

Chapter 2

1896-1945: Nationalisms and the Autonomy of Canada

Section 3: Canada's Status in the British Empire



Pages that correspond to this presentation

Canada's Status in the British
Empire: Pages **114-121**

What is chapter 2 all about?...

A quick summary

- Canada gaining more independence → moving away from the British empire
- New waves of immigrants to Canada → British, Eastern and Southern European
- New provinces formed within Canada
- A slow but steady increase in Women's rights in Canada/Quebec
- First Nations continued to fight for their traditional lifestyles

What is chapter 2 all about?...

A quick summary

- Debates between English Canadians, Imperialists and French Canadian Nationalists broke out over Canada's involvement in 'British wars'
- Capitalism and industrialization transformed cities and American capital flooded Quebec
- Natural resources extraction in Quebec became even more important to the economy
- WWI helped push Canada into the 'Roaring 20s'

What is chapter 2 all about?...

A quick summary

- By 1929 → stock market crash with kicks off the Great Depression
- Urbanization took over → In Quebec: more people were living in cities than rural areas by 1921
- The Catholic Church got involved with the creation of Catholic unions
- The Great Depression led to new ideas on how society could function: Socialism
- Quebec continued to fight for autonomy from the federal government

What word do we find within the word 'Nationalism'?

- **Nation** → in your own words, what is a 'nation'?
- **People**/ group of people
- Within a **territory** or more than one territory
- **Shared** ideas, values, religion, language, culture
- Can different forms of Nationalism co-exist?
- What does **Nationalism** mean?

What word do we find within the word 'Nationalism'?

- 'ism' → in your own words, what is an 'ism'?
- Can you think of any examples of words that have 'ism' in them
- What do these words have in common
- After discussing 'nation' and 'ism' → how can we define 'nationalism'?
- How can we apply nationalism to Canada in more contemporary times?

Post Confederation Background

- Canada becomes an independent country on July 1st, **1867**
- Canada is a **dominion**
- Some rules:
 - Can't sign any **treaties** by themselves → they need England
 - Can't have any politicians that represent Canada in other countries
 - If England goes to war → Canada goes to war to **support** England

Post Confederation Background

- 4 provinces initially
- Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia
- French Canadiens (FC) in Quebec, Ontario, NB, Manitoba
- Country grows after land is purchased from England and more provinces join Canada
- WAVES of immigrants come to Canada and settle in Quebec and other provinces
- Different cultures = different ideas

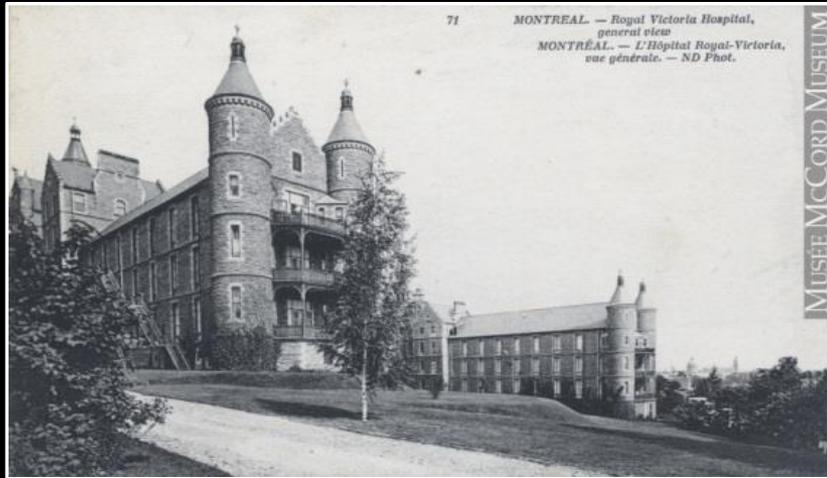
Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

- After July 1st, 1867 → Canada **NOT** a colony
- Dominion
- Still have to follow some British 'rules'
- Very similar to IMPERIALISM before 1867
- We are talking about Imperialism from 1867 until the mid 1900s
- British government still tries to influence Canada
- Imperialists wanted to consolidate British interests:
 - **Politics** / style of government
 - Military
 - Economy
 - **Culture**

Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

- How was Imperialism **expressed** in Canada in the Contemporary Period?
- **Naming** of places after important British figures
 - Bridges
 - Roads
 - Buildings
- **Events** (like parades) → ‘Diamond Jubilee Parade in 1897’ attended by Prime Minister Wilfred Laurier
- **Newspapers** that support the British government
- Sports that are linked to England (cricket, rugby, etc.)

Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s



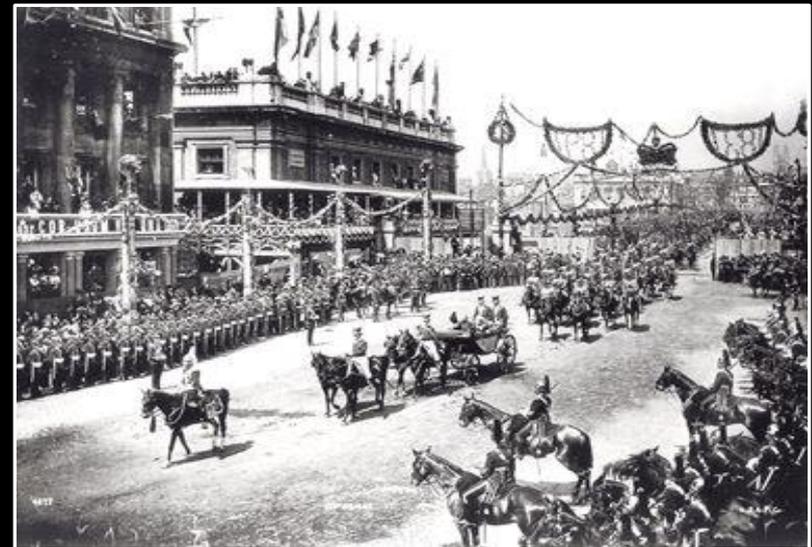
Royal Victoria Hospital around 1907



Cricket match at McGill University - 1890

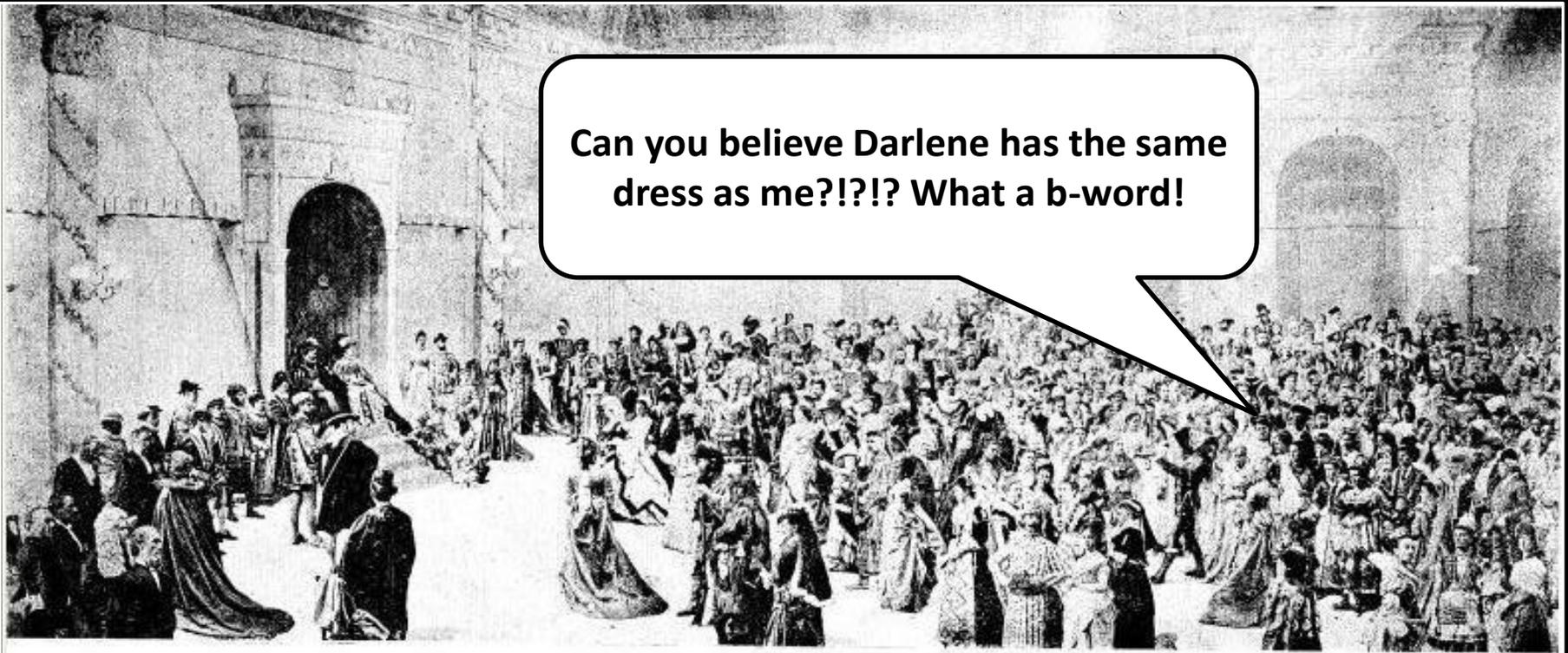


Victoria skating rink- costume carnival party -1870



Diamond Jubilee Parade for Queen Victoria in 1897

Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s



Copyright.

DUFFERIN FANCY DRESS BALL.
Government House, Ottawa, Feb. 23rd, 1876.

Photo by Topley.

Dufferin Fancy Dress Ball – February 23rd, 1876 in Ottawa

