

With reference to your request to be furnished with a copy of the act or regulations under which this system is carried out, I beg to say that the procedure to which you refer is not specifically covered by any act or regulations.

I draw attention to the following:

What we work under is simply the sum of our experience.

I wish I could interest the hon. leader of the opposition, with that wonderful gift he has of epitomizing a situation in one vital sentence, in describing a situation under which an official writes to a member of the public and says: "We work under the sum of our experience." In other words, we do exactly as we please, apparently owing no allegiance to God or man in the matter. It is, however, inaccurate. There are regulations he works under, and I propose to quote them. If the Prime Minister will allow me I will send over a copy of them so that he will be able to follow my remarks. I have here a large and important looking sheet entitled "Form of Application for Passport—Form A." The back of it is chock-full of regulations, and is stamped with a big stamp to the effect that the fee for a passport is now \$5, and for a renewal \$2; that is 250 per cent of an increase since the previous year. If they did away with a lot of red tape they might be able to reduce the charge. One of the conditions is this: Section 4 says:

Passports are granted in the case of natural-born British subjects upon the production of a declaration—

I will show it is not a declaration at all.  
—by the applicant in the authorized form, verified by a declaration made by the manager of any bank or by any mayor, police magistrate, minister of religion—

And so forth. It goes on:

The applicant's certificate of birth and other evidence may also be required.

Picture yourself having complied with all these red tape conditions, and then suddenly they require you to produce your certificate of birth, which may be six thousand miles away. Another condition is found in clause 6, which reads:

A passport cannot be issued by the Department of External Affairs on behalf of a person already abroad. Passports must not be sent out of the Dominion of Canada by post.

But if you pay the expense of using a messenger, you can send it, but you must not post it. Can the human mind conceive why that regulation is inserted there? Again, I find that these regulations are dated the 17th of September, 1915, right in the middle of the war, and naturally one would suppose they would be carefully calculated to prevent the

evil aimed at, which I presume was the ingress and outgo of German enemy spies or undesirable people of that character. I would undertake in half a day to formulate a scheme under these regulations by which a steady stream of aliens, Bolsheviks or people of any other character, might steadily go out, and there would be no way of checking them, and no way of punishing them, because there is not the slightest penalty provided for those who might engineer the thing improperly. There is no affidavit required from anybody at all, and there is no undertaking to do anything. If I engineered this scheme and was arrested for doing it, all they could say would be that I had been lying. They could not punish me. They could not step these men going out. It would be as easy as falling off a log as the saying is, and these regulations were framed in the middle of the war when the strictest regard should have been paid to this matter. No penalty is provided, no affidavit is required, no one has to take an oath; there is no provision for anything except signing your name.

Turning to the other side of the document, where a declaration is to be made by the applicant, the word "declaration" suggests to the legal mind, to any mind, something being declared before somebody, before a magistrate or a justice of the peace, or someone else. And there always was a clause inserted to this effect "This declaration shall have the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act". Does he have to do that here? Not on your life.

Mr. SPENCER: Does my hon. friend know that, through a little more red tape possibly, they will not accept the signature of a justice of the peace to-day?

Mr. NEILL: I know that. This document that he is supposed to declare he does not declare. All that he does is to sign his name. That is not declaring a document. All he does is to simply sign his name; he does not even have it witnessed though the document is to allow him to enter Great Britain. Then we come to the little safeguard that there is. It says "This document must be accompanied by a declaration to be made by a voucher." I always thought a voucher was a document by means of which you drew money out of the government of Canada, but in this case it is used in a sense of one who vouches. So this document has to be accompanied by some one who vouches. And what does he vouch for? That he the undersigned has personal knowledge of the said Mr. or Mrs. So-and-So and that the statements made in his or her de-