

### Unemployed protest: On-to-Ottawa trek

- ✦ The trekkers rode on top of freight cars, picking up more supporters along the way
- ✦ Known as 'riding the rods'
- ✦ In Regina, Saskatchewan, the RCMP confined them to a stadium (only the leaders were allowed to continue on)



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### Unemployed protest: dominion day / Regina riot

- ✦ Bennett called the leaders radicals and trouble-makers
- ✦ Back in Regina, July 1, 1935, the RCMP were to clear the trekkers from the stadium
- ✦ The trekkers resisted; one man was killed, many were injured, and 130 were arrested



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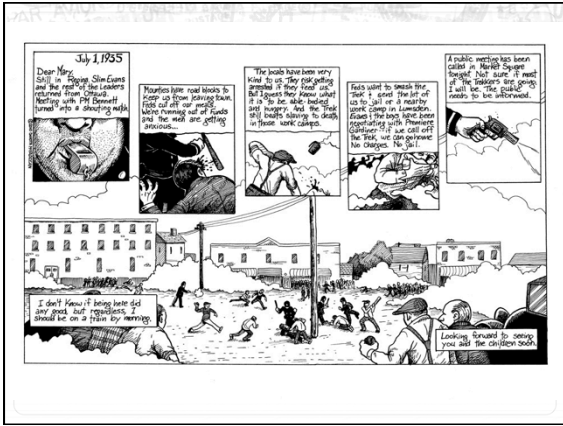
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## Trouble in Vancouver

- + 1937 Federal Government closed relief camps
- + Provincial Government decreased relief payments
- + April 1600 protesters – Vancouver Art Gallery, Post Office, Georgia Hotel
- + Men at Post Office refused to leave/tear gas is a strong motivator
- + 2 days of conflict/ police – “sitdowners”




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The On-to-Ottawa Trek and Regina Riot




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## The other side of Bennett

- ✦ 1932: Bennett created the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission (predecessor to CBC)



- ✦ 1934: Bennett created the Bank of Canada to regulate currency and monetary policy



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## The 'new Deal'

Bennett promised:

- ✦ a more progressive taxation system (the more you make the more you pay);
- ✦ a maximum work week
- ✦ a minimum wage (provincial responsibility);
- ✦ closer regulation of working conditions
- ✦ unemployment insurance (not a federal responsibility until 1940)
- ✦ health and accident insurance (provincial);
- ✦ a revised old-age pension (not federal till 1951);
- ✦ agricultural support programs Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration Act, 1935 helped farmers build irrigation systems and reservoirs—

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## Bennett's Infamy

Even though Mackenzie King had very little success helping Canada emerge from the Great Depression, PM Bennett has taken the greatest amount of criticism for his policies.

As a result, he has left behind a legacy of jokes such as Bennett buggies and Bennett blankets



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## Bennett's Infamy

- Became target for peoples frustration
- Bennett Barnyard – deserted farm
- Bennett blanket – newspaper
- Eggs Bennett – boiled chestnuts
- Fear of jobless becoming communist
- 1931 Communist Party banned
- Tim Buck (general secretary arrested)
- Like Mackenzie, was a bachelor
- Secretly Generous – sent thousands of his own money to people in need



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## Mackenzie King

- Prime Minister for 22 years – 1921-1926, 1926-1930, 1935-1948
- Was noted as being dull
- Secret “bad boy” life – talked to the dead (mom, dogs, other politicians) and into other weird things...
- 1935 Mackenzie King is re-elected
- Voters tired of Bennett not dealing with economic problems
- Established commission to find solution but didn't follow the recommendations
- Good relationship with Churchill and Roosevelt



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## The ‘new Deal’

- ✦ Mackenzie King won the next election, and became PM again
- ✦ PM King expressed his dislike for Bennett's ‘New Deal’
- ✦ The Supreme Court of Canada deemed the ‘New Deal’ unconstitutional because the issues were provincial concerns
- ✦ King did little to better the economy

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## Depression ~ Prime Ministers

**Bennett**



**King**



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## Politics of Protest Communist Party

- ✦ The Communist Party of Canada was formed June 1921 in Guelph, Ontario.
- ✦ The Communist Party was outlawed during the depression.
- ✦ In August 1931 Tim Buck, the leader, and eight other members were imprisoned for holding the wrong ideas.
- ✦ Buck avoided assassination in prison.