- **How could this event be considered as 'Imperialism'?**

Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

- The Diamond Jubilee parade in 1897
- Queen of England = Queen Victoria
- 60th anniversary of her ascension to the throne
- Major event
- Canada's prime minister at the time → Sir **Wilfred Laurier** of the Federal Liberal Party
 - Went to London, England for the celebrations
 - Was asked constantly about Canada's 'role' in the British Empire → Will Canada support England unconditionally?

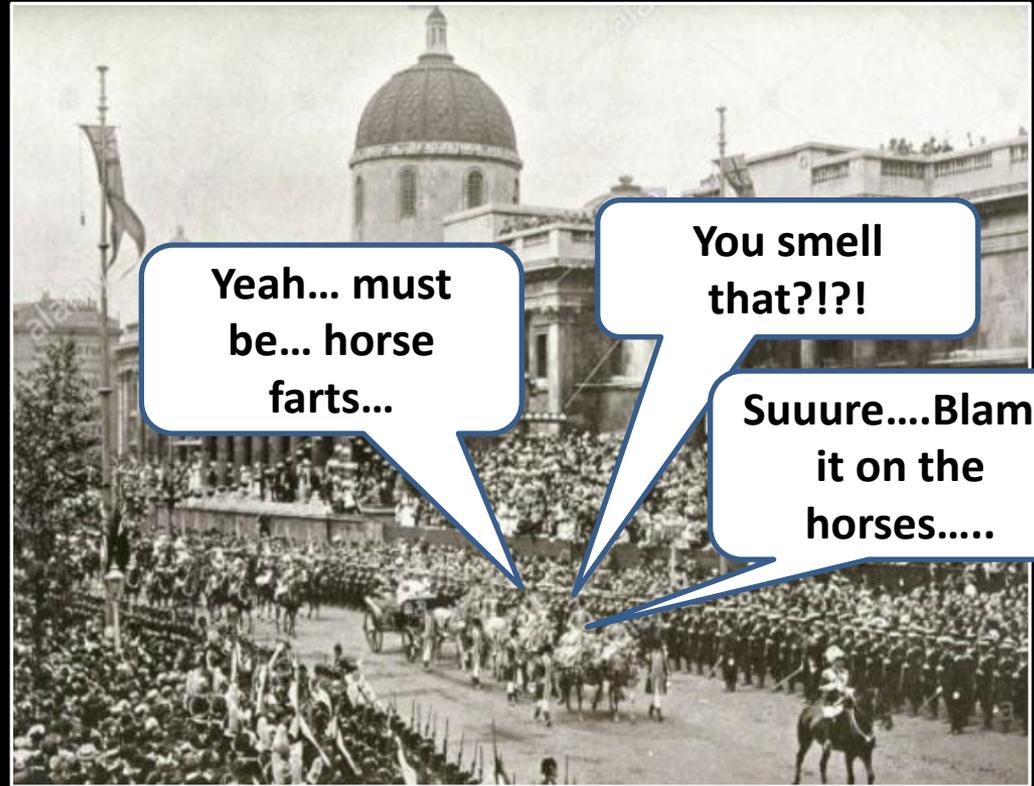
Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

