

PARTIE 6/PART 6
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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
aux hauts commissaires aux pays du Commonwealth*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to High Commissioners in Commonwealth Countries*

CIRCULAR TELEGRAM

Ottawa, September 27, 1945

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The Government is proposing to introduce a Canadian Citizenship Bill shortly. At the earliest opportunity copies will be sent by airmail.

2. While it is impossible to give the details of the Bill until some further drafting questions have been settled, it is likely that it will be along the following lines —

(a) Naturalization Act, Canadian Nationals Act, and some provisions in Immigration Act are likely to be repealed;

(b) The Bill will define the conditions under which one will acquire the status of a natural-born Canadian citizen. These conditions will be not less rigorous than those which determine the position of a natural-born British subject under present Canadian legislation or under British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, and, in some respects, they will be more rigorous,

(c) The Bill provides for the issuing of certificates of Canadian citizenship to persons who are not natural-born Canadian citizens, the conditions being not less rigorous than those prescribed for naturalization under existing legislation;

(d) The Bill provides for the revocation of certificates and for loss of citizenship. It is possible that status will be lost more readily and in shorter time periods than under existing legislation.

(e) Under the Bill, all Canadian citizens will be subjects of His Majesty. Speaking generally, persons who are now Canadian citizens under existing legislation will be recognized as Canadian citizens under the Bill.

(f) Persons acquiring the status of British subjects, or other national status under the laws of other parts of the British Commonwealth, will be recognized as possessing the status of a subject of His Majesty within Canada,

(g) The Bill is being drafted upon the assumption that the other parts of the British Commonwealth will give due recognition to persons who acquire the status of subjects of His Majesty and Canadian citizens under the provisions of this legislation,

(h) Provision will be made for the status of aliens;

(i) There are ancillary provisions relating to procedure, and general matters;