

Canadian Railroad Trilogy - Gordon Lightfoot 1967

INTRO: / 1 2 3 4 / [D] / [Am7] / [D] / [Am7] /

There [D] was a time in [G] this fair land
When the [D] railroad did not [D] run [D]
When the [F#m] wild majestic [G] mountains
Stood a-[G6]lone against the [Asus4] sun [Asus4]
[D] Long before the [G] white man and [D] long before the [D] wheel [D]
When the [D] green dark [A] forest
Was too [C] silent to be [D] real [Am7] / [D] / [Am7] / [D] / [D]

But [D] time has no be-[G]innings
And [D] history has no [D] bounds [D]
As [F#m] to this verdant [G] country
They [G6] came from all a-[Asus4]round [Asus4]
They [D] sailed upon her [G] waterways
And they [D] walked the forests [D] tall [D]
Built the [D] mines, mills and [A] factories
For the [C] good of us [D] all [Am7] / [D] / [Am7] / [D] / [D]

And [D] when the young man's [G] fancy
Was [D] turnin' to the [D] spring [D]
The [F#m] railroad men grew [G] restless
For to [G6] hear the hammers [Asus4] ring [Asus4]
Their [D] minds were over-[G]flowing
With the [D] visions of their [D] day [D]
With [D] many a fortune [A] lost and won
And [C] many a debt to [D] pay [D] / [D] / [D]↓ for...they...

[A] Looked in the future and [Em] what did they see
They saw an [C] iron road running from the [D] sea to the sea
[A] Bringing the goods to a [Em] young growing land
All [C] up from the seaports and [D] into their hands [D]

Look a-[Am7]way, said [D] they, a-[Am7]cross this mighty [D] land
From the [Am7] eastern [D] shore, to the [Am7] western [D] strand

[A] Bring in the workers and [Em] bring up the rails
We gotta [C] lay down the tracks and [D] tear up the trails
[A] Open her heart let the [Em] life blood flow
Gotta [C] get on our way 'cause we're [D] moving too slow

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We gotta [C] lay down the tracks and [D] tear up the trails
[A] Open her heart let the [Em] life blood flow
Gotta [C] get on our way 'cause we're [D] moving too slow
[C] Get on our way 'cause we're [Asus4] moving too slow <SLOW DOWN>

[Asus4] / [Asus4] / [A7addG]↓ 2 3 / 1 2 3

Be-[D]hind the blue Rockies the [G] sun is de-[A7sus4]clining
The [D] stars they come [G] stealing at the [E7] close of the [A] day [A7]
[D] Across the wide prairie our [G] loved ones lie [A7sus4] sleeping
[D] Beyond the dark [G] ocean in a [A] place far a-[D]way [D]

[D7] We are the navvies who [G] work upon the [A7sus4] railway
 [D] Swinging our [G] hammers in the [E7] bright blazing [A] sun [A]
 [D] Living on stew, and [G] drinking bad [A7sus4] whiskey
 [D] Bending our [G] backs 'til the long [A7sus4] days are [D] done [D]

[D7] We are the navvies who [G] work upon the [A7sus4] railway
 [D] Swinging our [G] hammers in the [E7] bright blazing [A] sun [A]
 [D] Layin' down [D7] track and [G] building the [A7sus4] bridges
 [D] Bending our [G] backs 'til the rail-[A7sus4]↓road [A7]↓...is

</ 1 2 3 4 />

[D] done [Am7] / [D] / [Am7]

So [A] over the mountains and [Em] over the plains
 [C] Into the muskeg and [D] into the rain
 [A] Up the St. Lawrence all the [Em] way to Gaspé
 [C] Swinging our hammers and [D] drawing our pay
 [A] Layin' 'em in and [Em] tyin' them down
 A-[C]way to the bunkhouse and [D] into the town
 A [A] dollar a day and a [Em] place for my head
 A [C] drink to the living, a [A] toast to the dead [A7] / [A7]

Oh the [D] song of the [Am7] future has been [D] sung
 [D] All the [Am7] battles have been [D] won
 [D] On the [Am7] mountain tops we [D] stand
 [D] All the [Am7] world at our com-[D]mand
 [D] We have [Am7] opened up her [D] soil
 [D] With our [Am7]↓teardrops and our [A7sus4] toil
 [A7sus4] / [A7sus4] / [A7sus4]

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 When the [D] green dark [A] forest
 Was too [C] silent to be [D] real [D]
 And [D] many are the [A]↓dead men <PAUSE>
 Too [C] silent [C]/ [Cmaj7] / [Cmaj7]
 To be [D] real [Am7] / [D] / [Am7] / [D]↓

