

The CHAIRMAN: This is a document addressed to the judges and clerks of the courts required to report in applications for naturalization and it is dated June 14, 1933 and signed by the Secretary of State at that time, the Hon. C. H. Cahan. Do you wish to have the clerk read this document?

Hon. Mr. STIRLING: Is that an instruction?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is an instruction to judges and clerks of the courts. Perhaps we should have it read.

The CLERK: (Reads):—

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF CANADA

OTTAWA, June 14, 1933.

*To the Judges and Clerks of Courts required to report in applications for naturalization:*

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to invite your attention to the present extraordinary number of applications for naturalization which are presented through the various courts of the dominion to the Department of the Secretary of State. This increase has arisen in many ways. Applicants for old age pensions must prove their British nationality. Many large employers of labour require their employees to be British subjects. During the present financial stringency many local authorities decided that relief should be given to persons of British nationality.

This large number of applications require at the present time greater carefulness and closer scrutiny than in ordinary times. There are undoubtedly communist, bolshevist and other illegal agitations being carried on in various parts of Canada, and many propagandists of these ideas apply for naturalization, in order to camouflage their propaganda, and also to preclude any proceedings for deportation. For these reasons it is necessary that most careful inquiries should be made respecting all applicants for naturalization, to ascertain if they have any communistic or bolshevist association or tendencies. The department makes such inquiries as are possible, but these departmental inquiries should be supplemented by local investigation, which can be more readily carried out through local authorities.

I desire, therefore, to impress upon all officials dealing with naturalization applications that at the present time unusual care is necessary to avoid the issue of naturalization certificates to persons who should not be naturalized.

The question of impressing upon naturalized persons the responsibilities which are cast upon them on becoming naturalized, and the duties which are imposed upon them as Canadian citizens has been considered by the Association of Canadian Clubs. At a recent general meeting held at Winnipeg, the following resolution was passed:—

Resolved: That this association of Canadian Clubs in conference assembled, records its opinion that the Canadian method of naturalizing aliens is lacking in ceremony, impressiveness and especially in instructiveness; and that these defects ought, in our national interests, to be speedily and effectively remedied.

That we approve of the action of our Winnipeg Club in the initiation of it of ceremonial distributions of naturalization certificates, and approve of those proceedings.

That we approve of their action in negotiating with the Department of State at Ottawa to give permanence to that method of distribution.

That this association adopts the policy in co-operation with the Department of State, of supplementing official action in naturalizations by arranging and sponsoring ceremonial proceedings upon the lines followed by the Winnipeg Club on May 23, 1932.