Queen Victoria in 1897



Source: British Broadcasting Company.
<<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-17368499>>

Diamond Jubilee Parade- 1897



Source: Alamy. <<http://www.alamy.com/stock-photo/1897-diamond-jubilee.html>>

Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

- At the Diamond Jubilee celebrations:
 - Laurier did not say he would unconditionally support England
- Laurier continued to say ‘no’ to connections to England
 - Military connections
 - Economic connections
- People called him “Sir Won’tfrid”
- However, it seemed as though he could only say ‘no’ so many times...

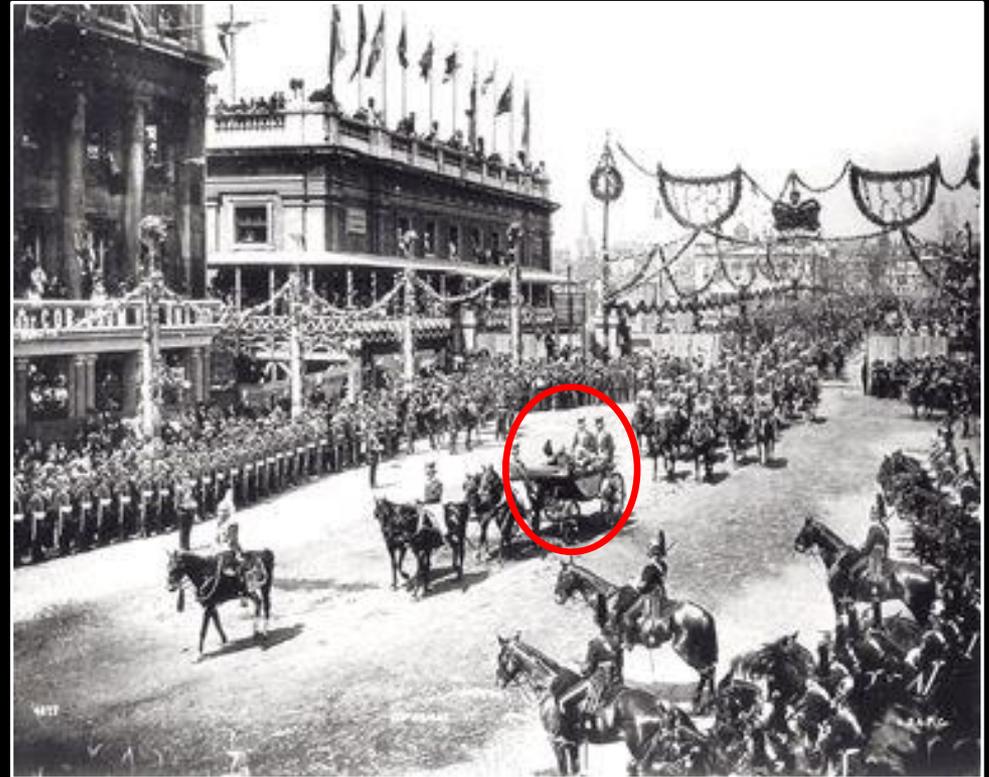
Imperialism from 1867 to the early 1900s

