

the missionary societies of the United church, the Presbyterian church and the Church of England in Canada, I prepared an amendment to the nationality act. It came before the house for discussion. Some objections were made and that bill was retired. Now, I am giving my personal opinion—

Mr. POWER: I am sorry to say I believe I opposed that bill.

Mr. CAHAN: Well, there was considerable opposition, and I thought it was a matter that should be dealt with by general consent rather than as a party measure and so I did not push the bill. But I think it must be dealt with. I remember the case to which the hon. gentleman refers, but no difficulty was encountered when the son of the Canadian agent at Geneva did return with his mother to Canada. I believe that due consideration is given in all such cases, but we might well consider an amendment to the law which would admit return as a matter of right.

Mr. POWER: Do I understand the Secretary of State to say that as a matter of fact, under the legislation as we have it at the present time, the children of Canadian officials born abroad are not Canadian nationals, though he agrees that they should be?

• Mr. CAHAN: I think that under the law—I am now referring to the immigration law, in which I am not an expert—it is not absolutely clear that as a matter of right they may return, though it is clear that they have the right to return to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and do return there very often rather than run the risk of being rejected by the immigration authorities here.

Mr. POWER: Strictly speaking, the Department of the Secretary of State for Canada would not have jurisdiction to grant them a passport?

Mr. CAHAN: No.

Mr. POWER: They would be obliged to obtain a passport from the office in Great Britain?

Mr. CAHAN: Passports are granted by our own Department of External Affairs in Ottawa; to those who are abroad they are granted by consular officers of the United Kingdom who act on behalf of the Department of External Affairs. For example, when I was in Geneva a little over a year ago I came across a peculiar case. One day one of the young women employed as a stenographer in the Canadian office in that city

[Mr. Cahan.]

came back to the office very much embarrassed because she had been told by the British consul there that she had no right to return to Canada. It appears, as she explained the circumstances to me, that her parents were English and came to Montreal when she was a little girl two or three years of age, I have forgotten the exact age. The family continued their residence in Montreal. She grew up, was educated in the schools of that city, became quite an expert in stenography and was appointed to and employed in the Canadian office in Geneva. She had gone to Geneva with a Canadian passport. Some family affair necessitated her signing some documents and she went before the consular official to make this signature and some declaration in connection with it, when the consular official asked her how long she had been in Geneva. I think she said: About two years. He drew her attention to the fact that she had not reported to him in the meantime; that her passport showed that she had actually been born in Great Britain, and he told her that in his opinion she had no longer a right to Canadian nationality and a Canadian passport because she had not reported to him before the expiration of twelve months of her first term of sojourn in Geneva. Of course the young lady was greatly distressed because she wanted to return to her parents in Canada. So on her behalf I wrote to the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs and I believe he took the matter up with the Immigration department with the result that assurance was given that the young lady could return to this country. Cases of that kind arise from time to time, I believe these rights should be clearly established by law and possibly after I have passed away, some successor, I hope, will have better success than I have had in attempting to clarify the situation.

Mr. MARCIL: The minister was kind enough to refer to the numerous men and women who during the last few years have been going as missionaries from Canada to the orient, some from the Church of England, others from the United Church of Canada, others from the Roman Catholic Church and so forth. Apparently, Canada is no longer a missionary field and we are sending missionaries abroad. Every year we see quite a number of men and women leaving Montreal to go to the foreign field. Have these people going abroad, especially to distressed parts such as the orient, been instructed, warned or notified by the department or have the heads of their churches been notified,