

*Immigration Act*

am moving the second reading of the bill, there are one or two aspects of it to which I wish to refer. There is no doubt that the motive behind it is of the very highest, but if the bill passes in its present form, there will be one or two anomalies.

A person having come to this country say from a certain part of Europe, and resided here for a period of five years becomes a naturalized citizen, and is then entitled to the full rights of citizenship and cannot be deported even though the government may desire to deport him. Under this bill a person born in Great Britain and coming to Canada, and who on account of his British citizenship would not have to become a naturalized citizen of the dominion, could be deported, whereas one who comes from the continent of Europe and resides here for five years cannot be deported. Consequently, if the bill passes as it is worded, certain anomalies might be created which would not be in the best interests of Canada.

My own view, however, on this question is that the whole matter is one almost entirely of administration. Persons who have resided in this country for a given number of years ought not to be deported, as has happened quite frequently during the past few months. I think the reason which motivated the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre in introducing this measure, is the fact that during the past few months certain persons, most of whom had been born in Great Britain and had resided here for quite a number of years—in some cases as long as eighteen or twenty, if my memory serves me aright—and to whom quite a large number of children were born in this country, have been deported. In one case the mother of a family was torn away from her children and deported to the old country. That class of deportation does not do Canada any good. We have in this country sufficient of the milk of human kindness to allow people to remain here when they become sick and infirm after they have probably given of their best to Canada. I do not think any government, federal or provincial, can offer as an excuse for deportation the fact that having resided within the dominion for a number of years and and raised families, the persons concerned have unfortunately become sick. I have seen persons who have come to Canada, who have had the misfortune to contract certain diseases and who at very short notice have been deported. We ought at least in some cases to be very careful before we order deportations. I know it is extremely difficult for the government to refuse to act when they have been re-

[Mr. Heaps.]

quested to do so by the provincial authority, but on the other hand the federal government has certain responsibilities and I think a statement ought to be made by the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Gordon) that in the case of proposed deportations, nothing should be done where people have resided in this country for a period longer than five years. A ten-year residence is too long a period because, as I pointed out before, a person who comes here from the continent of Europe can become a naturalized citizen after five years, and then that person is not deportable. I believe those who come here from Great Britain ought not to be in a less favoured position than those who come from other parts of the continent of Europe. Consequently, while I am in favour of the principle underlying the bill as introduced by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, I think if we had a declaration of policy on the part of the government, it might carry out this purpose for which this bill has been introduced.

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): While I am in sympathy with the general purpose of the bill, there are certainly some drawbacks to its passing in its present form. From time to time we see in the paper a report indicating that the "brutal government" or the "brutal Immigration department," as it is described, have deported a number of people. We always see, in big letters, so to speak, the deportee's side of the case. He has been deported; he is not particularly pleased with the country that is throwing him out, and he is not especially scrupulous in regard to the statements he makes. On the other hand, the government, for reason, does not rush into print and publish the department's side of the case. It is only from a spirit of humanity that they do not wish to inflict this greater publicity upon people who certainly are always deported for some cause. The consequence is that public sentiment is aroused in many cases in favour of the deportee, whereas if the truth were known, there would be no sympathy whatever. I had a number of these cases explained to me a few weeks ago, and the reasons given were certainly such as fully to justify deportation in every case. In nearly every instance the original trouble with these men or women who are deported is that they obtained entrance into this country by deliberate misrepresentations accompanied on many occasions by false affidavits. I heard of a case where an epileptic child three years old was brought into the country. No reasonable doctor who would make a hurried