

eight different questions, all to the same effect, about a change of flag and anthem. The reply which the government has invariably given in this connection is that the war is on and that secondary matters can wait, which is right. But yesterday the Prime Minister gave a different answer with reference to "O Canada". The reply which he gave me in 1927 was that "God Save the King" had been and always would be Canada's national anthem, by law, statute, custom and usage. The learned gentleman informed me in 1927 that there was another anthem, provincial, not national, by custom in certain sections of Canada. I think that if the right hon. and learned gentleman will look into this question he will find that his answer given yesterday was not correct, because we were told, in reply to eight questions to which I have referred, that the matter was being left in abeyance until after the war. I challenge his statement of yesterday. The House of Commons consists of 245 members, and it has decided on four or five different occasions that there shall be no change. I fail to see, therefore, why the Prime Minister made the statement which he did yesterday and which I repeat is incorrect.

Right Hon. W.L.MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): The statement I made yesterday is wholly correct. My hon. friend refers to some date some years ago. Since that time we have had in Canada a visit by our King and Queen and on the occasion when Their Majesties were here, both "God Save the King" and "O Canada" were given like recognition as national anthems.

page 5262
July 28, 1942.

" O Canada "

(Request for further statement in answer to question as to status)

On orders of the day:

Mr. T. L. Church (Broadview): I wish to ask the Prime Minister a question referring to his reply on the evening of July 28, as reported in Hansard, page 5262, to the questions which had been raised about eight times this season on the flag and the national anthem by the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. La Croix)

The right hon. gentleman replied to me the other evening in reference to the statement he made on the national anthem in 1927, and he stated that since that time we had had in Canada a royal visit, on which occasion the two anthems were given equal recognition. In reply to an hon. member whose own side started this, he had already said in the house two or three times that in