

Immigration Act

almost regret that British subjects do not have ceremonies to attend when they obtain their Canadian citizenship. As all hon. members know, British subjects need only fill out the necessary forms and apply to the department, and they receive their certificate through the mail. I think they miss something in a way.

I think it is also true, as the hon. member for Lambton-Kent said in his remarks, that there are a great many British subjects who do not realize that there is any particular advantage to them in applying for certificates and many of them fail to do so until some day they require a passport in a hurry in order to travel abroad.

Mr. Green: May I ask the minister a question? Has he taken out a certificate of Canadian citizenship himself?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes; not only have I a certificate of Canadian citizenship, but I thank the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra for giving me an opportunity to advertise these excellent miniature certificates which can be procured for a very modest sum. I am afraid I do not remember whether it is \$1 or \$2.

Mr. Green: I will venture that you are one of the few hon. members who have such a certificate.

Mr. Pickersgill: I believe the minister has the right in certain circumstances to remit the charge—

Mr. Knowles: You did not do that in your own case, did you?

Mr. Pickersgill: I paid for mine, sir. But I think in some circumstances the minister has the right to remit the charge to others; and if there is any hon. member who would like a certificate and who would supply the necessary information and photograph and feels the fee could be devoted to an even better cause, the minister would do his best in the circumstances to meet his wishes.

An hon. Member: There is no excuse now.

Mr. Pickersgill: The miniature certificate is a very convenient thing to carry around. I have been able to identify myself with it once or twice in this country since I received it; however, I think it is something which all members of parliament might do very well to carry. I find over and over again that people ask me questions about citizenship and about what evidence one can get of citizenship, as the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra has just done, and I suppose I have pulled this card out of my pocket two or three times during the course of each month since I got it to show it to some one—

Mr. Green: How long have you had it?

Mr. Pickersgill: I think I have had it since they first began to be issued. The issue of these miniature certificates was one of the many excellent reforms instituted by my predecessor, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Harris). He was not in office as minister of citizenship to see the certificates issued, and I believe all the miniature certificates have been issued over my signature. I think perhaps mine was the fourth or fifth certificate to be issued; one or two were issued to my colleagues.

Mr. Fulton: That is a rather serious obstacle, you know.

Mr. Knowles: Is it waterproof?

Mr. Pickersgill: Well, sir, I have never tested its water-resistant qualities. It is encased in some sort of synthetic substance which appears water-proof.

If I might continue with the more serious observations I wish to make, I feel that it is not so much what is done by the officials of the federal government or the courts that is important in making newcomers value Canadian citizenship, it is what was expressed in the words of the hon. member for Vegreville. He told us that immigrants want to get established, they want some measure of economic security; and then the hon. member said—and these are important words—that they want to feel they are socially accepted. That is the real test of citizenship.

Mr. Fairey: May I interrupt the minister. The hon. member for York Centre has just had a daughter.

Mr. Knowles: Don't you mean the hon. member for York-Scarborough?

An hon. Member: Where are the cigars?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, you and the hon. member for York-Scarborough (Mr. Enfield) are familiar with my views on that form of immigration. Those of us who are Canadian citizens, those of us who, like the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Fairey), have lived in this country either for a long time or those of us who have lived here all our lives, can do a great deal to make newcomers feel that they are acceptable and accepted in the community, or we can do the reverse. I do not think that there are many organizations in Canada that are more socially useful and more nationally useful than the citizenship committees which exist in so many centres in this country.

On several occasions I have had the opportunity to meet with citizenship committees in various cities in Canada. These committees are generally composed of the representatives of a great variety of voluntary