

an underlying community of status for all the people of Canada that will help to bind them together as Canadians. Heretofore, the only definition of Canadian citizenship was to be found in the Immigration Act, and that was a limited one, for it defined citizenship only for purposes of immigration. Now, for the first time in Canada's history, there is a clear definition of Canadian citizenship in the sense of being nationals of Canada.

Natural-born Canadian Citizens.—The Canadian Citizenship Act, 1947, defines clearly the status of natural born-Canadians before and after the coming into force of the Act. It covers those persons born in, and outside Canada. Provision is also made for the citizenship of a Canadian-born person born abroad, out of wedlock. Such a person is a Canadian citizen if his mother was born in Canada, or on a Canadian ship, and had not become an alien. Heretofore, a person in that category had no claim to Canadian citizenship. A person born abroad of a Canadian parent before the commencement of the Canadian Citizenship Act, 1947, is not deemed to have the status of a Canadian citizen, unless he has been lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence, or is a minor. A person born abroad of a Canadian parent after the new Act came into force is a Canadian citizen, but there is a proviso that his birth must be registered at a Canadian consulate, or with the Secretary of State of Canada, within two years after its occurrence, or within such extended period as may be authorized in special cases by the Minister, if his parents wish him to retain Canadian citizenship. In addition, a Canadian born outside Canada, either before or after the commencement of this Act, ceases to be a Canadian citizen unless within one year after he reaches the age of 21, he files a declaration of retention of Canadian citizenship, and, if he is also a citizen of a country other than Canada (dual nationality), he divests himself of such nationality by declaration of alienage, or otherwise. In special cases, the Minister may extend the time during which any such person may assert his Canadian citizenship and divest himself of the other nationality or citizenship. One of the important features of the new Act, with respect to which the procedure is set out in the Regulations, is that which permits a natural-born Canadian citizen to apply for a certificate of Canadian citizenship. Many Canadians travel abroad these days, and many of them reside abroad for a number of years. They, in particular, may wish to have certificates identifying them as Canadian citizens. But any Canadian, whether he intends to travel or stay at home, may apply to the Secretary of State of Canada for a certificate of Canadian citizenship and obtain one upon the payment of a fee of \$1. This is something quite new, and a distinct departure from the former procedure. Under previous Acts, there was no provision for the issue of certificates to Canadian citizens or British subjects, as their birth certificates were deemed to be sufficient evidence of their status.

British Subjects and Canadian Citizens.—British subjects, as distinct from Canadian citizens, have their status defined under the new Act. It should be explained that, under previous Acts, persons born or naturalized within the British Commonwealth of Nations were officially designated as British subjects. Officially, a Canadian could not describe himself as a Canadian citizen; the term was 'British