

Section 8.—Citizenship and Naturalization.

At the last four decennial censuses, those of 1901, 1911, 1921 and 1931, inquiry has been made into the citizenship of the foreign-born population. The relevant instructions to enumerators at the Census of 1931 were as follows:—

“The term ‘Canadian’ should be used as descriptive of every person whose home is in the country and who has rights of citizenship in Canada. Every person born in Canada should be entered as ‘Canadian’ unless he or she has subsequently become the citizen of another country. Similarly any person born in the United Kingdom or in any of the British Dominions or dependencies, who has not subsequently become the citizen of another country, and who is now permanently domiciled* in Canada, should be entered as ‘Canadian’. Similarly also, any person born in the United States, France, Germany or any other foreign country, but whose home is now in Canada, and who has become a naturalized citizen of Canada, should be entered as ‘Canadian’

“An alien person should be classed . . . as of the nationality or citizenship of the country to which he or she professes to owe allegiance.

“A married woman is to be reported as of the same citizenship as her husband.

“A foreign-born child under 21 years of age is to be reported as of the same citizenship as the parents.

“The law of Canada relating to nationality is contained in the Immigration Act, (Chapter 93, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927) under which a ‘Canadian’ by nationality is defined as—

“(I) A person born in Canada who has not become an alien;

“(II) A British subject who has Canadian domicile;*

“(III) A person naturalized under the laws of Canada who has not subsequently become an alien or lost Canadian domicile.*

“ . . . Following the participation of Canada in the Treaty of Versailles and in membership of the League of Nations, Canadian nationality was defined by Act of Parliament (‘An Act to define Canadian Nationals and to provide for the Renunciation of Canadian Nationality’, Chapter 21, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927), as including:—

“(a) any British subject who is a Canadian citizen within the meaning of the Immigration Act, Chapter 27 of the Statutes of 1910 as heretofore amended.

“(b) the wife of any such person;

“(c) any person born out of Canada, whose father was a Canadian National at the time of that person’s birth, or with regard to persons born before the passing of this Act, any person whose father at the time of such birth possessed all the qualifications of a Canadian National as defined in this Act.

“In connection with the last paragraph it should be noted that a child of Canadian parents domiciled in a foreign country retains Canadian nationality up to the age of 21 years, and should he become domiciled* in Canada prior to that age does not require to be naturalized.

“It is proper to use the term ‘Canadian’ . . . when the information furnished by the individual conforms to the foregoing definitions and explanations.”

Table 33 deals with the citizenship of the Canadian born, the British born and the foreign born of the population residing in Canada at the date of the Census of 1931. As regards the total (8,069,261) native-born population, 8,052,459 were “Canadian Nationals” and were made up of 8,051,142 persons with uninterrupted citizenship and 1,317 naturalized repatriates. Of the total native born resident in Canada at the date of the census, 16,802 were aliens owing their allegiance to some foreign country—in the case of females usually as a result of marriage. The table also shows that of this number (16,802) of Canadians of alien nationality, 5,991 owed allegiance to various European countries, 286 to Asiatic countries and 10,477 to the United States.

The second part of the table shows that of the total number (1,184,830) of British born in Canada on June 1, 1931, all were not “Canadian Nationals” within the meaning of the Immigration Act already quoted, there being 135,426 who had

*Canadian domicile can only be acquired for the purposes of the Immigration Act by a person having his domicile for at least five years in Canada after having been landed therein.