

people in a preferred position—and I do not think there should be any change in the bill—and we look to a country where the people have always exercised the kind of democratic procedure we have, then we could not possibly apply the present amendment to them. I refer to the little island of Newfoundland. The people there have submitted to government by a commission, and I cannot foresee any situation arising in Canada in which Canadians would submit to rule by commission. I would rather have a Tory government than that.

Mr. FULTON: Certain references have been made in the last few minutes by the Minister of Veterans Affairs to what I said this afternoon. He said that I stated that as a result of this bill the rights and privileges of Canadian citizens were being abrogated. What I said this evening before six o'clock was that under this bill as it stands the rights and privileges as Canadian citizens of British subjects who have so far been admitted to Canada are not being abrogated but that the rights and privileges of British subjects who may hereafter seek admission to Canada will be prejudiced; and that, inasmuch as that is the case, Canada, if the bill is adopted—

Mr. MACKENZIE: How are they prejudiced?

Mr. FULTON: Canada, as the bill stands, by unilaterally derogating from the rights and privileges of British subjects, is inviting similar derogation on the part of other empire countries. That was my whole point.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. gentleman but I should like to ask him a simple question. I believe my hon. friend before six o'clock made a differentiation between rights and privileges of the British subject in Canada and such rights and privileges as they might have under the citizenship of Canada. Is that correct?

Mr. FULTON: It is not correct.

Mr. MACKENZIE: That is my memory of it.

Mr. FULTON: I am unable to obtain a proof of the statement I made, but my point was that the rights and privileges of British subjects who hereafter seek admission will be different.

Mr. MACKENZIE: Why?

Mr. FULTON: I made the point here in my speech this afternoon.

Mr. MACKENZIE: No.

Mr. FULTON: Then I shall be glad to say it again if the committee wishes.

[Mr. Bentley.]

An hon. MEMBER: No, not that.

Mr. FULTON: Speaking on April 2, the Secretary of State said, with reference to this bill:

Under this bill we are seeking to establish clearly a basic and definite Canadian citizenship which will be the fundamental status upon which the rights and privileges of Canadians will depend.

With that statement I have no quarrel; no member on this side has any quarrel. That is a very proper statement to make. But implicit in that statement is the declaration that any person coming to the country and seeking rights and privileges which we as Canadians enjoy, which everyone of the twelve million people here now enjoys, will be required to assume to himself and to acquire the status of a Canadian citizen. I think that is a very proper position. We have all agreed that this bill is in principle a good one inasmuch as it attempts, and its object is, to set up and define the position of Canadian citizen and to give to a Canadian the right in law to say, "I am a Canadian citizen." If we are agreed on that, I fail to see how we can disagree when we say that the person who is unable to say, "I am a Canadian citizen," will have fewer rights and privileges than we have now, and therefore the person who is denied for five years—

Mr. MACKENZIE: What is the difference?

Mr. FULTON: —the right to say, "I am a Canadian citizen", will not share the same rights and privileges which the Minister of Veterans Affairs and I have now and which will be the status of the British subject coming to this country the day after this bill as it stands is law.

Mr. MACKENZIE: Nonsense.

Mr. FULTON: The minister says, "nonsense".

Mr. MACKENZIE: Yes, absolutely, and I meant it too.

Mr. GRAYDON: That is not parliamentary.

Mr. MACKENZIE: Then I say it is not correct.

Mr. FULTON: I am perfectly willing to have the minister point out to me where I am wrong. We are striving for unanimity—

Mr. MACKENZIE: I shall be glad to point out to the hon. member where he is wrong, but I would rather have the committee point out to him that he is not right.

Mr. FULTON: All I can say to the Minister of Veterans Affairs is that on occasion his lack of understanding passes comprehen-