

This country has compelled these men to live under unnatural conditions, forced upon them a life unnatural to human beings.

Mr. ASHBY: We did not use force. It was voluntary on their part. They voluntarily isolated themselves in this country.

Mr. COLDWELL: My hon. friend says it was voluntary. So many things are said to be voluntary when men have to move somewhere else to earn a living.

Mr. JAQUES: What did you say about the Poles coming in?

Mr. COLDWELL: I will tell you what I will say to my hon. friends, Mr. Speaker. I believe that we should build up a Canada based on good will. I am not one of those who sow the seeds of hate in the name of a Christian democracy.

Mr. JAQUES: You wanted to keep the Poles out.

Mr. COLDWELL: My hon. friend accuses me of wanting to keep the Poles out.

Mr. JAQUES: So you did.

Mr. COLDWELL: My hon. friend is wrong. He will remember that, in spite of what some people may have thought, I counselled the admission of Poles who were properly screened to see to it that we did not admit men who had the legacy of Hitlerism, and we have a few of them in our country today. Let us remove the disabilities once and for all. Let us not act as hypocrites.

I now come to the question of naturalization. How many naturalized citizens of Chinese origin have we in this country? Out of a total Chinese population of 34,627, there are only 8,746 persons who can be classified as Canadian citizens, the reason being not that they did not want to become citizens of Canada but that they could not become citizens of Canada. I am tonight going to make a plea to the Minister of Immigration and to the government of Canada to reconsider this bill and to do what the Prime Minister said he was going to do on the 27th of January. That is what I am asking. Do what the Prime Minister said you were going to do on the 27th of January. You are not doing it. You are perpetrating a cruel hoax, and if you allow this to go on after it has been pointed out to you I say that you are letting the Prime Minister down and placing the whole of the Liberal party in a position where they might be termed guilty of hypocrisy.

Mr. BROOKS: Terrible!

[Mr. Coldwell.]

Mr. COLDWELL: I think it is terrible. I want to see this discrimination removed, and I want to see it removed on the grounds I have given and because I want to see Canada's name respected across the world. We have had several blots on the good name of Canada. This is one. Another is the fact that all through the years we have failed to give the rights of citizenship to British subjects who happen to have been born in India or to their descendants in British Columbia, and I was glad to hear the statement made this afternoon that this disability is to be removed. While I am referring to that, I should like to add this one thought, that I do not think any provincial government should be given the right to decide who shall have the right of franchise for the election of this sovereign dominion parliament. That, I think, is a matter which ought to be within our own control. I am glad to know that this disability is to be removed. We should never have recognized the right of any province to decide that matter for us.

Mr. GREEN: If my hon. friend will permit me, it was the dominion parliament which decided who should vote in a dominion election, and they based their qualifications on the British Columbia qualifications.

Mr. COLDWELL: They based the dominion franchise on the British Columbia provincial franchise. In other words, they allowed the British Columbia legislature to decide who should participate in a dominion election. That was precisely its effect.

I do not wish to say any more, but I wish to make this plea in the name of democracy, in the name of good will, in the name, if you like, of Christianity, for the founder of the religion that most of us profess in this chamber tonight knew neither race, creed nor colour, neither bond nor free. The time has come, if we are to be regarded as the kind of nation that we hope to be regarded throughout the world, for us to remove every jot and tittle of this discriminatory legislation from the statute books of Canada.

Mr. DANIEL McIVOR (Fort William): I rise in my place tonight because I believe the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) is sincere in his statement and I believe the minister is sincere. I should like to read extracts from two speeches which I listened to when I sat on the other side and applauded the speaker. I shall quote from the House of Commons Debates of June 16, 1943, at page 3717, when Madame Chiang Kai-shek was