

Mr. MARTIN: If she comes in before the bill is in effect, she comes in under section 9 (c).

Mr. GREEN: But if she comes in after the bill comes into effect?

Mr. MARTIN: Yes.

Mr. GREEN: She would have to appear in naturalization court?

Mr. MARTIN: That is right.

Mr. GREEN: Paragraph (e) reads:

(e) he has an adequate knowledge of either the English or the French language, or, if he has not such adequate knowledge, he has resided continuously in Canada for more than twenty years.

Some suggestion was made during the debate that there should be an age limit in that paragraph, that it should apply, for example, to the person who was fifty years of age or over rather than to everyone. As I read this paragraph, a young man who comes here at the age of ten years could qualify at the age of thirty years under this twenty-year provision even though he could not then speak either English or French. I take it that the intention was to cover only those people who are now so old that it is difficult for them to learn one of the official languages. If that is the purpose of the section, would it not be wise to word it in that way?

Mr. MARTIN: The hon. member has referred to the case of a boy who comes to Canada at the age of ten years and then applies twenty years later at the age of thirty. In the first place, the subsection is purely permissive; it does not state that a certificate must be granted to such a person. A discretion is maintained. As I said the other day, I was much impressed with the number of cases that had come to my attention. One notable one which I mentioned was that of a woman, over fifty years of age it is true, who came here from Europe. She had a number of children, all of them a credit to this country and to her. Two of those children fought with the armed services, one son being killed at Dieppe and the other being awarded the D.F.C. She had been turned down for citizenship and I had no answer to give that woman. That was one reason why, when I collaborated with my officers and with others, I thought this kind of section should go in. Many hon. members from all sides of the house, particularly those from the western provinces, have told me of like cases.

It is not possible to envisage every case and there might be one such as the hon. gentleman mentioned. But I think in that

[Mr. Green.]

case the judge and the minister, exercising the discretion that is permitted to them, would be on their guard about admitting to citizenship someone who had spent twenty years in this country, after having entered at the age of ten years, without having learned one of the official languages. I hope there will be no more wars, and so does the hon. gentleman, but I do not think any minister administering this measure should be put in the position of receiving requests such as the one I have mentioned and not being able to accede to it. I think the case to which my hon. friend refers is one that is unlikely to come up. Surely it is not conceivable that a boy would come to this country at the age of ten years and then twenty years thereafter not have an adequate knowledge within the meaning of the bill.

Mr. GREEN: As the subsection reads it will apply to any one who comes here in the future?

Mr. MARTIN: Yes.

Mr. GREEN: He may come next year, stay here for twenty years, not learn either English or French, and then apply for naturalization?

Mr. MARTIN: That is right.

Mr. GREEN: That is the effect of this subsection?

Mr. MARTIN: That is the effect.

Mr. GREEN: My final question has to do with the subject of an enemy state, for example, subjects of Germany or Japan. I see nothing in the bill referring to such people and apparently they are to be treated in the same way as people coming from any other part of the world. As the minister knows, after the last war special provision was made for the subjects of enemy countries

Mr. MARTIN: Would the hon. member mind waiting until we come to section 21 before discussing that?

Mr. GREEN: Is it the intention to put something in the bill to cover that matter?

Mr. MARTIN: That question properly should be asked under section 21.

Subsection 1 agreed to.

On subsection 2—Special certificate to minor children.

Mr. MARTIN: I wish to propose an amendment which I will ask my colleague, the Minister of Veterans Affairs to move. The amendment reads as follows:

That section 10 be amended.

1. By inserting a new subsection (2), as follows: