

Q. When did he reach the judge? Was that after he received it?—A. He attended before the judge before the certificate was issued. The judge examined him to see if he could make himself intelligible in English or French. That was really the whole object of that. I think I put through eighty or ninety in one day.

*By Mr. Black (Yukon):*

Q. In British Columbia they require the applicants to have two sponsors appear with him before the judge.—A. That is not provided for in any of the regulations, but that may be imposed as a little requirement there just on their own motion. But there is nothing providing for that.

I was going to say that in 1940 Mr. MacNeill, parliamentary counsel of the senate, Mr. Coleman and I went down to Washington to inquire into the proceedings leading up to naturalization down there. We were greatly impressed with the way in which they naturalized people in the United States. In the first place, an applicant had to reside in the United States five years, I think it was, and within two years before he applied he had to make a declaration of intention, or file a declaration of intention; notice of intention, as they call it.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. They call it the first papers.—A. The first papers, they call it. That gave the authorities down there practically two years to make inquiries as to the man, and they would send over to his country to find out about him. Suppose he came from Germany, England, Scotland or anywhere you like. They would inquire over there through the proper channels as to the character of this man and get all possible information about him before he ever came to the United States. Then when it came to the application, he had to be sponsored by two United States' citizens of standing in his community. They had to certify that they knew him, that he was of good character, and give other information about him. Then after the two years, when this application was made and filed, he would then have to appear before the court. The government does not naturalize applicants. It is the court that naturalizes them. So he appears before the court. This I think is an important point. They appear on certain days. They have naturalization courts so many times a year—I think it is three or four times a year—and all these applicants have to come in and attend that one session of the court, with their sponsors. I can tell you what we actually saw.

When in Washington we asked the people there, who were exceedingly kind and showed us everything they had there, if there was any court sitting about that time and they said there was none in Washington but there was one in New Brunswick, New Jersey. So Mr. MacNeill and I went to New Brunswick and got into the court there. The judge asked us to sit on the bench with him, so we sat on the bench all one morning with the judge; and I think there were about eighty or so applicants there. The court house was crowded; in fact, they had to close the doors, and there must have been a couple of hundred outside waiting for the next batch, so to speak. They were standing all around the halls and everywhere else. The place was crowded. Then the representative of the government at Washington, or counsel for the government at Washington, was there with all the papers. The judge would have a list and he would call a certain name. Then the man had to appear along with his two sponsors. They had to appear with him, and the United States' counsel would examine them, the man himself and the two sponsors. In some cases it was not a very long examination. The judge would also ask questions, and if he found everything satisfactory he would say, "All right. You will be naturalized." Then they would go off and sit down and another batch would come up, until he went through the whole lot of them. At the end of this he delivered a very, very fine