Wilfred Laurier around 1897



Source: Wikicommons.
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sir_Wilfrid_Laurier_c._1897.jpg>

Laurier's precession in the Diamond Jubilee Parade-1897



Source: The Canadian Encyclopedia.
<<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/queen-victorias-diamond-jubilee/>>

French Canadian Nationalism

- All over Canada → not just Quebec
- Proud of French language, Catholic religion and French Canadian culture
- Canadian, but wanted autonomy from British empire
- Did not want to spend money or send soldiers to fight for British interests
- Wanted equal rights for both languages, bilingualism & biculturalism within Canada

Poster from the French Canadian Celebration in Quebec City- 1880



Source: Encyclopedia for French Canadian Culture & Heritage in North America.
<http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/en/article-388/Saint-Jean-Baptiste_Society_Network:_from_French-Canadian_Unity_to_Quebec_Nationalism.html>

French Canadian Nationalism

- **Henri Bourassa**
- Journalist & politician
- Member of the House of Commons as a Liberal
- Started newspaper “**Le Devoir**”
- Fought for FC **rights/ideologies** within Canada
- He did not want Canada to build ties with England → he wanted a more independent Canada
- **Opposed** sending troops to Boer war and WWII → later opposed any form of conscription
- Opposed Canadian naval bill → did not want to pay so England could use Canadian navy

Henri Bourassa



My 'stache is much better than O'Neill's Movember 'stache

French Canadian Nationalism

- Bourassa's Newspaper, 'Le Devoir' became extremely popular in 1910 when it was founded
- Bourassa tried to unite Canadians (both French and English) and push them away from imperialist ideas
- Bourassa understood that English and French Canadians were different → respect the differences

Front page of a 'Le Devoir' newspaper in 1918



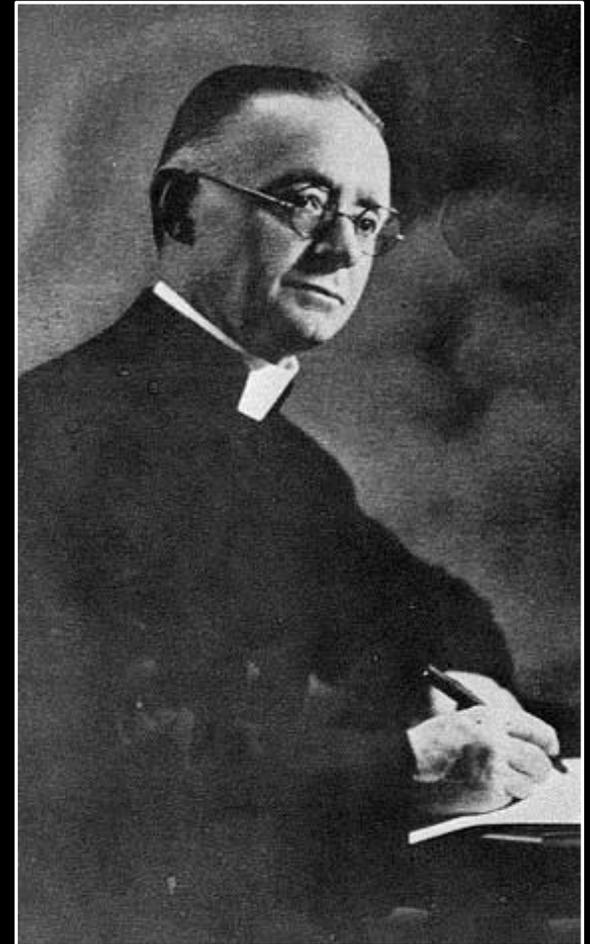
Source: Google News.

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=Qh5Z_vBjo80C&dat=19180422&printsec=frontpage&hl=en>

French Canadian Nationalism

- Lionel Groulx
- Priest, teacher and journalist
- Edited a French journal called **“Action-Francaise”**
- Fought for French Canadian rights within Canada
- French Canadiens should NOT be subordinate to English Canadians
- **Language and religion important for FC culture** → French Canadiens must stand up for their language, religion and culture in Canada
- Fought against conscription during WWI (1917)

Lionel Groulx



Source: Wikipedia.
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lionel_Groulx>

What about a Canadian identity...?

