

son that a woman who was a natural born subject in the first place might very reasonably be permitted to vote although she has technically lost her British nationality by marrying an alien. We thought it desirable to stop at that point and to prevent a woman voting who has married an alien enemy.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Supposing a woman marries an Austrian, or a man of alien birth who has become naturalized, her marriage does not disqualify her?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: No.

Progress reported.

IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION.

On motion of Sir Robert Borden, Bill No. 11, respecting the Department of Immigration and Colonization, was read the second time and the House went into Committee thereon, Mr. Boivin in the Chair.

On section 3—Deputy Minister.—Clerks, etc.,

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Has a deputy minister been appointed yet?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: There has been no deputy appointed yet.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Has the department been organized as yet?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: It has been organized to this extent, that the minister is conducting the department and he has taken over those officials of the Interior Department whose duties were concerned with immigration and colonization. He has not found it necessary as yet to appoint a deputy minister.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall I report the Bill?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Before you report the Bill, I should like to ask the hon. minister if, before taking up the third reading, he will bring down a list of the officers who have been taken over from the Interior Department into his department.

Mr. CALDER: I shall be very glad to do that.

Mr. MURPHY: Would it be possible at the same time, to have a statement explaining what actions are confirmed as provided in section 5?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: That merely relates to ordinary administrative actions so far as I understand.

Mr. MURPHY: A statement of those could be brought down.

Mr. CALDER: There is no statement of that kind. I might say that the Immigration Branch was a very distinct section of the Interior Department, and its whole personnel has been moved over. None of the officials attached to any other part of the Interior Department have been taken over with the Immigration Branch. The Immigration Branch was a body of itself within the Interior Department, and that branch has now simply become a department of the public service. I do not know of any particular information that I can bring down in connection with section 5. If the hon. member for Russell (Mr. Murphy) desires any particular information, and will let me know the nature of it, I shall only be too glad to bring it down to the House.

Mr. MURPHY: What I would like to know is what I am "confirming" by voting for that section?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: All that section means is this: the department has been created by Order in Council, and the minister has been discharging his duties, that is to say, he has taken over this branch from the Department of the Interior. Since its establishment he has engaged in the usual administrative acts in respect of immigration which would otherwise have devolved upon the Minister of the Interior. It is merely designed to sanction his acts in that respect.

Mr. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, before you report the Bill I wish to record my objection to the addition of any new machinery of Government which involves a great deal of unnecessary expenditure. I do not wish to be understood as finding any fault with the head of this new department; I presume he is in every way a capable and desirable minister, well able to administer that department. During the balmy days of immigration in this country, hundreds of thousands a month came into Canada and were taken care of by the old machinery of the Department of the Interior; and thousands and hundreds of thousands of homesteads and homestead entries were taken care of by the machinery of the old department as well. Now that we have no immigration or homestead entries to speak of, I cannot, as an outsider though a member of this House, understand why, at this stage and at this time, under war conditions, when every dollar should be saved and when everything should be avoided that