

Canada Is Seen Without Collective Song To Sing

By CAROLYN WILLET
Canadian Press Staff Writer
OTTAWA (CP) — Is Canada a nation without a common song to sing?

Any call for a rendition of the national anthem, it appears, would result in two choruses—one singing O Canada, the other God Save the Queen.

The Maple Leaf Forever, once a possible choice, seems less popular today.

On a national level, the statute books are bare of any definition of what the national anthem is.

Since 1948 an order-in-council dealing with military regulations has stipulated that officers and men shall salute if wearing head-dress or stand at attention, if bareheaded. Throughout the playing of the national anthem, O Canada, or a foreign national anthem.

These regulations altered 1939 military orders which did not mention O Canada.

NOT DEFINED
Although in the order-in-council the national anthem is taken to mean God Save the Queen, it is not further defined.

Two federal cabinet ministers have said that in their opinion, God Save the Queen, rather than O Canada, is Canada's national anthem.

Citizenship Minister Ellen Fairclough says "it's slightly ridiculous" to name any other song. Revenue Minister Nowlan agrees with Mrs. Fairclough that O Canada is a "nice" national song, but not the national anthem.

Mrs. Fairclough was commenting on a dispute in Toronto caused when three city controllers walked out of a banquet given by the Native Sons of Canada—a group which makes Canadian birth a condition of membership and contends O Canada is the national anthem.

An external affairs department spokesman said that Canadian missions abroad are authorized to use either song, or both. O Canada was usually used when an official occasion called for a rendition distinctively Canadian. This would include occasions where Canada participated along with Great Britain or other Commonwealth members using God Save the Queen.

Mrs. K. V. Draper, regent of Ottawa's municipal Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire chapter, said the national organization has asked the federal government to recognize God Save the Queen as the national anthem and O Canada as the national song. The IOE uses The Queen at its meetings.

TICKLISH ISSUE
Politically ticklish, the anthem issue came up in the House of Commons in 1955 when then prime minister Louis St. Laurent asked members to rise and sing "the Royal anthem" on the official celebration of the Queen's birthday.

Questioned in the House about his use of the term, Mr. St. Laurent said he had given no previous thought to the way it should be described.

At that time Prime Minister Diefenbaker, then an opposition member of Parliament, asked Mr. St. Laurent:

"Is it not a fact that God Save the Queen is our national anthem?"

Mr. St. Laurent replied that, to his knowledge, it has never been adopted by any act of Parliament, resolution or cabinet proclamation.

Later the same year Mr. St. Laurent in an address to the Trades and Labor Congress indicated he believed O Canada was becoming the national anthem by general acceptance and did not

need to be designated by legislation.

HISTORY UNCERTAIN
The Encyclopedia Canadiana states that it is not known when God Save the Queen—with a 200-year history and a distinctive royalist flavor in its earliest London performances—was first publicly played in Canada.

The encyclopedia lists O Canada, God Save the Queen and The Maple Leaf Forever as the "national" songs of Canada.

O Canada in its English versions is a musical marriage of this country's French and English cultures.

Calixa Lavallee, a native of Vevesheres, Que., reputedly com-

posed the music in one night to celebrate the official visit of the Marquis of Lorne, then governor-general, to Quebec City in 1880.

The original French-language words were written by Sir Adolphe Routhier, onetime chief justice of Quebec.

ABOUT 20 VERSIONS
Some 20 English versions—using Lavallee's music—have been published. The words most widely used are those of Hon. R. Stanley Weir of Montreal, a former judge of the Exchequer Court of Canada, who wrote his version for Quebec's tercentenary celebrations in 1908.

The Weir version:

O Canada! Our home and

native land!
True patriot-love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The true North, strong and free,
And stand on guard, O Canada.

We stand on guard for thee,
O Canada, glorious and free on guard for thee,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

We stand on guard, we stand
Dr. James Gibson, historian and dean of arts at Carleton University here who wrote the encyclopedia article, said in an interview some of the English versions are "completely different."

MOST POPULAR
He attributed the Weir version's popularity to the fact that several provincial school systems used the version in their readers.

It also has been officially adopted by the Association of Canadian

Clubs and several other organizations.

The Weir version was printed in an official form for the diamond jubilee of the Canadian Federation in 1927 and during the 1939 royal visit.

Dr. Gibson recalled that in British Columbia in the 1930s a generally used version was one written by a bank manager and was known as the "Buchan version."

The Buchan version:

O Canada! Our heritage, our love,
Thy worth we praise all other lands above,
From sea to sea throughout thy length
From Pole to border land
At Britain's side, what 'ere befall
Unflinchingly we'll stand,
With heart we sing God save the King
Guard thou our Empire wide
do we implore

And prosper Canada from shore to shore.

The Canadian Citizenship Council, co-ordinating body for national organizations doing citizenship work has expressed its official "hope" that Canada will have both a national anthem and a national flag by its 100th birthday in 1967.

The correspondence columns of Canadian newspapers have had their share of comments on the issue.

In at least one province—Ontario—the playing of God Save the Queen, or at least six bars of it is a statutory requirement at the end of theatrical performances and it is widely accepted

as a way to terminate public meetings.

The lack of a national anthem provides some problems for the tourist industry's work abroad.

J. H. Fountain of New York, a Canadian National Railways public relations officer, told the federal-provincial tourist conference Friday his researchers couldn't find a national anthem to use as a theme for broadcast material

on Canada prepared for the United States.

Ultimately the producers used two songs—O Canada at the start of the broadcast and The Maple Leaf Forever as the fade-out theme.

LONG TRADITION
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