

of naturalisation; they have been living with us for years; under our Canadian Militia Act, they are liable to be called to arms; they are now on the point of being taxed by the Canadian Government in order to help in the maintenance of the British Navy. But while, by virtue of those letters of naturalisation, they have been made subject to all the burdens of British citizenship in Canada, they are denied by the British Parliament every right of British citizenship outside of Canada.

If to-morrow the British Empire were at war, and Canada attacked by a foreign foe, what would be the position of those hundreds of thousands of people whom we have made Canadians? Under a solemn oath, they have renounced their nationality; but the British Parliament denies us the right to give them British nationality. They are subject to our Militia Act, but the moment they step out from the three mile limit, not being British subjects, they fall under the heavy penalties of the military laws of their respective countries, and, in case of war, would be treated as deserters. If forced to enrol in the Canadian militia, and made prisoners by the forces of their native country, they would be shot both as traitors and deserters!

Let me give you another example, which shows in a more ludicrous way the absurdity of that situation. Take the case of Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, or that of Sir William Van Horne, both American born. They have come to this country; they have helped in their way in the development of Canada; they have become captains of trade, finance and industry in this country. I presume they have acquired their rights as Canadian voters long ago; but unless they go and live continuously for five years on the soil of England, Scotland or Ireland, they are no more British subjects today than when living in the neighbouring Republic. You have heard that the Government is contemplating the nomination of a Canadian delegate to the Imperial Defence Committee. A name has been mentioned, that of the Honorable Mr. Perley, minister without portfolio in the Bor-