- In the late 1800s/early 1900s → we see another form of Nationalism → one that does not entirely agree with FC Nationalists OR Imperialists...
- This sentiment has sometimes been called **'Canadian Nationalism'**
- People who considered themselves 'Canadian Nationalists' thought that:
 - Canada should have an **attachment to the British Empire**
 - This **attachment should not DEFINE** who/what Canada is
→ Canada should have an identity separate from the British Empire

What about a Canadian identity...?

- The **Canadian Red Ensign flag** was a good symbol when considering Canada's push for its own identity
- The Red Ensign flag still had the British Union Jack → but it also had the Canadian coat of arms to reflect the provinces within Canada
- The coat of arms changed when new provinces joined Canada

**The Canadian Red
Ensign flag used in
1868**



What about a Canadian identity...?

- In 1897 → Wilfred Laurier was invited to London by the British Prime Minister, Joseph Chamberlain, to help plan to create an Imperial Council with all other British colonies/Dominions
- This council would work towards what was important for the British Empire → not necessarily what was good for Canada
- Laurier said 'no' to the council → he was concerned that Canada would not be able to decide what was important for itself → it would not have a voice

What about a Canadian identity...?

The Colonial Conference in London, England- 1897

Wilfred Laurier is the 2nd from the left in the front row



Important Events that helped shape a Canadian Identity in the early 20th century

- Canadian military support for the United Kingdom/British Empire
 - The Boer War
 - The Canadian Naval Services Bill
- These events were crucial moments for Canada
- They were moments that forced Canadians to think about how they wanted to participate within the Empire at the start of the 20th century moving forward

The Boer War: Context

- The United Kingdom colonized many regions in Africa in the 1800s → in particular what is now known as South Africa
- This region was important for the UK:
 - diamond and gold mines
 - Counterbalance the regions colonized by Germany
- The **Boers** → descendants of Dutch settlers who lived in areas spotted with potential for mining next to British held territory
- The Boer territories were called 'Transvaal' & 'Orange Free State'
- The British and the Boer would dispute the territory and go to war

The Boer War: Context

A Boer farmer family in 1886



Source: Wikipedia/Swaziland National Trust Commission Archives. <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boer#/media/File:Boerfamily1886.jpg>>

The Boer War: Context

World map with disputed region circled



The Boer War: Context

Map of the southern portion of Africa: British held territory & Boer held territory



Orange territory= Boers
Green territory = British

The Boer War: Context

- The Boer people wanted their territories to be recognized as **independent** states
- The **British wanted control** of 'Transvaal' and the 'Orange Free State'
- The Boers had no where to move → regions are all colonized by European countries → they had no choice but to fight the British for their land
- The **Boer War began in 1899**

Aquatint Print of a camp of 'Trekboers' by artist by Samuel Daniell



Source: Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boer#/media/File:Daniell_Trekboer.jpg>

