

*Naturalization Act*

The extreme of economic policy, national, imperial and international as propounded by the present Prime Minister, and the coercive methods by which he seeks to advance them are the negation of all that makes for harmony, all that makes for unity, all that makes for progress in our country in the empire and throughout the world. To these methods and policies in the extremes in which they are put forth, we who seek the preservation of the true spirit of our country and of the British Commonwealth of Nations are unalterably opposed. We wish to see our country first and our empire first; not first in assurance and arrogance, and in the methods of the blaster and the gunman, but first in those characteristics of true greatness which have given to Canada and to the empire the primacy which they to-day enjoy.

I beg to move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by Mr. Stewart (Edmonton) that the following be added to the address to His Excellency:

We respectfully submit to Your Excellency that this house, while recognizing the serious economic conditions prevailing throughout the world, regrets that the policies of His Majesty's government have not only failed to afford a remedy for employment and agricultural distress, as pledged by the Prime Minister and his colleagues, but have served further to prejudice the deplorable position of the agricultural interests, thereby causing additional unemployment and substantially reducing the national revenue.

The house believes that the proposals made to the Imperial economic conference and the manner in which they were submitted and discussed by the Prime Minister of Canada were responsible for the failure of the conference to accomplish its purpose in London, and that the successful development of Canada's trade relations with Great Britain has been adversely affected thereby.

The house is further of the opinion that, if these proposals and certain other of the policies of the government are persisted in, as would appear to be the intention of the government as outlined in the speech from the throne, the very serious condition which exists at the present time will be intensified rather than relieved.

On motion of Mr. Bennett the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Bennett the house adjourned at 10.30 p.m.

## Tuesday, March 17, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

### ILLEGAL WARFARE CLAIMS

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): I beg to lay on the table of the house the interim report made to His Excellency the Administrator of the government in council.  
[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

dated March 6, 1931, by Errol M. McDougall, Esquire, a commissioner appointed to investigate and report upon illegal warfare claims and reparations payable in respect thereof.

With the leave of the house I beg to move, seconded by Mr. Ryckman:

That five hundred copies in the English language and two hundred copies in the French language of the interim report to His Excellency the Administrator of the government in council, dated March 6, 1931, made by Errol M. McDougall, Esquire, a commissioner appointed to investigate and report upon illegal warfare claims and reparations payable in respect thereof, laid on the table of the house this day, be printed forthwith, and that standing order 64 in relation thereto be suspended.

Motion agreed to.

### NATURALIZATION ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 3 to amend the Naturalization Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. CAHAN: Mr. Speaker, this is a bill to amend section 13 of the Naturalization Act, chapter 138 of the revised statutes of Canada, 1927, which provides that the wife of a British subject shall be deemed to be a British subject and the wife of an alien shall be deemed to be an alien.

In 1923 a select committee of the parliament of the United Kingdom reported in favour of an amendment to that clause. It arose out of the fact that women who were British subjects and who had married American citizens were placed in an almost impossible position by reason of the enactment of the so-called Cable Act by the United States congress, passed on December 22nd, 1922, which provides that an alien woman who marries a citizen of the United States does not by virtue of such marriage become an American citizen. On the other hand, the law of the United Kingdom and the dominions is that the wife of an alien shall be deemed to be an alien. As a result there are in Canada some hundreds of women who were British subjects and Canadian nationals, but who, having married American citizens, did not thereby become American citizens, but who by the very fact of such marriage ceased to be British subjects and Canadian nationals. Consequently they are unable to obtain passports in the United States or in Canada to go abroad.

The late government in order to rectify this disability became parties to the nationality convention adopted at the Hague in