

Sullivan case. I think his decision is based on legal principles. I thought when that case first arose that the writ would issue but that the complete answer to it would be that the man was in custody under certain provisions of the defence of Canada regulations. I was astonished to learn that the decision was that the writ should not issue at all. I am not going to enter into a discussion of the fine legal principles which guide the judge. I am satisfied that he is right, and as no appeal has been taken that chapter is probably closed.

I am also curious to know what were the reasons for the seizure of the published speeches of the hon. member for North Battleford (Mrs. Nielsen). I understand they were verbatim reports of the speeches which she made in parliament.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): A few little changes.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Oh! Well, I was not aware of that. But I would suggest that the greatest care ought to be exercised in suppressing speeches of members of parliament. I might be in danger myself. However, that is only in passing.

I turn for a moment to ask the Prime Minister if he would be good enough to tell the house just what he has in mind with respect to the subject matter of naturalization. It has come to my attention that considerable hardship has arisen because of the action in this connection of the department of the Secretary of State. In the county of Victoria, in the province of New Brunswick, there was established sixty or seventy-five years ago a colony of Danish subjects, settled into a community which is known as New Denmark. Without any question they have been among the best settlers who ever came to New Brunswick. They are law-abiding and industrious. One scarcely ever hears of one of these men being before the criminal courts. In the thirty-nine years that I have been in practice I never heard of one being at the bar of justice for a major offence. Many of them, in fact most of them, have become naturalized. Yet I am informed that the certificates of naturalization of many of them have been revoked; they have not been given any reason for this, and they are in a state of alarm. One Danish couple came first to the United States in the nineteenth century, and subsequently, before we had so many restrictions and regulations about entry to this country, they came to Canada.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Might I interrupt my hon. friend to say that, as regards certificates of the people whom he has just mentioned, I

do not recall that any certificates have been revoked. Some of them may not have been naturalized up to the present, but I do not recall having revoked any certificates.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I have not my file in front of me, but I received quite recently a communication with respect to a man named Hans C. Hansen, who came to the United States with his young wife prior to 1900, and subsequently entered Canada and joined the Danish colony at New Denmark. I do not suppose they went through any immigration formalities; I do not know; I judge from the correspondence that they did not. Subsequently, I believe about the year 1900, these people were naturalized under the then law of Canada. After this war started they were visited by the mounted police. They are now about eighty years of age. I do not say that the police have harassed them; I should not like to put that construction upon their conduct. But certainly the visit of the police has alarmed them. They have been obliged to deliver up their certificates and have not got them back. I communicated with the Under-Secretary of State with regard to this case and he wrote back stating that if some reputable citizen would vouch for these people the position would be clarified and they would be left in peace. I have referred the matter to my colleague, the member for that county, and I have no doubt that will be done. But there was a case where there was absolutely no necessity for any action on the part of the police, and I hope that sort of thing will cease. I have just received a note to the effect that the certificate was returned yesterday, so that I will not pursue the case any further. It is however merely one out of a number, and I would bespeak a good word for these people down there, that they be left alone, because they are loyal British subjects, every one of them.

With regard to the question of not receiving any further applications for naturalization, I hope that will be considered by this committee and that there will be some good constructive suggestions in the report of the committee. There are still in New Brunswick a substantial number of people of European origin from countries overrun by the Germans—Dutch, Belgians in my own constituencies, coal miners, men and women from Denmark who have recently come to Canada under the auspices of the government—and they have either neglected to get their certificates or have not had the requisite length of residence to qualify them. War comes and they are denied the right to apply. I hope that some liberal consideration will be given these people.