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## Federal Alternative

- ✦ 1932: the ~~Cooperative Commonwealth Federation~~ (CCF) was a socialist party dissatisfied with the government's response to the Depression
- ✦ Leader: J.S. Woodsworth
- Political platform: Regina Manifesto
- - support for public ownership of key industries
- for social programs to assist people( the elderly, the unemployed, the homeless, the sick etc); universal healthcare



money on public works to crea



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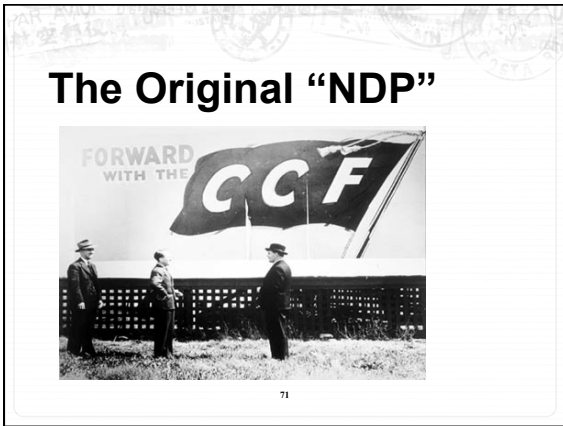
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### Platform: Regina manifesto

- ✦ Support for public ownership of key industries
- ✦ Social programs to assist people in need of money: the elderly, unemployed, homeless, sick and others
- ✦ Urged government to create public works projects to create employment
- ✦ CCF was the predecessor to the New Democratic Party

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### Social credit party

- ✦ 1935: Social Credit Party (Alberta) led by William Aberhart
- ✦ Very popular party
- ✦ 'Bible Bill' Aberhart, on his radio program, publicized the party's beliefs
- ✦ Belief: capitalism was a wasteful economic system; banks hoarded money, preventing customers from buying goods



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## Social credit party

- ✦ Promise: a “basic dividend” of \$25/month to buy necessities (but the federal government would not allow provincial government to issue its own money)




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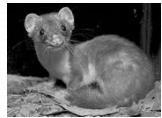
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## Provincial alternatives

- ✦ Quebec (1936)
  - ✦ Union Nationale Party
  - ✦ Led by Maurice Duplessis
  - ✦ Relied on rural and Roman Catholic Votes
  - ✦ A nationalist French-Canadian party
  - ✦ Padlock Law-Outlaws communism
  - ✦ Blamed the English minority in Quebec for the province's social and economic problems




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## Provincial alternatives

- ✦ British Columbia (1933)
  - ✦ Premier Pattullo (Liberal) believed in greater provincial spending
  - ✦ Promised voters a 'Little New Deal'
  - ✦ Ideas:
    - ✦ Shorten work day
    - ✦ Increase the minimum wage
    - ✦ Increase relief payments by 20%
  - ✦ Attempted public works projects: a bridge over the Fraser River at New Westminster and a new city hall for Vancouver
  - ✦ The Pattullo bridge is thus named in his honour




