

*Canada Elections Act*

tion of becoming Canadians, but they served beside us for a long time and then went back to the United States. Surely the fact that a person served in the Canadian Forces could in no way be an indication of Canadian citizenship.

**Mr. McIntosh:** No one asked me to join the armed services. I did so of my own accord and for my own reasons. I do not know whether the hon. member was in the armed forces or not, but I felt it was my place to be there and I am proud to have served in the Canadian Army. I think I did my job. I thought I was a Canadian.

**Mr. Osler:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman, I think I should make this perfectly clear. I served in the Canadian Air Force for four and a half years.

**Mr. McIntosh:** A gentleman of the air force. We were men of the army. My point is this. I was quite prepared to answer the communication I received from the new minister of information. The letter he sent to each member asked us to provide certain information. I sent in my application but it was returned to me—they would not take my word that I was a Canadian citizen. The application had to be signed by a notary public, or someone like that. I have not done so.

**Mr. Baldwin:** They take your taxes, though.

**Mr. McIntosh:** Oh yes, they take my taxes every month. My right hon. friend from Prince Albert has voiced an objection which many Canadians feel. I conclude by saying that if there is any doubt whether amendments of this kind tend to divide Canada, I can assure the hon. member for Saint-Denis that this is indeed the case. I, at any rate, am deeply resentful of this type of legislation.

**Mr. Coates:** My remarks will be few, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member for Saint-Denis suggested that if, in his opinion, the amendment would cause ill feeling or disunity in the nation he would not support it. I put it to him that the example which has been brought forward today by my hon. friend for Swift Current-Maple Creek emphasizes the difficulties which are being created and illustrates the effect on the country of the type of proposal contained in the amendment. If this is happening, and if a man who has served his country and who has been a Member of Parliament for many Parliaments, finds it inexplicable, if it has happened to him and he

[Mr. Osler.]

feels resentment, if he feels hurt to think that at this late stage he is not regarded as a Canadian citizen in every sense of the word, then there must be tens of thousands who feel themselves similarly offended. I am sure no one in this country would take the view that he is not a Canadian citizen. Regardless of what the law may say, I am sure everybody in Canada is proud of the fact that he is a Canadian and a Member of Parliament. He has been a contributing Canadian as far as I am concerned, and no law is going to change that situation.

As I say, there are many hundreds of thousands of people in this country who find themselves in the same position as my hon. friend from Swift Current-Maple Creek. And do you know what they say, Mr. Chairman, when they read about a debate of this kind? If they are British, they say: Then I am a second-class citizen in this country and have been ever since the Pearson government took office in 1963. This is what concerns me. This type of legislation will drive the people of Canada apart. This type of amendment is a classic example of the way we shall destroy ourselves if we keep going on the same lines.

Let us stop this foolishness before it is too late, if it is not already too late, and let us recognize the things which have always attracted people to this country, regardless of their place of origin. Let us say to the English, to the Scots, to the Welsh and to the Irish, and to the people of the Commonwealth: We are still part of the same family and we shall always give you the same rights; you are a special part of us because of the contribution you made to the development of our country in 1867 and before that time. Let us not try to downgrade and remove and sneak away by stealth the things these people hold dear in the hope that doing so will upgrade the position of somebody else in this country. Nothing is accomplished by running somebody down. If it is felt we should help Canadians who live in the province of Quebec—and, like my right hon. friend from Prince Albert, I have no objection to that whatsoever—let us not attempt to do so by taking things away from someone else. Rather, let us give them something in addition to what they have already, should it be felt this would assist them to play a greater part in the building of this country. Let us have no part of amendments like the one before us which only take away, only destroy, only help to cause further disunity.