

THE CIVILIAN

VOL. II.

AUGUST 27th, 1909

No. 9

"O Canada."

Last winter, *Collier's* announced a prize for the best setting of English words to the music of "O Canada." That beautiful and moving tune was composed by Calixa Lavallée over a quarter of a century ago. Judge Routhier's words to it are sung by every fireside in Quebec, and at every gathering in French Canada. Uplift and power are in every phrase of the melody. It remained, therefore, to make it national by giving English words to the French Canadian music. To write a national anthem that shall be simple, dignified, inspiring, and singable is no slight task.

Four hundred recently essayed it. The winner is now announced as Mrs. Emma Powell McCulloch, of Toronto, with the lines which are given here-

But has Mrs. McCulloch written Canada's national anthem? That, we would think, no newspaper board of three can answer. The heart of the

people alone can answer that. We shall only know when we hear it, resonant and universal, in some hour when the race is moved by joy or sorrow, or is touched by the sterner sense of crisis. National anthems are as a rule begotten, not made. They have a way of "happening." Nevertheless, Mrs. McCulloch's verses, though given to us by the majority vote of a board of three, (for even the three were of two minds about them), must be allowed in all

kindness their chance. Perhaps *Collier's* has discovered the modern way of "happening" for national anthems. The whole incident is interesting, both for its result and for itself.

THE HOMELAND.

I

O CANADA! *in praise of thee we sing,
From echoing hills our anthems proudly ring.
With fertile plains and mountains grand,
With lakes and rivers clear,
Eternal beauty thou dost stand
Throughout the changing year.
Lord God of Hosts! we now implore,
Bless our dear land this day and evermore,
Bless our dear land this day and evermore.*

II

DEAR CANADA! *for thee our fathers wrought,
Thy good and ours unselfishly they sought.
With steadfast hands and fear'ess mind
They felled the forest domes,
Content at last to leave behind
A heritage of homes.
Lord God of Hosts! we now implore,
Bless our dear land this day and evermore,
Bless our dear land this day and evermore.*

III

BLEST CANADA *the homeland that we love.
Thy freedom came a gift from God above
Thy righteous laws, thy justice fair,
Give matchless liberty;
We thank our God that we may share
Thy glorious destiny.
Lord God of Hosts! we now implore,
Bless our dear land this day and evermore,
Bless our dear land this day and evermore.*