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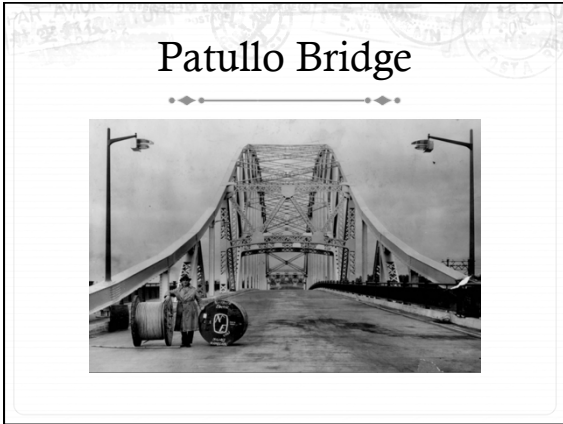
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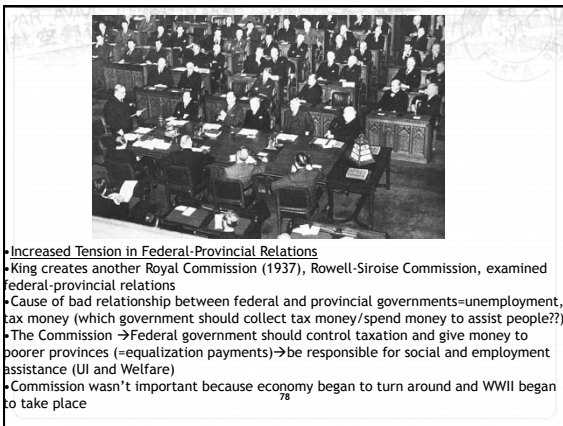
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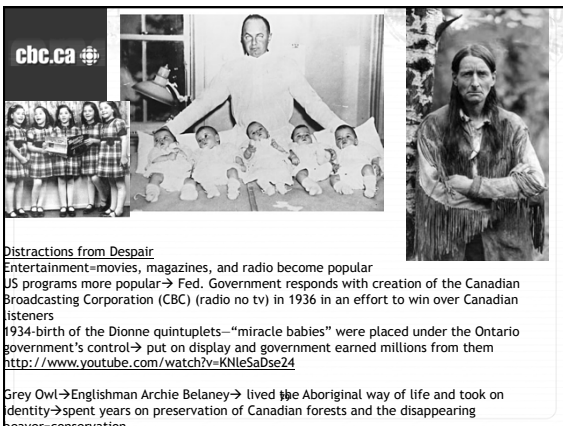
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USA Depression Era  
Photography by Dorothy  
Lange

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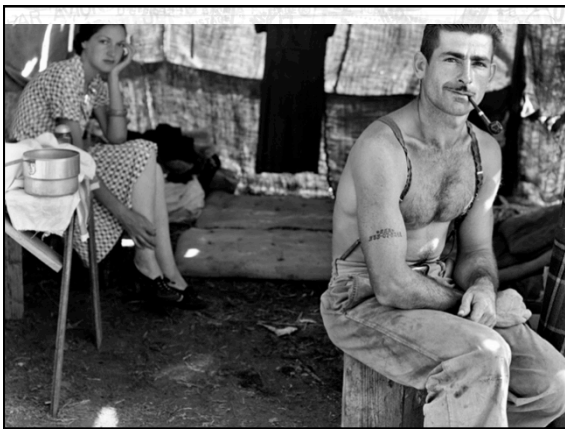
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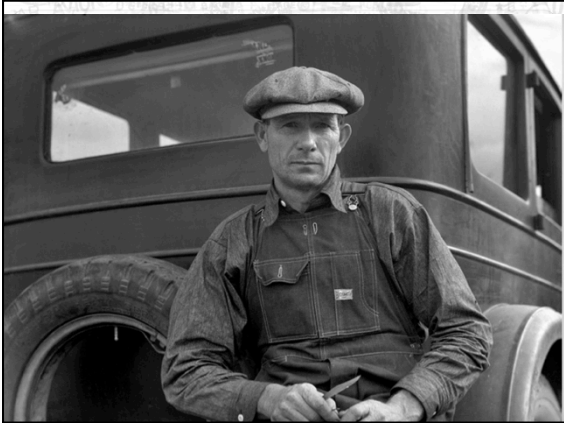
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