

Vancouver. We are being entertained by the Ottawa Canadian Club on the night of the 5th of June at a banquet, and it will be on that occasion that the Honourable Leighton McCarthy will address us on citizenship.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Now, this completes our business for this morning unless some member of the committee has something he wishes to speak about.

Mr. HLYNKA: Before we adjourn, Mr. Chairman, may I ask whether we shall proceed with this subject at some future date, or is the subject closed as far as we are concerned?

The CHAIRMAN: We have not any communication from anybody else, but if any member feels that somebody should be called all he has to do is give the name and address to the clerk and that person will be called.

Mr. HLYNKA: I am interested in making certain recommendations respecting the naturalization of Canadians who have not acquired the English or the French language but who have lived in Canada for many years. There is a section of our population in western Canada who settled there prior to the last war when there were no schools in those districts. They live in blocks among themselves—

The CHAIRMAN: Who compose these blocks? Are they mostly people of Russian descent?

Mr. HLYNKA: There are a great number of Ukraines, Poles, Russians and perhaps some others. They have settled in certain blocks.

Mr. DUPUIS: Where would that be?

Mr. HLYNKA: Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Mr. DUPUIS: Mostly in the northern parts?

Mr. HLYNKA: Mostly in the northern parts. They have no opportunity whatever to learn the English language or learn the French language. These citizens have been exemplary citizens and yet when it comes to naturalization they are just out because they do not know the language.

The CHAIRMAN: Those that are born here are British subjects by the fact that they are born here.

Mr. HLYNKA: That is true. I am concerned with the fact that there are thousands of them—

The CHAIRMAN: What do you mean by "thousands"?

Mr. HLYNKA: There are thousands of these citizens who have settled in western Canada and who, for one reason or another, did not apply for their naturalization certificates. Others were approached by political campaigners in the past and were granted naturalization papers without having to appear before a judge. That happened across the western provinces. I am concerned with this section of the population who are to-day reaching the age of sixty or seventy and who are sometimes forced to apply for old age pensions. They have been wonderful citizens, but when they apply for a pension they are refused on the ground that they are not Canadian citizens.

That is one point I wish to stress. The other point is this: so many of them have sons in the armed forces of Canada. Let us take the example of one of these people who has a son in the armed forces who happens to be a married man and whose assigned pay goes to his wife and children but his mother, we will say, living here in Canada is dependent upon him. Now, when he has gone into the army his mother cannot apply for the old age pension and she cannot qualify for anything at all.

I feel that there should be a special clause dealing with these people, with this section of our citizens. They have been loyal citizens, the most exemplary