

PENITENTIARIES—TICKET OF LEAVE AND PAROLE

Mr. Diefenbaker:

1. How many persons whose sentences on conviction for murder were commuted have been released from penitentiary either on ticket of leave or parole during each of the years since 1935?

2. Of such persons how many have subsequently been convicted of any criminal offence?

KING'S BIRTHDAY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CELEBRATION ON JUNE 6

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): May I be allowed to answer a question that was asked yesterday by the member for Acadia (Mr. Quelch)? The question reads as follows:

I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Can he say on what date the king's birthday will be celebrated this year?

I am pleased to be able to inform the house that His Majesty has graciously acquiesced in the suggestion of the Canadian government that June 6 be set aside for the celebration of his birthday.

MOTION FOR PAPERS

PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE—CLAIM OF
MRS. ORMA KLOCKOW

Mr. Diefenbaker:

For a copy of all the minutes and records of the board of review of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act respecting the claim of Mrs. Orma Klockow of Chamberlain, Saskatchewan, for payment of the allowance and her eligibility as a claimant therefor?

NATIONAL ANTHEM

PROPOSED ADOPTION OF "O CANADA" IN BOTH
ENGLISH AND FRENCH VERSIONS

Mr. A. Phileas Cote (Matapedia-Matane)
moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, the anthem "O Canada", in both the English and the French versions, should be the national anthem of this country.

He said: In introducing this motion, Mr. Speaker, "that in the opinion of this house the anthem 'O Canada', in both the English and the French versions, should be the national anthem of this country", may I, to begin with, assure this house that it is without any discrimination against or prejudice to the royal anthem "God Save the King". On the contrary, I for one wish that "God Save the King" remain the common denominator for all nations of the British commonwealth so far as an anthem is concerned. But as to Canada alone I believe—and I am not a pioneer in this field more than in any other—that the time has come for this parliament to recognize "O Canada" as our specific national anthem

National Anthem

and therefore to accept, first, what the government has already done; second, what so many organizations of various types covering a complete cross-section of the population in Canada have *de facto* admitted, and, third, what the outside world has come to believe as an unchallenged reality.

As every hon. gentleman in this house is already aware, the Canadian government has ordered our three armed forces to stand at attention while "O Canada" is being sung. I do not think a better recognition of "O Canada" as our national anthem could have been made by our government. As to the recognition already being given to "O Canada" by our population, may I point out that during 1948 the leading parties of this house held national conventions, and that at every one of those meetings the desire was expressed that "O Canada" be officially recognized as our national anthem.

With regard to organizations across the country already singing "O Canada" in both languages as our national anthem, may I be permitted to put at the disposal of any member here for verification the two large volumes of newspaper clippings that I have here on my desk, as concrete evidence. One will therein realize how popular, I would endeavour to say, "O Canada" has become; how respected and loved it is by organizations of youth, women and men, whatever may be their economic, social and political status or their racial origin. As a matter of fact, neo-Canadians or new loyalists to our beloved land, as well as pioneers of both major groups together, nowadays simultaneously sing "O Canada" with dignity, pride, emotion and feeling—yes, and are ready to "stand on guard for thee".

With regard to the outside world, may I say that if in many countries "O Canada" has become the unchallenged national anthem for our country, it remains, alas! as an actual fact that too many countries do not know if we have at all in Canada a most elementary symbol of a spiritual consciousness, or if it is "God Save the King", "O Canada", "The Maple Leaf Forever" or "Alouette". It must appear somewhat peculiar and unusual to many nations that the third greatest trading country of the world should be without an official national anthem. As I said before, several countries take for granted that "O Canada" is our Canadian symbolic song, irrespective of the version, so far as language is concerned. And far be it from me to pretend to ask for a definite wording in the English version; what I am simply asking for is that competent authority decide on a final and acceptable version. So far as the French version is concerned, it seems that