

I should be interested to hear them explain their position a little better than they did on that occasion.

Mr. MacNICOL: I must say that the hon. member who has just taken his seat is always very kind to myself and to others.

Mr. POULIOT: Everybody is, and the hon. member deserves it.

Mr. MacNICOL: But I do not like to hear hon. members on this side of the house described as noisy or bitter. I do not believe that any hon. member who has spoken in this debate has had any bitterness in his heart. Hon. members may have been a little loud in their expression, but I certainly spoke without bitterness. When the minister spoke the other day he was a little warm, and perhaps he had reason to be. I have no fault to find with the minister, because he is one of the men whom I admire. I recognize his ability and the success he has made in life, which has been an example for others to follow. At the beginning of his remarks the other day he spoke of certain hon. members as being of one of two classes. I presume he was referring to me, because I had been speaking.

Mr. MARTIN: I was not referring to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. MacNICOL: I am glad to hear that. I know the minister is always very kind in any reference he makes to myself; but I want to dissociate myself from either of the classes referred to by the minister as being extreme. I am only speaking for myself; others can speak for themselves. I am not one of the class of extremists, because I took the stand the other day that the five-year period was much too long to impose on a Britisher coming into this country to live. I want to address my remarks to the minister, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MARTIN: I am following the hon. member.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. May I ask all hon. members to address the Chair, so that all hon. members may hear what is being said.

Mr. MacNICOL: I was at the point of saying that I did not want to be placed in the class of an extremist. Personally I always try to look fairly and broadly at any matter that comes before me. Speaking the other day the minister said, as reported at page 1053 of *Hansard*:

At one end of the scale there is the desire to reduce the qualification and procedure for non-Canadian British subjects to the minimum and to emphasize as much as possible the status of British subjects for Canadian citizens. At the

other end of the scale the position is that no privileges whatever should be given to British subjects; that they should be aliens in the sight of our law and that the status of British subjects should be eliminated with regard to Canadian citizens.

Then the minister added:

These are extreme points of view.

Because I expressed an opinion somewhat in accordance with the first point of view mentioned, I hope I am not an extremist. I am happy to see the minister shaking his head, because words do not always convey the same meaning to everybody. When the minister was speaking I felt that I was being put in with the body of extremists, and I am anything but that in anything pertaining to life.

I want a little more elucidation. I was pleased to hear the minister say what he said to-day, because it was a concession to people coming to Canada from the British Commonwealth as immigrants, namely, that they would not have to go before a judge to swear to their British allegiance, traditions and so forth. Since that remark was made I have been wondering what position they would be in if they did not take out their papers at the expiration of five years. The minister said that they would still be able to obtain old age pensions, to run for parliament and to hold office under the crown.

Mr. MARTIN: Every right they have now.

Mr. MacNICOL: Therefore they would be in the same position as I am. I cannot see how I can have any opposition to that position; it is the one they occupy to-day.

Mr. MARTIN: That is what I have been arguing all along. The hon. gentleman has stated the case quite correctly.

Mr. MacNICOL: In every way they will be in the position in which they are to-day? If I may refer to the Minister of Mines and Resources, who spoke the other evening, when he came here and had been in Canada one year he could vote, provided he had been in the riding for the stated time, two months—

Mr. MARTIN: Two months.

Mr. MacNICOL: He could run for parliament, as he did later, and could hold any office under the crown. Is that the meaning of the proposed amendment?

Mr. MARTIN: No, the amendment does not mean that. The amendment did not need to be introduced to effect that, because that is the situation regardless of the amendment I have announced.