

view of the fact that the war was on, the question in regard to a flag and an anthem could stand over until after the war, which I think was wise. It was secondary, and I did not start it. I should like to ask the Prime Minister to clarify the statement he made last Tuesday, because when the law was looked into by me in 1927, on a question then put, the right hon. gentleman, then Prime Minister, stated that the existing anthem, "God Save the King," was and always would be Canada's national anthem, but that there was another one, which was somewhat provincial, like "The Maple Leaf Forever," and another provincial anthem namely "O Canada". Would he clarify that statement? I think the house should decide these two matters according to the Prime Minister's reply of a month ago.

Right Hon. W.L.MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I should like to clarify what I said, but I doubt if I could do so in words other than those I have already used. There are times and seasons for all things, and this time of war does not seem to me, and I am sure it does not seem to hon. members generally, to be an appropriate time to provoke a discussion, either in the house or in the country, on the question of either a national anthem or a national flag. I believe that by custom, so far as the national anthem is concerned, it may be said that both "God Save the King" and "O Canada", have been regarded -

Mr. MacNicol: And "The Maple Leaf Forever"--

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No; I am speaking only of the two--have been regarded as national anthems and have been accorded like recognition, not in all cases, but generally by courtesy. I should feel that during the period of war it would be preferable to allow matters to remain as they are. To go beyond that at this time would undoubtedly occasion misunderstandings abroad if they did not also occasion misunderstandings at home. It would be the wish of all, I am sure, to avoid unnecessary controversy. I feel strongly that at an appropriate time this house should pass a resolution which would give definite status to the national anthem or anthems to be accorded due recognition and observance in Canada, but I do not think that the present is an opportune time.

Mr. Church: The visitors referred to just did that as a matter of courtesy.