

claration are true, and that he can with his personal knowledge vouch for him or her as being a proper person to receive a passport. He does not do anything more than that; he does not make an affidavit or make a declaration, he simply says that of his own personal knowledge Mr. and Mrs. So-and-So is a fit and proper person to receive a passport. It is a matter of opinion as to what constitutes a fit and proper person. For instance there are a number of very desirable and intelligent people in the district I represent who are of the opinion that I am not a fit and proper person to represent them. It is a matter of opinion. I know people who think that a man who is learning to play a violin is not a fit and proper person to stay in a vicinity. Some people think that those who fought for, or against, church union are very undesirable characters. Yet this man certifies to the person seeking the passport as being a fit and proper person. I would be quite willing to give passports to a lot of people who do not think the same way as I do. There are people who believe in giving Japs the vote. They would be eminently suitable persons to give a passport to; I would let them have a passport in order to get out of the country. You see how diversified the point of view is, and how absurd and diffuse the thing is. There again that does not have to be witnessed.

Then again if I were born abroad I would have to declare that my paternal grandfather was born in His Majesty's dominions and where I would have to get somebody to certify to that fact of his personal knowledge. I do not know exactly where my paternal grandfather was born. He died a hundred years ago and I should have considerable trouble in getting somebody to certify of his own personal knowledge where he was born. Another section says that in addition to British nationality I may possess another nationality. I thought the British nation boasted they only owned one nationality at a time, and when they ceased to be a British subject they adopted some other nationality. That dual nationality was the system invoked by the Germans, and also by the Japs, that their subjects could possess two nationalities at the same time.

I now come to another feature of this remarkable document. You have to give a description of your wife, and I presume the unhappy husband has to do the describing. These are some of the painful details. This is a case in which all married men ought to stick together. The passport just says "face." Under other passports or systems you are asked to describe the type of face or the com-

plexion. The Chinese Immigration Act calls for "facial marks." Here it says "face." One had better not put a "sullen type" or he is liable to get into trouble. Then it says "colour of hair." What is the use of asking women the colour of their hair now-a-days? Would it not be more to the point to require a person's height such as is demanded in the Chinese registration. In the case of a Chinese registration they make a good deal of fuss about complying with the regulations but it is not so obnoxious or humiliating as the regulations contained here.

Then we come down to special peculiarities. In almost every other passport system in the world marks of identification are called for. The Chinese system says "any physical peculiarities." This one says "special peculiarities." That, I presume, is either physical or mental; I do not know which. We will suppose, for instance, that it is my wife. Suppose the only identification mark that she has is a scar, two inches above her left knee, which she received when she was a little girl. I do not know whether I mentioned before that the principal people who can vouch for this certificate are lawyers, bankers and magistrates. Now I am on friendly terms with my lawyer, my banker and my magistrate, but I am not on such intimate terms with them as to ask them to certify of their own personal knowledge to that particular scar. Or, it might be a case of mental special peculiarity. I know some people who faint at the sight of a corpse. Will a corpse have to be packed around for the purpose of identification to see whether they do faint? That is a mental peculiarity. Take it in another light. Suppose truth compels me to admit the special peculiarity of a violent and uncontrolled temper. Where would I get off? I get a passport, what else would I get? It is like this all the way through. The whole proposition is like what was said about the beginning of the world, it is "without form and void."

Now to go back again to the back of the passport. It says here that the people who vouch for it can be "a magistrate, a minister of religion, a barrister at law, a physician, a surgeon or a solicitor." Not one of these has been put into a position of trust either by their fellow men or by the government. They are not officials in any sense of the word; they are not suitable for the convenience of the people. Bankers and doctors live in town; their number in the country is very limited. To give you an illustration. In British Columbia you must make an affidavit to get on the voters' list. That requirement has been in force for, I think, twenty years, or