

Canada: Turn of the Century

What were people doing?

- Settling in the West: Industries were booming in the cities
- 1901-1914 Canada's population jumped from 5 million to nearly 8 million
- Prime Minister Wilfred Laurier continued John A. Macdonald's "National Policy" to develop the Canadian economy through high tariffs, a transportation network, and opening the west

Clifford Sifton

- Started a huge advertising campaign (especially in Eastern Europe) to attract new immigrants to Canada



Pull Factors

- Pamphlets/Posters Promising Free Land in Canada's West
- Bonuses for steamship companies
- Free to practice own religion and benefits of a democratic society

Push Factors

- Fleeing poor economic conditions
- Overcrowded cities
- Expensive/Scarce farmland
- E. Europe and Russian Empire persecuted because of religion
- Work was limited
- Europe was preparing for war

Home Children

- Until 1935, over 80,000 orphans or unwanted children were sent to work in Canada from Britain in return for free room and board



Discrimination

- Canadian immigration regulations were particularly discriminating against Asians (South included) and Black people

Growth of Cities

- Rapid Industrialization = increased demand for industrial workers
- Increasing mechanization of farming = reduced need for manpower
- Growing need for service workers in towns near farms = workers drawn away from working the land

Alberta & Saskatchewan

- 1905
- Growing population of the Prairie Region
- Hard for the federal government to continue with the earlier method of governing the region

Britain and Canada

- Canada had its own government but Britain still governed some areas (ie. Defence and foreign affairs)

Manitoba Schools Dispute (1890-1896)

- Issue – 1890 Manitoba Schools Act cut off money for Roman Catholic schools & made English the only language of instruction
- Laurier compromised
- Significance?
 - Neither side was satisfied = led to division between English and French Canadians

Boer War 1899-1902

- Issue – Britain was at war with the Boers (Dutch descendants in South Africa)
- Britain wanted Canada to send an army
- French-Canadians did not feel they should be involved
- Laurier compromised – sent a volunteer army
- Significance – French-Can thought Laurier did too much/ English-Can thought Laurier did too little

Alaska Boundary Dispute 1902

- Issue – During Klondike Gold Rush, Canada & U.S. wanted Alaska Panhandle area
- Decision was left to 3 American judges, 2 Canadians, and 1 British judge.
- Result = British judge sided w/ Americans
- Significance = Canadians concluded that in the future they would control their own foreign affairs

Naval Crisis 1910

- Issue = With the possibility of war with Germany, Britain asked Canada to build Naval ships and give them to Britain. F-C said no, E-C said yes
- Laurier Compromised – Canada would create its own navy and serve Britain
- Significance = French-English relations strained

Reciprocity – 1911 (Free trade with U.S.)

- Issue= farmers supported reciprocity as it would make it less expensive to buy machinery from the U.S. Businesses did not like it because = competition
- No compromise – Laurier supported it and lost the election to Conservative Robert Borden
- Significance = Laurier era was over
