

Treaty of Peace (Japan) Act

that any who chose to go back and who were naturalized Canadians forfeited their right to naturalization. They understood that and went back subject to that condition. Now an attempt is being made to bring back those who wish to return to Canada. They made their choice at that time and I think the government would make a mistake if it yielded to the request that this group now be allowed to return to this country. If they come back their immediate families would also want to be allowed to come back, and here again several thousand might very well be involved.

In addition, the association to which I have referred seems to be in favour of some sort of general immigration of Japanese to Canada. The request is not made by the Japanese government at all. I find no evidence whatever of the Japanese government asking for that right for any of these groups. I do not believe it has taken that stand, but there is this campaign being carried on by the association here in Canada. I think it would be unfortunate if that campaign were to succeed.

As hon. members know there were great difficulties during the war over this question. Many of the Japanese were relocated in eastern Canada, where they have done very well; and they deserve great credit for the way they met the difficulties at that time. In recent years quite a few have returned to British Columbia, but as a group they are now living in different parts of Canada taking, I think, a very fair part in the life of the nation. I would urge that nothing be done now to upset that situation.

As the Minister of Fisheries knows it was a very difficult question in British Columbia before the war, and personally I wish to go on record as warning the government about steps they take now to permit immigration of this type. I express the hope that they will not adopt a policy which will result in more friction in British Columbia over this question. There is no doubt that it could be a source of friction in the future as it has been in the past. There is no need for that. A fresh page is turned now, and we are welcoming Japan back into the brotherhood of nations.

I hope the minister of external affairs and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration will see to it that policies are adopted which will not allow this issue to become once more a burning and difficult question in British Columbia.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, as you have already pointed out this bill itself does not deal with the question raised by my hon. friend. I am aware, as the hon. member for Peel has pointed out, that when the resolution approving the Japanese peace treaty was before the house that approval was

expedited on the understanding that the treaty would be given very careful consideration by the committee on external affairs. That was done.

I would have thought that perhaps the place for discussion of general questions might have been on the estimates of the Department of External Affairs or the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. However, since the hon. gentleman has raised the question, and it is an important one, I would like to set his mind at rest and assure him that there is no desire on the part of the government, in the light of the ratification of the Japanese peace treaty or of the consideration of this bill, to ease in any way the possibility of Japanese emigration to Canada; to make it any easier in the future for them to get here than it has been in the past—and it has not been very easy in the past.

In so far as Canadian citizens are concerned, of whatever race, colour or creed they may be as long as they are Canadian citizens, under our law if they present themselves at a Canadian port they are admitted. But even in the case of Canadian citizens, who may have been in Japan during recent years, no steps have been taken by the Canadian authorities to facilitate their transportation to Canada or their admission to this country. I can assure my hon. friend that the government is quite aware of the difficulties and indeed the dangers of this situation. I am sure I speak for my colleagues when I say there is no disposition on our part to create a situation in regard to Japanese immigration which would arouse any uneasiness in any part of Canada.

I do not think that at this time I need to go any further.

Section agreed to.

Sections 2 and 3 agreed to.

On section 4—*Penalties*.

Mr. Fleming: I should like to discuss a matter which I raised in the standing committee on external affairs which touches on the question of the propriety of parliament vesting in the governor in council power to prescribe penalties by way of either fine or imprisonment. The section before the committee provides in subsection 1 as follows:

Subject to subsection two, the governor in council may prescribe a fine or a term of imprisonment or both a fine and a term of imprisonment as a penalty for violation of any order or regulation, and may also prescribe whether the penalty shall be imposed upon summary conviction or upon conviction under indictment or upon either summary conviction or conviction under indictment.

Then subsection 2 provides that the fine prescribed shall not exceed \$100 for summary conviction and \$1,000 for conviction