

citizenship and are not in the excepted classes, they will automatically cease to be Canadians. Before concluding, there are two sections of the bill which I should like to mention particularly. Both are new; neither introduces any change in substantive law; yet I think they may be of considerable significance to people who become naturalized in Canada. One section authorizes the Secretary of State, with the approval of the governor in council, to take measures—

—to provide facilities to enable applicants for certificates of citizenship to receive instruction in the responsibilities and privileges of Canadian citizenship.

The other provides that the courts, in conducting naturalization proceedings—

—shall, by appropriate ceremonies, impress upon applicants the responsibilities and privileges of Canadian citizenship.

I think that hitherto we have not paid sufficient attention to these matters. In many cases people have become naturalized without having any real consciousness of the fact that they were taking a very significant step, and sometimes without a true understanding of the obligations incurred. Apart from the purely legal consequences of acquiring a new citizenship, we must remember that in a democracy there are obligations and responsibilities upon a citizen, and these should be carefully explained, it is thought, to those who join us, and they should be fully impressed with the nature of the undertaking. They should also be given some understanding, in a helpful and cooperative way, of how government in Canada works, and of the great traditions of constitutional liberty and even justice that are the root and source of our individual liberty. We are too apt to take these things for granted, even after a frightful war that has shown us they must be cherished and fought for bitterly if they are to be preserved; and we should take care that every new citizen becomes a doughty champion of the democratic way of life.

Closely related to this, and yet distinct, is the desirability of making every new citizen feel that he is truly becoming part of Canada. Our "new Canadians" bring to this country much that is rich and good, and in Canada they find a new way of life and new hope for the future. They should all be made to feel that they, like the rest of us, are Canadians, citizens of a great country, guardians of proud traditions and trustees of all that is best in life for generations of Canadians yet to be. For the national unity of Canada and for the future and greatness of this country it is felt to be of the utmost importance that all of us, new Canadians or old, have a consciousness of a common purpose and common inter-

ests as Canadians; that all of us be able to say with pride and say with meaning: "I am a Canadian citizen."

Mr. BRACKEN: Mr. Speaker, it was not understood by those of us on this side of the house on Friday evening that this measure would be debated at this stage to-day.

Mr. MACKENZIE: This is not the debate; it is purely the formal introduction.

Mr. BRACKEN: Therefore any comments we have to make will be made on the second reading of the bill, when we have the details before us. In the meantime I want to thank the Secretary of State (Mr. Martin) for this more than usually extended statement with respect to the bill, and to commend the government's attempt to clear up a matter which has been very greatly confused in the public mind up to the present time.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

#### QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk)

##### CEILING PRICES OF SILVER

Mr. BRADETTE:

What action is the Department of Finance taking with regard to lifting the ceiling price of Canadian silver production?

Mr. MAYHEW: Representations received by the government regarding change in the ceiling price of silver are under consideration.

##### TAXES—COST OF COLLECTION

Mr. WHITE (Hastings-Peterborough)

What was the percentage relationship of the cost of collection to the amount collected in each of the fiscal years ending March 31, from 1935 to 1945, inclusive, of each of the following taxes: income tax, customs duties, excise duties, excise taxes excluding sales tax, and sales tax?

Mr. McCANN:

Customs Excise Division:

The percentage cost of collection of customs excise revenue for the fiscal years 1934-35 to 1944-45 covering customs duties, excise duties and excise taxes including sales taxes is as follows: 1934-35, 2.97 per cent; 1935-36, 3.20 per cent; 1936-37, 2.71 per cent; 1937-38, 2.48 per cent; 1938-39, 3.15 per cent; 1939-40, 2.82 per cent; 1940-41, 1.80 per cent; 1941-42, 1.31 per cent; 1942-43, 1.23 per cent; 1943-44, .98 per cent; 1944-45, .96 per cent.

The same officers collect customs duties and excise duties and taxes, including sales tax, and it is therefor not possible to break down