

three months after he could lawfully do so, fail to take out his final papers and complete his citizenship, such failure shall be prima facie evidence that his declaration of intentions was not made in good faith.

In the state of Idaho, Article 13, referring to employment of aliens on public works, section 5 says :

No person not a citizen of the United States, or who has not declared his intention to become such, shall be employed upon or in connection with any state or municipal work.

In New York the law is similar to that of Illinois, and in almost every state of the Union there are conditions introduced into the law, so as to prevent aliens from getting the work. The law of the state of Wyoming, says :

Labour on public works, citizens of the United States only to be employed.—Section 1. No person not a citizen of the United States, or who has not declared his intention to become such, shall be employed upon or in connection with any state, county or municipal work.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have shown to the House what they do in the United States with respect to alien labour. Some years ago our people used to go to the United States and get contracts there, and Canadian contractors have been the builders of some of their most important works. Even in some cases where the contractors of that country failed in carrying through the work, our Canadian contractors went over there and completed it. I might mention in this connection the case of the Hoosac Tunnel, which was completed by the Messrs. Shanly Bros. Formerly we had free access to the United States, and if we could do the work as well, and cheaper, than their own contractors we had the privilege of competing with them. But now, they have shut out Canadians from getting employment, and their specifications, and forms of contract are so fixed as practically to exclude us from doing any work there. In the first place the Canadian contractor is handicapped by their refusing to allow his plant to go into the United States, unless by paying a higher duty than an American contractor would have to pay for bringing his plant into Canada. Again, a Canadian contractor would have a staff well trained and organized in Canada, and if he could not take them with him into the United States he would be at a great disadvantage. A contractor from Canada would have to buy his plant in the United States and leave his own plant at home, a fact in itself which effectually would prevent a Canadian contractor taking work there. I have no desire to do anything to interfere with labour coming into Canada. When a man puts his foot on British soil here, he is placed on a level with every other man, and if there is employment and he is willing to work, he gets the opportunity. I have no wish to do anything that would interfere with that in

any way, but I do say, Mr. Speaker, that in justice to the contractors of Canada they should be protected in their own country so long as other contractors are protected against Canadians. There is another consideration in this matter which is of very great importance. The profits of United States contractors who do work in Canada are not invested in Canada, but they are taken back and invested to the advantage of a foreign country. Again, these contractors, very often, bring over their labourers with them, and these labourers return and spend their earnings at home. If these profits were properly invested in Canada, there is no doubt but that they would be beneficial to the country. I do say, Sir, that this capital kept within the country, and well invested, might be of greater benefit to us, than the saving of any little difference which there might be in the contract price. I wish every man who is in this country doing work, if he be an alien, to distinctly understand that I have nothing against Americans. Canada and the United States are on the most friendly terms, and I hope they will remain so, but as a matter of business, and as a matter of justice and fair-play to Canadians, I believe that while we are treated in this way by the United States, we should stand up for our rights at home. I do not believe in the principle of letting Canadian contracts to aliens, sometimes in preference to our own people.

Mr. HAGGART. I was very much interested in the speech of the hon. gentleman (Mr. McLennan). He points out that the alien laws in the United States prevent Canadian contractors getting work in that country, and he also instanced the difficulty contractors had in moving their plant into that country. The hon. gentleman also referred to the effect of the alien law upon labourers, and how impossible it was to employ Canadians for the purpose of carrying on contracts in the United States. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. McLennan) will look at his Bill he will see that it has a much wider scope than one would infer from listening to his remarks. His Bill would apply to Frenchmen, or Belgians, or aliens coming from any country in the world. For instance, if the Bill passed, it would prevent the Government from entering into a contract with a Belgian firm for supplying a bridge. Perhaps we would not have power to pass such an Act as this, and if we had the power, perhaps we are bound to the contrary by obligations in treaties which the British Government has entered into with foreign countries. The remarks of the hon. gentleman (Mr. McLennan) have been devoted entirely to the legislation which has passed in the United States, and in order to reach the citizens of that country, he has given this Bill a scope that would apply to aliens from any country in the world. I doubt very much the necessity or the