

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

matter of great interest and importance in instructing new Canadians. I was wondering whether or not the minister could say where full information could be obtained by an organization which might be interested in showing these films to new Canadians in their vicinity. These organizations might want information as to the content of the films, how they can be obtained and what procedure has to be followed. It occurs to me that here is a field where members of parliament, and others who are interested in this work of welcoming new Canadians, might avail themselves of this new instrument. Perhaps they could interest service clubs and other similar organizations to which they belong in having once a month or once a year, or with whatever frequency would be suggested, evenings when they would be hosts to the new Canadians in their area and ask them in for a showing of these films.

I must confess that it seems to me an area in which with a little bit of work and a little bit of interest, any one of us could make quite a considerable contribution to interesting our communities and community organizations in that work. Will the minister tell us, for the record, what the procedure is as to getting these films and on what terms they are available?

Mr. Harris: These films are produced by the national film board and are sold at a nominal fee to the provincial governments, which use them through their film distributing organizations. In other words, a voluntary organization can write in and get a film for showing such as my hon. friend indicates. In addition to that, however, our liaison officers, who were only appointed after 1950, do encourage the use of these films at the voluntary organizational meetings and will show them on request at service clubs and other similar institutions. I for one should be glad if any person or group of persons or any hon. members would in fact put on an evening of some kind for the benefit of newcomers or even for the benefit of Canadians, to show them these things because I think the film strips are of good use for this purpose.

Mr. Fulton: Do I understand that anyone or any organization interested should contact in the first instance the provincial educational department, and that they would have full information and would have a stock of these films on hand?

Mr. Harris: Yes; and the film board has a stock to sell and will sell them for a dollar.

Mr. Fulton: Then the report also contains another interesting item. I see that I have

really been discussing both the citizenship branch and the citizenship registration branch under the same heading. One small question arises out of page 19 of the report which is headed "Number of certificates issued to aliens by countries of origin" and under the heading "Great Britain" there is the figure of 53. I should probably know this, but I confess to being a little bit disturbed about it. Is a British subject coming from the United Kingdom officially classified as an alien, even if he has been lawfully admitted to Canada?

Mr. Harris: I should not think so, but I will have to find an explanation. In the item that is referred to, the countries of origin are the countries from which these people come. That is residence, not nationality or racial origin.

Mr. Fulton: We would presume that these would be persons who originated in Great Britain but were not necessarily British subjects?

Mr. Harris: That is right.

Mr. Green: I think we have come a long way in our approach to this problem of citizenship. It is encouraging to hear from the minister that steps have been taken to make the people who have come to this country and have become naturalized, feel welcome. Only a few years ago all that happened was that they appeared in a crowded naturalization court, two friends spoke on their behalf and then they got out of the crowd as best they could. Then some time later they took the oath of allegiance before a notary public. I think Canada was extremely shortsighted in her approach to this problem of welcoming new citizens. I am afraid we are still a long way behind our cousins, the Americans. I should like the minister to explain to the committee why it is that we cannot have a procedure somewhat similar to that followed by them.

I have here the program for the 32nd annual public reception welcoming naturalized citizens of 1952-53 in the city of Portland, Oregon, under the auspices of the Portland Americanization council. This was held this year on February 22, the 221st anniversary of George Washington's birthday. In addition to setting out the officers of this Americanization council, it sets out a list of 90 on a reception committee and 30 on a hospitality committee. They had a receiving line which included the governor of the state and his wife, and the secretary of state for the state of Oregon and his wife; the treasurer of the state of Oregon; the United States district attorney; the mayor and commissioners of the city of Portland and ladies; the board of county commissioners for, I presume, the county of Multnomah. On the inside of the program there is a list of the