoming citizens. That is determined in section 4, in which they are allowed to hold real and personal property, with the exception that it does not qualify them for any office, or for any municipal, parliamentary, or other franchise, or to become owners of British shipping. Then there is a declaration of previous naturalization. Any British subject from Canada having gone abroad and become naturalized in a foreign state, ceases by virtue of this law to be a British subject. Provision is, however, made in subsequent clauses of the Act, by which such British subject, desiring to rehabilitate himself and be restored in his allegiance, shall have the power of doing so. Section 17 enacts:

"An alien to whom a certificate of naturalization is granted, shall within Canada be entitled to all political and other rights, powers and privileges, and be subject to all obligations to which a natural-born British subject is entitled or subject within Canada, with this qualification, that he shall not, when within the limits of the foreign State of which he was a subject previously to obtaining his certificate of naturalization, be deemed to be a British subject unless he has ceased to be a subject of that State in pursuance of the laws thereof, or in pursuance of a treaty or convention to that effect."

X In other words, that, until it is agreed by convention between Great Britain and the particular State of which the party has been a subject, naturalization in this country does not obliterate his natural allegiance to the country of his birth. Section 24 enacts that a three years' residence in Canada will entitle a party to naturalization; and section 26 and following sections refer to the status of married women and infant children—women married to foreigners, and the children of natural born subjects, born in foreign parts; and sections 32 to the end, relate principally to the procedure necessary to obtain and confer upon parties the privileges intended in the Act.

Mr. BLAKE. We have now been a little more than three months in Session, and this Bill was distributed some hours ago, and I am not ashamed to say I have not read it. Other duties have engaged me as well as other hon. members. I wonder how many of us have read this Bill since it was distributed, and yet the hon. gentleman is moving its second reading. We have arrived—not at the slaughter of the innocents, but at the birth, out of due time, of measures framed under the rule of hon. gentlemen opposite. Legislation, under these circumstances, is a farce. To say that any intelligent opinion can be passed on this measure, under these circumstances, and at this period of our deliberations, is preposterous. I do not intend to attempt discussing to day the provisions of the measure. The hon. gentleman's explanations indicated some provisions in the Bill of very high importance. But I do not propose to attempt to comment upon them with the period for information allotted to me to familiarize myself with them. I was, however, struck by one statement from the hon. gentleman. He is proposing to enact in this Parliament—and I call the special attention to it, of the members from Quebec, who appear to be particularly jealous of provincial rights—a law declaring who shall be capable of holding real property in the various Provinces. It does seem to me that that is an arrogation of power beyond our competence. We may naturalize aliens and give them all the rights of British subjects, and of native born subjects of Canada; but to say that we can declare who shall be competent and who not competent to hold or transfer real property in the various Provinces, is to say that we have within our jurisdiction the question of civil rights.

Mr. MILLS. The hon. gentleman has introduced this Bill at a very late period. It has been the policy of this Administration, as it was the policy of the last Government of which the present Premier was Premier, to introduce all the measures of the Government at a period of the Session

when it must be impossible to give them due consideration. This is not legislation by Parliament. It is legislation by the Administration. Parliament is simply called together to register what is done by the Government, and pass the Estimates. It is impossible to have any measure well considered at this period of the Session when members on both sides are anxious that the work of Parliament should be brought to an early close; when Committees are meeting at an early period in the morning and last nearly to the hour at which the House assembles, and when the sittings of Parliament are often protracted to two o'clock in the morning. But I wish to call the attention of Parliament to the fact that in this measure the Government are assuming that our naturalization of aliens has no effect beyond the marine league. I deny that proposition altogether. We are authorized to legislate in regard to a variety of matters, relating to the welfare and good government of the people in which our legislation has effect beyond the marine league. There is, for example, the subject of marriage and divorce. Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that persons married under the laws of this country, would be released from the marriage bond if they went beyond the marine league or into another country? I say a more preposterous position could not be taken. When hon. gentlemen were in power before, they permitted a Naturalization Bill, which had been passed through the Imperial Parliament, to be extended to the colonies without calling the attention of the Imperial Government to the fact that we were already authorized to deal completely with this subject. Take, again, the subject of contract. Hon. gentlemen know that a contract made under the laws of Canada between two parties could be enforced in a foreign country; because any law affecting the personal status or interests of a person operates wherever he may go, either by international law or by treaty regulations. Let me call the attention of the House to the 7th sub-section of the 91st section of the British North America Act, which confers the power to pass laws upon naval service and defence. But under such a restricted view of our powers as hon. gentlemen are proceeding upon in this Bill, we may fit out a vessel as a ship of war; we might grant a commission to some person and order the commander to go, say to Hudson's Bay and cruise, but so soon as she had passed the marine league she would be a pirate on the high seas. I contend that we have power to legislate with regard to the naturalization of aliens, and that it is our business to press upon the attention of the Imperial Government the propriety of recognizing the naturalization of aliens which is conferred by the provision of our law. My hon. friend the member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) called the attention of the House to the 4th section of the Bill which proposes to deal not with the subject of the naturalization of aliens, but with the right of aliens to hold real estate. That does touch the subject of the naturalization of aliens, but has reference to the capacity of aliens in this country with reference to their property and civil rights. Our Provinces have the power to legislate upon the subject of the property and civil rights of those who are residents of the Provinces, whether they are British subjects or aliens. We have nothing to do with the subject of the status of aliens in Canada; and it will be of special consequence to the hon. members from the Province of Quebec to see that this clause of the Bill does not become law; for if they allow it to pass they will give up those rights and interests which are secured to them by the British North America Act, and which were inserted in the law, perhaps, more in their interest than in any other Province.

Mr. PLUMB. The hon. gentleman has based a long argument on the statement that a Bill of an important character has been introduced within a few days of the probable close of the Session. That measure was introduced