

born Canadian citizen to apply for a certificate of proof 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 Minister of Citizenship and Immigration 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 of proof to Canadian citizens or British subjects, as their birth certificates were deemed to be sufficient evidence of their status.

British Subjects, Commonwealth Citizens, Citizens of the Republic of Ireland 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 were officially designated as British subjects. Officially, a Canadian could not describe himself as a Canadian citizen; the term was 'British subject'. This was one of the principal reasons why the Act was passed, viz., to permit a Canadian to call himself a *Canadian*. The authority for this procedure is found in Sect. 3 of the new Act, which reads:—

"Where a person is required to state or declare his national status, any person who is a Canadian citizen under this Act shall state or declare himself to be a Canadian citizen and his statement or declaration to that effect shall be a good and sufficient compliance with such requirement."

Although the designation, British subject, will be dropped in future, insofar as it applies to Canadians, this does not mean that a Canadian loses the status of a British subject or a Commonwealth citizen. Section 21 of the New Act reads that a Canadian citizen is a British subject.

The status of citizens of Ireland is set out in subsection (3) of Sect. 23 of the Act, as amended, reading as follows: "23. (3) Any law of Canada, including this Act, and any regulation made under the authority of any law of Canada shall, unless it otherwise provides, have effect in relation to a citizen of the Republic of Ireland who is not a British subject in like manner as it has effect in relation to a British subject"

It should be emphasized that the rights of non-Canadian British subjects have not been changed or infringed upon by the new Act. They will continue to have the right to vote, to obtain old age pensions, and the right of permanent entry after five years' residence in Canada. But they are not Canadian citizens until they have established a residence of five years in Canada. Those who have that residence at the commencement of the Act are Canadian citizens, and those who attain it after that date must apply for certificates of citizenship before being granted the status of Canadian citizens.

However, any British subject, whether or not he is a Canadian citizen, may apply for a certificate of citizenship. The British subject who is not a Canadian citizen may apply for a certificate direct to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration or, alternatively, he may apply to the court of the district in which he resides. If the Minister is in any doubt as to the qualifications of the person who applies direct to him, he may refer the case to the court for consideration.