

ments. These were considered, and an Act based upon them was passed by the Imperial House of Commons last year, making some important changes in the law, perhaps the most important change being the enlarged provisions for cancelling certificates of naturalization upon the conditions outlined in the Act. It is not necessary for me to trouble the House with those details, because they will come up for consideration when the Government Bill dealing with naturalization is brought in, as no doubt a Bill will be brought in embodying at least some of the provisions of the new Imperial Act.

Mr. LEMIEUX: What will the principal features of that Act be?

Mr. ROWELL: The principal features of the British Act are greatly enlarged powers for cause to cancel certificates of naturalization. I could give my hon. friend the provisions, but I presume he does not desire me to stop to do that now. Then there is a provision in that portion of the British Act that applies to the British Isles only, (not the general portion that may be adopted by the whole Empire), that no alien enemy can be naturalized for a period of ten years.

At the Imperial Conference, 1918, this resolution No. 20, was passed:

The Conference refers to resolution 10 passed by the Imperial War Conference, 1917, recognizing the desirability and importance of securing uniformity of policy and action throughout the Empire with regard to naturalization, and recommends that a special Conference, representative of all parts of the Empire, should be held at the earliest practicable date to examine and report in the light of that resolution upon any question connected with nationality or naturalization which any government represented at the special Conference may desire to raise, and upon any suggestions which may be made for the amendment of the existing law.

This contemplates a future conference dealing with matters that are not dealt with in the present British law. I can suggest two or three of the subjects that are under consideration but upon which no final conclusions have been reached. One is the question of the status of the married woman who is married to an alien—shall she, if she marries an alien, be entitled to retain her British nationality? Another is the question of dual nationality. As hon. members are no doubt aware, in some countries a man does not lose his citizenship in the country of his birth by becoming a citizen of another. In Germany they have, in the Delbruck law of 1913, a provision whereby a German citizen desiring naturalization in the country in which he was living could

get the consent of the Imperial German Government to retain his citizenship in his own country, and also become a citizen of another country. This question of dual nationality relates not only to Germans but to all Russian citizens. Under the Russian law a man did not lose his Russian citizenship by becoming a citizen of another country unless he had a special ukase from the Czar, and the dual nationality applied. He might become a British citizen under the law and he might be a British subject here, and still be a Russian citizen at home. There is a third question which I cannot at the moment recall, which this special conference was to be called upon to consider. Resolution 19 on naturalization is to this effect:

This Conference is of opinion that legislation should be passed throughout the Empire restricting, for a period after the war, so far as in the circumstances of each country may be possible, the naturalization of citizens of present enemy countries, and also the acquisition by them of any form of political rights or of land or mining privileges.

The position of the Government of Canada and of the Government of South Africa was that that was a detail in the administration of the naturalization law with which the Parliament of each Dominion could deal, and that it was not a proper subject for consideration at the Imperial Conference. And, Canada and South Africa pressed that that resolution should be withdrawn. Australia and New Zealand, however, who were sponsors of the resolution, were not prepared to withdraw. Canada refrained from voting on it, taking the ground that it was not a proper subject for consideration, and South Africa voted against it.

Two other important resolutions came up, one particularly important one, relating to immigration. Resolution No. 13 of the Conference is to this effect:

The Imperial War Conference reaffirms the principle laid down by Resolution 21 of the 1917 Conference, in favour of arrangements being made by which intending emigrants from the United Kingdom may be induced to settle in countries under the British flag. It is of opinion that the representatives of the Oversea Dominions in the United Kingdom should keep in the closest touch with any new body established by His Majesty's Government to supervise emigration from the United Kingdom. The Conference is of opinion that the appointment of a consultative committee, not to exceed ten members, on which representatives of the Oversea Dominions should sit, to advise any such body, would afford the best means of co-operation.

The proposal that came before the Conference was for a central immigration au-