

PROVIDE AGAINST ALIENS RETURNING

Gen. Griesbach Brings Up Important Naturalization Point.

When Hon. Hugh Guthrie, in the House Saturday, moved second reading of the Act to amend and consolidate the Acts relating to British nationality, naturalization and aliens, Mr. Ernest Lapointe, of Kamouraska, objected on the ground that, owing to its importance, members should be given more opportunity for discussion. The bill, he said, had been introduced only three days ago.

Mr. Guthrie explained that the Act was merely a consolidation of two Canadian Naturalization Acts now in force, to which had been added the provisions of the Imperial Naturalization Act of 1918. This Act provided that any self governing part of the Empire may adopt section two of the Imperial Act if it desires to do so. Adoption of section two means that a naturalization certificate granted shall have force throughout the Empire.

Hon. Jacques Bureau declared himself against the principle that applications for citizenship should be left in the hands of any political party. He considered the judiciary the best tribunal to judge regarding citizens. It was better, he said, that a man should be in jail or dead than that his citizenship should be taken away from him.

Hon. Martin Burrell agreed that no power should be given any Government to revoke citizenship, but claimed that the proposed legislation did not do so.

Brig.-General Griesbach referred to the question of the status of aliens applying for naturalization who came from a country which had laws to prevent its citizens from becoming a citizen of another country such as Canada. He had particular reference to Germany, which, he said, kept control over those of its citizens who became naturalized in another country. These citizens were liable to be compelled to return and bear arms against the enemies of Germany, and even against the country in which they had become naturalized, as was the case during the great war. He objected to citizens of Germany and countries with similar laws, therefore, being allowed naturalization in this country.

The House then went into committee on the bill.