

about to put to them. The first is this: Are the Japanese an assimilable race? Can they be properly assimilated, as can members of other races who have come to Canada? The second question, equally important, is this: Can a person, even though born in Canada, be truly a Canadian citizen if that person owes recorded allegiance to another country? Every person of Japanese origin, whether born in this country or not, is registered as a Japanese citizen and is recognized by the Japanese government as being a citizen of Japan, even though born in Canada.

May I add this as further proof. It is strange that those in Canada burying all Japanese prior to 1939 were requested by the Japanese government to send not only the birth certificates but the death certificates as well. That request applied to all Japanese, irrespective of where they were born. To put the matter in another form, suppose a Canadian child was born in a foreign country. The child would naturally be registered, or should be, with the British or Canadian consul. Such registration would make that child a Canadian or British subject. The fact of their being so registered I believe also prevents them from being claimed as a citizen by whatever foreign country they happened to be born in. Why then, in the case of Japanese born in this country, should people hold to the view that, although registered in Japan as Japanese citizens, they are still Canadian? That, Mr. Speaker, is the crux of the whole matter.

Let me point out this further fact. So far as I know, no one of Japanese race or origin in Canada has ever renounced his allegiance to Japan. Not even since Pearl Harbor has any Japanese in Canada taken that action. If the vote is allowed the Japanese that are at present in Canada, the voice of Japan will then be heard in our legislative halls. Since all Japanese are completely under and subservient to the Japanese government, the only ones who could actually be considered as strictly Canadian citizens—if even they can be—are the Japanese babies born since Pearl Harbor because they are unlikely to be registered in Japan. I ask our critics of the C.C.F. party and others to give the people of British Columbia and of all Canada a definite answer to these questions instead of raising bogeys and quoting Hitler. And to those members of the House of Commons from other provinces who have treated the matter lightly and as one belonging simply to British Columbia, I say in all fairness, give some thought to the two questions I have just propounded. I ask them to get out of

[Mr. Reid.]

their minds once and for all the idea that this is a British Columbia question. It is now a Canadian question, a federal question. If I know the people of British Columbia at all, and I think I do, they are adamant that the question shall remain as a federal question.

The other matter about which I wish to speak is one affecting our natural resources and which in turn affects the lives and welfare of our people. I refer to the acquisition by monopolistic interests of British Columbia's heritage of timber. For quite a number of years past the MacMillan lumber interests have been gradually acquiring timber limits throughout the various parts of the province, particularly on Vancouver island. The policy adopted by them is one of buying out mills, following which these mills would then be closed down and the timber limits which they own absorbed within the MacMillan interests. It has almost got to the point where practically no one can go into the business or, indeed, operate unless he has the good will of these lumber interests. The point has now been reached where a fight is on for the supremacy over all timber limits and the control of all mills. It has been indicated that the stronghold held now by the MacMillan interests will likely mean that in the end they will prevail. I endeavoured to warn the government and the people regarding this matter a few years ago, but no attention has been paid to the monopolistic control by this great lumber company. I pointed out then, as I do now, that the interests were such powerful timber and lumber operators that many smaller lumbermen were actually afraid even to make any comments, because the MacMillan interests might interfere with their logging business. Actually the position is comparable with that of the barons of old.

Mr. W. E. Fraser of Shawnigan Lake, charged the MacMillan interests have coralled the timber of Vancouver island. He warned that there would soon be only two mills cutting timber on Vancouver island. He warned also that the independents in the lumber industry would be starved out of business, and that, Mr. Speaker, in the midst of plenty of timber. Mr. Fraser charged also that thirty men who are fighting in Italy and in France at the present time, and who had left the Shawnigan Lake mills, would not be able to return to this mill because it was one of those that had been bought and closed down.

As I said a moment ago, mills have been bought up by the MacMillan interests for the sole purpose of obtaining complete control of the timber and forests of British Columbia. It may well be that I am staking my political