

NATURALIZATION OF FOREIGNERS IS NOW A LIVE QUESTION

Macdonald of Picton Wants to Know What Pressure Can- ada Has on Britain.

Ottawa, Feb. 3.—After the House had spent an hour and a half in clearing the order paper of non-contentious orders and motions for papers, Mr. Macdonald, of Picton, moved for correspondence or reports or interviews, etc., with the Imperial authorities regarding a uniform naturalization of aliens throughout the United Kingdom and the Empire.

He pointed out that aliens naturalized in Canada are citizens of Canada alone, and do not have such status in other parts of the Empire. The same peculiarity applied to naturalization in the United Kingdom. It was time the anomaly was removed. Even Mr. Perley, a member of the government, now mentioned as representative of Canada on the Imperial Defence Committee, would not be recognized in England as a Canadian, but as an American citizen, inasmuch as he was born in the States and naturalized in Canada.

Mr. Macdonald reviewed the different statutes applicable to the matter of naturalization. The inter-departmental committee had recommended a uniform qualifying period of five years. He thought that unity of the Empire would never be attained if these varying kinds of nationality were allowed to continue. He noticed that a new bill had been introduced in the Imperial House and assumed that it was based on the conferences held last summer.

MINISTER'S REPLY

Hon. Mr. Doherty, Minister of Justice, stated that negotiations had reached a stage where the matter could be arranged in such a way that British naturalization would apply to Canada, and Canadian naturalization to Britain providing both countries agreed to adopt certain regulating clauses. He stated that the five-year term of Imperial naturalization would have to be retained, and it was for Canada to decide whether she would retain her three-year term.

W. M. German asked whether it was the intention to have two laws, one for local naturalization and another for Imperial naturalization. Mr. Doherty said that such a course could be adopted if it were deemed necessary.

Wm. Chisholm, Liberal member for Antigonish, having manifested curiosity as to the manner in which public works estimates for that county were prematurely disclosed in the recent provincial by-election in that county, was informed in copies of correspondence submitted, that they had been sent by the secretary of Hon. Robt. Rogers to Senator Girroir in answer to his request.

Mr. Chisholm pressed for a reply, as to who had authorized their publication. Hon. Mr. Rogers conferred with the Premier and then replied that "the Minister did not authorize or send the communication." Mr. Chisholm was not satisfied and continued his inquiries until Speaker Sproule said further discussion was out of order.