

address, as fine a thing on the subject of citizenship, I think, as I have ever heard. This judge too was a pure German. His father and mother came from Germany, but he apparently was as loyal an American as you could find anywhere. He was a delightful man. I am a little bit ahead of myself here. After the last applicant was examined, then the clerk of the court gave them the oath all together. They stood up there in a body, he read the oath to them and they assented to it. Then the judge delivered this twenty-minute speech which I thought a most eloquent thing and most impressive. I remember Mr. MacNeill saying at the end of it, when we went out, "There is no doubt that these people realize what the meaning of this naturalization is." They were a very fine lot of people. I kept track of the nationalities and I think there were twenty-four different nations represented there, nearly every part of the world. I thought that it was a tremendously impressive ceremony. Those people realized what they were doing and what it meant.

The thing that occurs to me is that perhaps what you might do in the way of legislation is this. Pardon me, but I am a little ahead of my story again. Since that time an order in council—I do not think it is legislation—was issued requiring one year's notice of intention, following the United States' practice. They now have to file notice of intention within one year.

*By Mr. Black (Yukon):*

Q. In Canada?—A. Yes, in Canada. And furthermore, instead of taking the oath before the clerk of the court, they have to take it in the open court before the judge. But I think a little defect still is that they appear one at a time. Perhaps there might be one to-day and nothing for another three weeks. Then some other fellow would come in and so on. It does not amount to very much of a ceremony if there is only one person for the judge to address. So my idea or at least one idea that struck me was that what you might do is to require that there be certain naturalization terms or sessions so that they would all come in together—we will say a certain group would have to come in on a certain day with their sponsors—so that it would be quite an impressive gathering. That struck me as being one thing that might improve the situation. Speaking for myself I know that I was not very fond of orating from the bench, and some judges might find it distasteful to have to get off a speech. But there might be a set speech prepared by the judges, of course, to read at that time. But that appears to me to be one thing that would help tremendously. In Winnipeg I believe Judge Dysart is largely responsible for trying to improve that situation and he just arranged, I think, to have a number of the applicants come in on the same day. I think he asked different societies like the Canadian Club or the Daughters of the Empire or other patriotic institutions to come there and be represented and perhaps speak. They have done the same thing once or twice, I know, in Toronto where they had the mayor there and some of these organizations, just to impress on these foreigners the seriousness of becoming naturalized citizens.

I do not know that there is anything else that I can say to you, gentlemen.

*By Mr. Black (Yukon):*

Q. Were any of those applicants in the American courts refused when you were there?—A. Yes. I am glad you mentioned that. There was one case where a man came along with only one of his sponsors and he said that his other sponsor was ill and could not come. The judge said, "We cannot do anything about it. I will adjourn it until the next court. We want both of them here." They had to stand up before this whole group and be examined. They must appear. There is no getting out of it.