

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member asked a question and the minister replied to it at length.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I intended to ask merely a supplementary question before the minister concluded. I should like to know if there have been cases where aliens have had their naturalization certificates cancelled?

Mr. BENNETT: The act provides for that.

Mr. GORDON: I have not before me any detailed information with respect to the question asked by the hon. member, but I can say that the act certainly provides for the cancellation of naturalization certificates in cases where those certificates should be cancelled. I believe there have been a number of cancellations; if there have not, there should have been.

Mr. CAHAN: There have been naturalization certificates cancelled because of absence of at least seven years, but otherwise no certificate has been cancelled except upon the report of a judge specially appointed for the purpose of examining into the facts as to whether or not the certificate was obtained by fraud, or, on the other hand, unless there has been a conviction by a criminal court of this country.

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY SHIP

On the orders of the day.

Mr. ANGUS MACINNIS (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to inquire of the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) if a contract has been let for the taking of the hydrographic survey ship being built in Collingwood from that port to the Pacific coast, and if so, the name of the contractor.

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine): Mr. Speaker, I have not the exact information before me but I shall be glad to reply to-morrow to my hon. friend.

CIVIL SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State) moved the second reading of Bill No. 99, to amend the Civil Service Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

Sections 1, 2 and 3 agreed to.

On section 4—Residents for local appointments.

Mr. HEENAN: I understand that this bill was based upon the report of the committee but, unfortunately, I have been absent for a

few days and have missed the discussion thereon. Could the minister tell us on what procedure the government intend to act now with respect to appointments of postmasters in post offices with a revenue of less than \$3,000?

Mr. CAHAN: There is a special clause covering that.

The CHAIRMAN: The question will be in order under that clause.

Mr. ROSS: What is the meaning of residence of one year? Will it mean simply residence where a man is in the district, or something similar to the qualification for a vote?

Mr. CAHAN: The residence to qualify a civil servant, that is residence of five years, is fixed by another clause. This, I presume, is simply residence in the locality for "one year immediately preceding," and is the outcome of criticisms which were made before the committee to the effect that in the appointment of civil servants for certain, might I say, subordinate positions in a locality, nominations were made of those resident outside that locality. This is to qualify only those who have been resident for one year in the locality. Clause 4 of the bill is in almost the same terms as paragraph 4 of the report of the special committee on the administration of the Civil Service Act.

Mr. VENIOT: Might I call the attention of the minister to a point I have in mind? Suppose the applicant is not a resident of the district in which the post office is located but is a resident of a rural route receiving its mail through that post office. Is he to be considered, in applying for the position, as a resident of the district? I think that point ought to be made clear.

Mr. CAHAN: It would be impossible to draft an amendment to meet all cases. This clause applies to appointments to local positions in any province and it declares that so far as practical such appointments shall—

—be made from persons having resided in such locality for a period of at least one year immediately preceding the date last fixed for receiving applications for such local positions.

I am adopting the phraseology of the committee's report and I think we shall have to trust to the future to decide how far this is practicable.

Mr. VENIOT: My reason for bringing up this point is that in the past we had difficulty in the Post Office Department in deciding this matter, and in many cases we had to leave it to the Civil Service Commission.