

*Immigration Act*

suspected of belonging to some undesirable association—that merely because he is suspected he should be subject to deportation shocks my sense of justice.

Mr. MARLER: My hon. friend's argument is wanting in one particular. First of all an immigrant coming over has to acquire British citizenship or Canadian citizenship.

Mr. McMASTER: But supposing he is not guilty.

Mr. MARLER: It does not affect the situation very materially. It seems to me this matter can be very properly left in the hands of the department. Very possibly a few instances may occur where the suspicion is unfounded, but cases of this description may properly be left in the hands of a competent minister. The provision may shock the susceptibilities of my hon. friend from Brome in certain ways, but we have to take a reasonable chance in matters of this description.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not quite get the minister's distinction. I do not want to press the matter further, but really in these times I would agree with the hon. member for Brome. I am ready to give the minister every possible latitude so that if he himself comes to the conclusion that there is reason to believe, even though it is not proven, that a man is of that class he may send him back. But what class? Anarchists—under the class defined here somebody suspected of being an anarchist. However, I did not rise for the purpose of pressing that question. The Minister of the Interior stated that the only difference between this bill and last year's act was that in the statute there was a clause which stated that this should not apply to anyone—

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): To British subjects.

Mr. MEIGHEN: And that is deleted. Well, if this is deleted the act will apply to a person from Britain or anywhere else.

Mr. ROBB: No. What is deleted is:

Provided that this section shall not apply to any person who is a British subject either by reason of birth in Canada or by reason of naturalization in Canada.

Mr. BOYS: What section is that?

Mr. ROBB: The balance of the section was placed in the act by my right hon. friend. He thought it was pretty good and I agreed with him at that time.

[Mr. McMaster.]

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am very glad indeed but we had to take considerable criticism for it. I am prepared to provide the same thing still except in that one respect; I do not think we ought to go quite that length in these more peaceful times. But my point is this: As I understand the minister even yet he reads something which he says is no longer part of the act, but the something which he reads is to the effect that the act shall not apply to a certain class of British subject. When he deletes that it makes it apply.

Mr. ROBB: No, I will read what the bill says:

Whenever any alien advocates in Canada the overthrow by force or violence of the government of Great Britain or Canada, or other British dominion, colony, possession or dependency, or the overthrow by force or violence of constituted law and authority, or assassination, or shall by word or act create or attempt to create riot or public disorder in Canada, or shall by common repute belong to or be suspected of belonging to any secret society or organization which extorts money from, or in any way attempts to control any resident of Canada by force or threat of bodily harm, or by blackmail; such person for the purposes of this act shall be considered and classed as an undesirable immigrant, and it shall be the duty of any officer becoming cognizant thereof, and the duty of the clerk, secretary or other official of any municipality in Canada wherein such person may be, to forthwith send a written complaint thereof to the Minister of Immigration, giving full particulars.

Then the Minister of Immigration starts an inquiry under this, and if the facts are proven justice is swift and sure, and he goes back.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister has read out the section of the act and he is passing it—the same section.

Mr. ROBB: Yes. The previous act applies to British and Canadian subjects.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will the minister read the exact part he refers to?

Mr. ROBB: The amendment reads:

Provided that this section shall not apply to any person who is a British subject either by reason of birth in Canada or by reason of naturalization in Canada.

Mr. BOYS: That is not the vital change.

Mr. ROBB: I will admit the hon. gentleman is right. I have been wrongly advised. This is the act that I have read.

Mr. BOYS: That is not the vital change in the act. The first line or two of the proposed section reads:

Whenever any alien advocates in Canada the overthrow by force or violence of the government of Great Britain or Canada.