

Colonel FORTIER: I cannot say I agree but I must submit myself to decision of the committee.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I intend to vote against the amendment.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON: I have been a very strong adherent of practically open-door immigration all my life, and I have found that one of the strongest objections, apart from that pertaining to employment, against immigration is that people are liable to come and settle in racial groups. I had that raised against me in British Columbia in 1938. At that time Sir Henry Page-Croft, from England, and General Hornby, of Alberta, although English by birth, were interested in a project to assist in bringing out a group of people from the United Kingdom, particularly to northern British Columbia; and one of the strongest arguments against it was that that would mean a racial group settling there; they would all know English or some of the United Kingdom languages; and that was one of the strongest arguments against us at that time when we were trying to bring in these people, that you were destroying Canadian nationalism by bringing in groups from one particular country who were going to live together in an area in Canada. As I say, that was one of the arguments raised against it, and the scheme fell flat, though not necessarily for that reason, but because war came in 1939. This proposal to provide citizenship at a certain period if they knew English or French might destroy that argument.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: But, Madam Chairman, all we are doing here is simply giving citizenship after the twenty-year period, in future. That is a long time to be in a country.

The CHAIRMAN: Senator Roebuck has moved that as an amendment, Senator Haig.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Yes.

Hon. Mr. REID: Am I to understand that a person who is here twenty years, if Senator Roebuck's amendment is carried, would become a Canadian citizen irrespective of whether he could speak English or French?

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Yes.

Hon. Mr. REID: I think I would vote against that. I have seen too much of these little racial groups.

Colonel FORTIER: The reason why we wanted to require an adequate knowledge of French or English by the year 1959 is because, in the first place, we have better facilities to learn it, and we believe that we will thereby develop a better citizenship. I believe people get interested much more nowadays in newcomers; and as a result you have a better community, because these people, when they have citizenship, have the right to vote. If they do not understand English or French, how can they get posted on the situation of Canada as such?

Hon. Mr. ROEBUCK: The amendment is to strike out paragraph 2. At the present moment to be naturalized in Canada one must have a residence of five years and an adequate knowledge of English or French; with the qualification that if he has resided in Canada for twenty years he may become naturalized without an adequate knowledge of French or English. That is the present law. If my amendment to the bill is carried that will be the law in the future.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Question.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I move that the amendment be adopted.

Hon. Mr. EULER: I second the motion.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: It is easier for people to acquire a working knowledge of English today than it was twenty years ago. I certainly think you are going