

that political reasons—though I do not observe any political reasons connected with this clause—require that an alien shall not have any political rights of any description whatever, and that this section shall only give him the right to hold real and personal property, or no more than a Local Legislature has a right to give him, an exclusive right to give him, for what right a Local Legislature has, as to property and civil rights, is an exclusive right.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. When I used the expression "concurrent rights" I used it for the purpose of convenience, to explain my view that the action of both Legislatures was necessary. In the first place, the action of the Local Legislature for the purpose of giving the party, whether he be an alien or a subject, the right to hold property—that is one thing; then this is to remove the disability which, by the general law of the empire, all aliens labor under. The one Legislature gives the property right, the other removes the disability, and therefore my whole argument was to show that both Acts were necessary in order to secure the alien. The Local Legislature confers the property right, the General Legislature takes away the disability which obtains by the law of nations and by the general law of England, which provides against any alien having any right to hold property, for political reasons, I said. Of course, this clause provides that he shall have no political rights, that is to say, he shall not have the right of voting, the idea being that all his political sympathies being with his own country he is not a man to exercise political rights until he becomes to all intents and purposes a British subject. It was in that sense I used the word "political." But I am as certain as I can be that should this case be submitted to the Courts they will hold that no alien has an inalienable right which a man cannot deprive him of, unless we have this legislation; and for that reason I am extremely anxious that the alien should have double security, first, of the property right conferred upon him by the Provincial Legislature, and the removal of all disabilities which pertain to his character as a foreigner, as an alien, by the action of the general Legislature, who alone can deal with the alienage and naturalization.

Mr. MILLS. We carried the Wrecking Bill the other day providing that an alien should have the right to hold property in a British ship.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. If another Act for a special purpose gives a special right, that is quite another thing.

On section 13,

Mr. MILLS. Where you have not many aliens coming into the country you may succeed in naturalizing them in this way, but if you are expecting a large immigration of foreigners you must adopt some more convenient system, or a large number will not be naturalized at all according to law. Unless you have some system where a man may be naturalized in some other way than by going into Court to have his certificate registered, you will not have many aliens naturalized in conformity to the law. In a new country, when a good many aliens are coming in, it will not be easy to get them to go some distance to a court to be naturalized. I can understand that in a country like England, where few persons are coming in, this may be done, but I am sure that the attempt to naturalize a large population in this way will not succeed.

Mr. McDONALD (Pictou). A County Court sits in every county of the Dominion, and I do not think there would be any difficulty. This is an important right you are conferring upon an alien, and if he appreciates it at all, he will not begrudge the trouble of going to the county town and having his rights confirmed by registration. It is better to preserve some short form. The affidavit is taken

before a Commissioner and is filed by the Court. It is not necessary even the party should go himself.

Mr. MILLS. There would be no difficulty. The hon. gentleman might provide for the affidavit being sworn to before a justice of the peace, and forwarded with the certificate to the clerk of the peace to be filed by him, and read at the next sitting of the Court.

Mr. BLAKE. It appears to me to be most important that the Government should carry out their regulation, in some such spirit as my hon. friend from Bothwell has indicated, so as to provide the easiest and simplest mode for foreigners to become British subjects, rather than to put an obstacle in their way.

Mr. McDONALD. Provision is made for the Governments to appoint people for that purpose.

Mr. MILLS. In the North-West Territories, no doubt, the land agents could facilitate the business.

On clause 24,

Mr. MILLS. Is it intended that persons who are naturalized shall be recognized as British subjects everywhere?

Mr. McDONALD. Yes; the Imperial Government will legislate in that direction as soon as this Bill becomes law.

Mr. MILLS. To what extent?

Mr. McDONALD. It is by convention. They are now legislating with regard to Germany, and this clause refers specially to that country, although it applies to all countries. The law of Germany requires five years absence before it allows the right of German immigrants to be naturalized in a foreign country.

Mr. BUNSTER. Does the Bill apply to the Chinese?

Mr. BLAKE. There is an express provision for the Mongolians holding lands.

Mr. BUNSTER. I am afraid, then, I cannot support the Bill. Will the hon. Minister of Justice answer—how does this Bill affect the Mongolian race as regards registration?

Mr. McDONALD (Pictou). The Bill proposes to do the heathen Chinese the honor of treating him like any other foreigner who comes into the country and desires to be a good subject of Queen Victoria.

Mr. BUNSTER. Then I cannot support it. I am really astonished the hon. leader of the Government would sanction any such Bill, when he got a constituency totally opposed to the Chinese race. There is no right or justice in it. It will make bad blood among our people in British Columbia.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bunster) does not understand his difficulties. He opposes the naturalization of the Chinese, while the hon. gentleman is going to be returned by the Chinese votes at the next election.

Mr. BUNSTER. The right hon. gentleman got all the votes in the constituency but one, and he ought to respect the feelings of the men who sent him here, when the balance of the Dominion opposed him. In allowing such an infliction to be imposed upon us, he is doing us great injustice, and I, for one, will not vote for him again. He ought to protect us against this Chinese pest. In sanctioning this Bill, the Premier overlooks his duty towards the people he so proudly represents.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am very sorry the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bunster) was not in his place to move an amendment to the second reading of the Bill. At any rate, I cannot move an amendment against a Government Bill. If the hon. gentleman had been in his place he would doubtless have convinced the House, with his usual eloquence, of the necessity of preventing the Chinese from having this right. But, if I am not much mistaken, I