

us feel ashamed of our position as subjects, and envious of those who claim to be citizens? We in Canada are in a position to answer this question. In our own land we have the working of one system—across the border to the south we see the operation of the other. Faults we have enough, errors enough we admit, corrupt are we in many things, but in the great matters which are embraced in the terms we are considering, personal freedom, the administration of justice, submission to rightful authority, and the respect which is due from one man to another, we find no trace of subserviency, no sign of personal or political inferiority.

Every British subject wherever situated has a right to, and always does receive protection against injustice no matter by whom inflicted, and in British territory has a right to the protection of the law of the land. But when we come to speak of privileges as distinct from right we are involved in a maze of conflicting rules and contradictory principles from which no satisfactory issue has yet been found. Such a chaotic mass of races, languages, customs, and religions, ruled under so many forms of government, with material interests as diverse as their personal or political, bound together by no tie of nationality, and united only by their allegiance to a common sovereign, was never seen or heard of as is now to be found within the limits of the British Empire. How under such conditions to arrive at a definition of what is a British subject, which shall ensure uniformity of treatment, and equality of rights and privileges, throughout the Empire, is a task which may well try the ability and patriotism of the ablest amongst us. At the last colonial conference, the subject of the naturalization law was taken up in the hope of arriving at some uniform method; and, no doubt, at the next conference it will be again considered.

The true principle should be that every British subject not criminally disqualified should be as free to go from one part of the Empire to another, as a man is free to go from Halifax to Victoria, and to seek his living wherever he may find it. So far is this from being the case that while we admit to this