

The third order in council, is P.C. 7357. Hon. members will recall that, in my statement to the house on August, 4, 1944, I said that the government intended to establish a quasi-judicial commission to investigate the loyalty of certain of the Japanese in Canada "to ascertain those who are not fit persons to be allowed to remain here". The time has now come when this commission should be appointed. We now know with certainty that same persons do not wish to remain here. There is no object in examining them. There are, however, among the Japanese nationals and naturalized Japanese who wish to remain, a number whose behaviour casts doubt upon their loyalty and before deciding what should be done about them, it is proposed to have a full and fair examination of their cases. Some of these are persons who were interned during the war and whose conduct in wartime has been such as to raise question as to whether in the national interest they should not be deported.

In general, the order in council provides that the governor in council shall appoint a commission of three persons to inquire into the loyalty of "Japanese nationals and naturalized persons of the Japanese race in Canada in cases where their names are referred to the commission by the Minister of Labour". It will be noted from this that the commission will examine only Japanese nationals and naturalized persons. It will not examine any persons born in Canada. It will, moreover, have the power, where recommended by the Minister of Labour, to examine the cases of naturalized Japanese who applied to be sent to Japan and who did not renounce such application prior to midnight on September 1, 1945.

The commission will, where it deems fit after examination, have the power to recommend deportation. In such cases, any Japanese national or naturalized Japanese who is ordered deported will be deemed to come within the terms of the two orders in council previously mentioned. The conditions with regard to property and minimum assets will apply and, in the case of naturalized persons, they will be divested of their British and Canadian status as of the time they leave this country.

The problem of dealing with the question of the Japanese is difficult in the extreme. In its solution, the government is endeavouring to avoid unnecessary hardship. The orders that have been passed involve no change in principle from the general provisions that already exist under our statute law. The Immigration Act contains provisions for the deportation of "enemy aliens or persons who have

been alien enemies" in certain cases. In general, the deportation of certain "prohibited classes" is a recognized principle. The Naturalization Act similarly recognizes the principle of revocation of the status of a naturalized person who has shown himself by act or speech to be disaffected or disloyal. The circumstances of war and the peculiar character of the present problem require more expeditious and broader action than the present statutes allow. But the orders that have been passed to permit effective action raise no new principles, nor do they depart from any established principles.

My hon. friend spoke of another matter, that is, certain charges against officers of the external affairs department, to which reference was made in a paragraph he read to the committee to-night. May I say that I personally had a talk with the hon. member for New Westminster. I asked him if he could substantiate the statements that had been made. He said that at the time he made the statements he had reason to believe that they were founded on fact, but that he was now quite prepared to say that he would not countenance the statements at all and withdrew what he had said at that time. May I say that I cannot believe we have in any department of government more honourable members of the public service than we have in the Department of External Affairs; and I am sure it was a pleasure to the hon. member for New Westminster, as it was to myself, to have the opportunity of saying that on further examination and consideration he felt that any charge which would in any way discredit an official of that department had not been well founded.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): I found it difficult to get the purport of order in council P.C. 7356. As I understand it—and I should like to be corrected if I am wrong—there are two groups of Canadian citizens: those who applied for the revocation of their applications to go to Japan before September 2 and those who did not, who were in the great majority. Can this latter group have the right to appeal to the quasi-judicial commission which is being set up?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Let me repeat what I said about the second order in council. It provides for the removal of British and Canadian status—I do not whether that is the order to which my hon. friend is referring.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): P.C. 7356.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes. It provides for the removal of British and Canadian