

REJECT PLAN TO REVOKE ALIENS' CITIZENSHIP

Canadian Club Members Say
Scheme Would Break
Faith

On the ground that the enactment of a law similar to the one suggested in the report of its franchise committee would require the Canadian government to break faith with thousands of naturalized immigrants, the Canadian club Tuesday, at a meeting in the Royal Alexandra hotel, refused to adopt the report and

after spirited discussion referred it back to the committee for reconsideration.

The report, presented by W. H. Trueman, K.C., a member of the committee, urged the government to pass a law parallel to the British naturalization act of 1918, empowering the secretary of state for Canada to revoke the certificate of naturalization of any person deemed unfit for citizenship because of criminal conviction, prison record or bad character.

It also urged legislation requiring a speaking knowledge of English or French as prerequisite to the exercise of suffrage, making it necessary for applicants for naturalization to appear personally in court, and forcing judges to forward to the secretary of state the record of the trial of any person whose right to citizenship could be questioned because of conviction in court.

Chief among the opponents of the measure was J. E. Adamson, who declared that the proposed measure was not only political and controversial in character, but was totally outside the province of the club. Ira

Stratton, Marcus Hyman and others spoke against the report as presented.

In general the advocates of the report took the position that a grave mistake had been made by the Canadian government in failing to restrict naturalization privileges long ago.

Their opponents seized upon this point and declared that the proposal now was to make the immigrant rather than the Canadian suffer for the mistake of the Canadian people.

"You are proposing to make so many scraps of paper of these naturalization certificates," said Mr. Adamson.

"We invited these people here. We spent millions of dollars in getting them to come. We promised them the benefits of Canadian citizenship. We should be true to them and to the contract that we made with them."

Marcus Hyman said that a large number of Jews would be affected and told of the extensive part in the war taken by persons of Jewish extraction as proof of what he termed the injustice of the act.

It was stated that the enactment of the British naturalization law would bar from citizenship a large number of Poles, Czecho-Slovak and Ukranians, who, although actually Austrian subjects, were in sympathy with the Allies and eventually were recognized as co-belligerents.