

# NATURALIZATION LAW IS CHANGED

## Status of Citizenship of the British Empire is Estab- lished.

London, Jan. 7.—A new law of naturalization came into operation on January 1st, and there was established for the first time the status of citizenship of the British Empire.

"It is a step," says the Times, "which we welcome with peculiar satisfaction, seeing that we have urged it in these columns. Hitherto, so far as naturalization was concerned, Imperial unity meant nothing. The British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, the main provisions of which we have already mentioned, now effects the change that has long been desired."

The law provides, as Lord Emmott said in introducing the bill in Parliament, for a "system of Imperial naturalization on uniform and definite basis throughout the whole Empire." The Naturalization Act of 1870 required a qualification of five years' residence in the United Kingdom; any period of residence in a British colony did not count. Henceforth, the residential qualification will be five years anywhere in a British Dominion, provided that the applicant for a certificate in this country has spent the year immediately preceding naturalization in the United Kingdom. The Act does not, of course, take away or abridge any power vested in the Legislature of any British possession, but it is to be presumed that, in the spirit of the agreement reached at the Imperial Conference of 1911, all parts of the Empire concerned have expressed their readiness to recognize that the new statute has been "so framed as to enable each self governing Dominion to adopt it."