

of them, or by making them objects of ridicule. One of these causes is the thorough education of all citizens. It is the common every-day people that make the governments, good or bad. The most important of all causes, which you should support, is that of religion. A nation that scoffs at religion is in grave peril. Nothing can be found to take its place in the life of the people.

The last duty of a citizen is to endeavour to lessen the cruelty of our civilization. It would be well, if each day, everyone would think of the cruel things they have seen done, or that they themselves have done and then try to discover how much of the suffering thus caused might have been prevented. If such a course were followed, there is no doubt, we should soon have a bright and happy world.

I commend that not only to those who are attending classes to be instructed in citizenship, but to the members of this house and to the people of Canada generally.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Mr. Chairman, may I thank the two hon. members who have applauded. I intervene in this debate for the first time to occupy only five or six minutes. Perhaps I should make an exception to that, because I very rudely interrupted the minister the other night, and therefore I should make allowance for that.

Mr. MARTIN: The hon. gentleman's interruption was not rude.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Thank you. I have been trying to find out just what all this is about, and if I interpret the minister's remarks correctly, leaving aside for the moment the use of the words "Canadian citizen", it is nothing more than the formalizing of an existing state of law which we have had for twenty-seven years. That is my interpretation of what he has said, and may I say that my view coincides with his in that regard.

The fact, though, that something has been in existence for twenty-seven years does not make it sacrosanct or anything like that, because evolution is change, and laws change. Laws occasionally should be changed. Somebody tells me that governments, too, change. I am not very good at wishful thinking, but perhaps there is something in that.

I turn to the one thing which I think seems to have been dividing us, and it is this question of the treatment of British subjects from other places in the British commonwealth of nations. Looking at that, I am quite unable to see the validity of the objection to the suggestion we make. Remember, that is not said critically, and I am not going to be that way. I am hoping to make a suggestion which may be of some value.

It is a fact of law and of moral conduct that we treat our partners rather better than we treat persons who have not that relation-

[Mr. Brown.]

ship with us. The basis of the whole law of partnership is mutual trust, and I am not suggesting that as among these nations it would go so far as to permit an individual to do something which would be a contract for the whole. But we have all been proud of this partnership. We have talked about it; we have talked about the invisible bonds, and so on, that have kept us together; and it does seem to me that in that very idea of partnership, which we have all of us acclaimed, there is reason for somewhat different treatment of persons coming to our shores from other parts of the commonwealth from the treatment we accord those who are aliens to begin with.

I am pleased to congratulate the minister on what he granted at the opening of the discussion to-day, and it is in that same spirit that I congratulate the hon. member for Eglinton on his speech the other day, which I have just read, in which he conceded, as he should have done, that after a period of five years' deportation might take place. In answering the hon. member for Davenport a moment ago the minister thought it was not inconceivable, and copying my hon. friend's large word, that it might be interpreted as monstrous. I tried to examine that. What does it mean? It simply means that a person gets a certificate of citizenship, which he had not in a formal document but which he had in fact in times gone by, because after a year's residence here a British subject voted and was entitled to appointment to the civil service. In fact I can think of no right whatever he did not have that I have, for example, and I was born in this country. I may be wrong about that, but I do not think so. I am quite prepared to join the club which the hon. member for Broadview spanked a few moments ago. I am quite prepared to join the club of spankees. I thoroughly believe that that as men of an earlier day said *civis Romanus sum*, so *civis Canadensis sum* is worth saying and worth believing. If ever a bill should come before this House of Commons with the unanimous consent of its members, it is this one. When we in this chamber presume to make these words mean something, presume to give people certificates so that they can say: "This is what I am in this world," we should do all we can, even more than we think we can, to try to find unanimity. If we cannot find unity in this matter how can we expect persons not of this gathering to find unity when we preach it to them? I say this to the minister, in the best spirit I know: Maintain your provisions in the Immigration Act. They are sound.