

An hon. MEMBER: That is right.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): And he does not need your help from back there.

Mr. MARTIN: I have explained to the hon. member that first of all an intimation of the provisions of the bill was sent by telegram and, second, the bill was sent on October 12. In other words, when we let other parties know, some of them saw fit to make comment, while others, for reasons of their own, had no comment to make.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Who made it and what? That is what we are trying to find out.

Mr. MARTIN: The hon. gentleman must learn to be courteous if he expects a courteous reply.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): I am awfully sorry. If I do not seem to be courteous it may be merely my western ways. However, the minister is being a little difficult himself, so do not let us get excited.

Mr. MARTIN: The hon. gentleman is a new member and as time goes on he will learn that sometimes friendship can be abused. I know he does not want that to happen.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Certainly not. Now, please teacher, adopt your own ethics and we shall get along all right.

Mr. HAZEN: There is another question I should like to put to the minister.

Mr. RAYMOND (Beauharnois-Laprairie): Will the minister be kind enough to tell me what addition is made by this bill to what we already had in our statutes? The purpose of this bill is to create a Canadian nationality, but we already have an act, of which I have a copy before me, entitled, "an act to define Canadian nationals and to provide for the renunciation of Canadian nationality." That act was passed in 1921. At the end of the act will be found a declaration of renunciation of Canadian nationality. We cannot renounce what we do not have. We already have in this country a Canadian nationality and I should like to know if anything is added by this bill. What is the difference between a Canadian national under the act of 1921 and a Canadian citizen under this bill?

Mr. MARTIN: The hon. gentleman asks what is done by this bill that is not done by the existing law. First of all, what is the existing law? There are three relevant acts. First, there is the Naturalization Act. My hon. friend nods and I hope he does not mean that I should push on, because I do want him

[Mr. A. L. Smith.]

to see the difference. Under that act imperial naturalization certificates were extended to applicants. It had an extra-territorial effect. That is the Naturalization Act, of which the act of 1914 was an amendment. The Naturalization Act simply provided for the issuance of naturalization certificates to non-British subjects, people who sought entry into Canada through the Immigration Act.

Then there was the Canadian Nationals Act introduced into this house by the then Minister of Justice, Mr. Doherty. It is true that that act did seek to define for a specific purpose what we call a Canadian national.

Mr. RAYMOND (Beauharnois-Laprairie): It was creating a Canadian nationality.

Mr. MARTIN: My hon. friend says that it was creating a Canadian nationality, but with great respect I say that it was not. What the act in its specific terms did was to give a definition of "Canadian citizenship" by reference. By reference to what? By reference to the Immigration Act, about which I shall have something to say in a moment.

We had become signatories to the peace treaties; we were members of the league of nations; we had adhered to the statute of the permanent court of international justice. Because there was no such designation in the the Immigration Act of a national the government of the day felt that in order to overcome what seemed to be a legal difficulty there should be an act called the Canadian Nationals Act which had as its purpose the enabling of Canadians to hold certain designated offices under some of the organizations set up by the treaties of peace. That was the purpose of that act. Speaking in the house, the then Minister of Justice indicated that it was intended to be nothing else. He was faced with the sort of questions that we have been faced with in this debate, that by trying to create a Canadian nationality we were breaking up the commonwealth and so on. In order that he would not be faced with that difficulty in the light of public opinion in this country twenty-seven years ago he brought in that act for those limited purposes. The important thing about the Canadian Nationals Act is that it really had no definition at all except for one minor purpose. Its definition of "citizenship" was a definition by reference to section 2 of the Immigration Act.

The anomalous position created as a result of the act of 1919 was that the only designation of citizenship in this country was to be found in the Immigration Act. No country in the world has ever defined its citizens by a similar measure. The result is that until this bill becomes law the only class of people