The Boer War

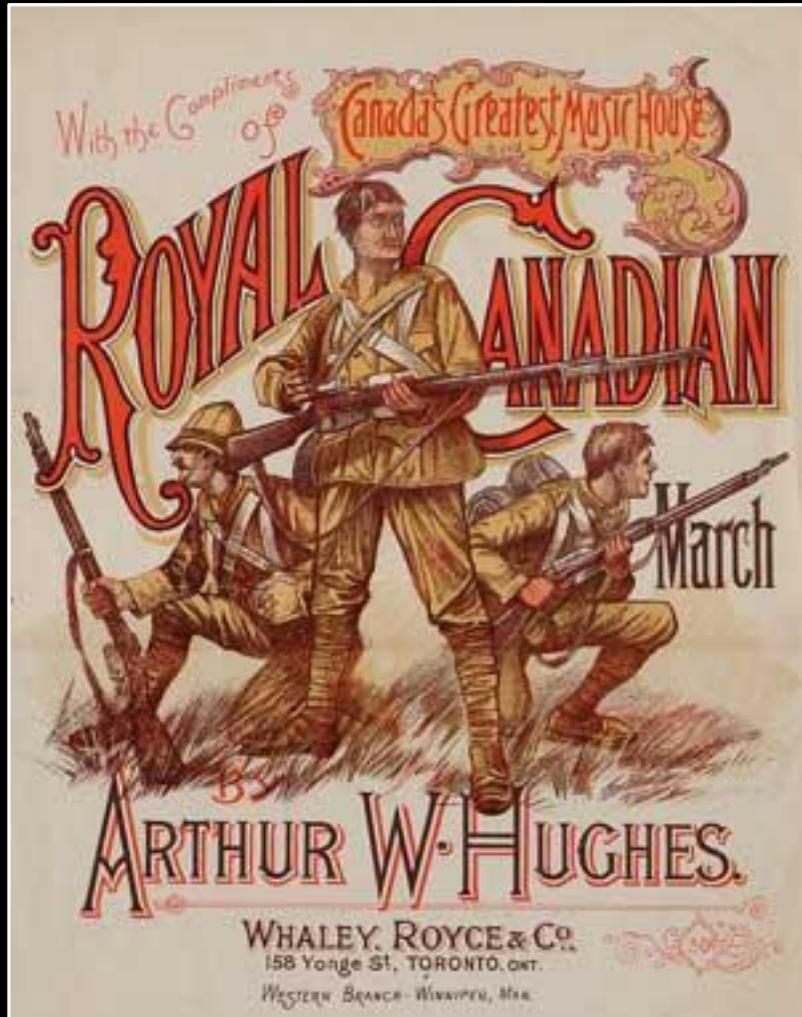
- The British **wanted support** from it's colonies and dominions in the war against the Boers
 - **Financial support** → \$\$\$
 - **Military support** → send soldiers
- Many Canadians of British origin wanted to help the British fight against the Boers
- However → Many Canadians, especially French Canadiens did not think supporting the British was helpful to Canada
- French Canadians like Henri Bourassa thought that if Canada helps in the Boer War → they **WILL HAVE TO HELP** in every single war after

The Boer War

- Laurier could not continue to say 'no' to England
 - Many Canadians wanted to support England
 - But many DID NOT...
- Wilfred Laurier was known for compromises → he called this strategy 'Sunny Ways'
- His/Liberal Party's strategy was to equip and transport volunteer soldiers to South Africa
- This started with approximately 1000
- Eventually → 7000 Canadian volunteer soldiers left for South Africa from 1899-1902
- Approximately 250 of these soldiers died
- This was the FIRST time Canada had sent soldiers overseas to fight

The Boer War

Canadian Military Propaganda Poster during the Boer War



Top Right: Second Canadian Mounted Rifles in the Transvaal-1902

Bottom Right: A Colt machine gun and galloping carriage-1902



Source: The Canadian Anglo-Boer War Museum.
<http://angloboerwarmuseum.com/Boer93o1_sheet_intro.html>

Source: National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces.
<<http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/vo6/no2/history-histoire-eng.asp>>

The Boer War

- Henri **Bourassa** along with many French Canadiens were **unhappy** with Laurier's 'compromise'
- He felt Laurier was a 'sell-out' to British imperialism
- As a form of protest → Bourassa resigned from the Federal Parliament (House of Commons)
- He would later be re-elected → Bourassa became very popular because of his beliefs → standing up to imperialism
- Eventually the British **defeat the Boers in 1902**
- This event had created a sentiment of **distrust** between French Canadiens and Canadian imperialists as to where Canada SHOULD be involved when it came to England's demands

The Canadian Naval Services Bill

- Since Confederation in 1867 → British authorities have tried to persuade Canada into developing it's own **Naval fleet** (Buy or build ships)
- Defend Canadian waters/ protect against American fishermen crossing over into Canadian waters
- Many Canadian politicians thought this was a **bad idea** → England could commandeer the ships and possibly use them in British wars
- England wanted Canada to purchase a 'Dreadnaught' ship → Not a good Idea → Canada has 2 coasts to defend

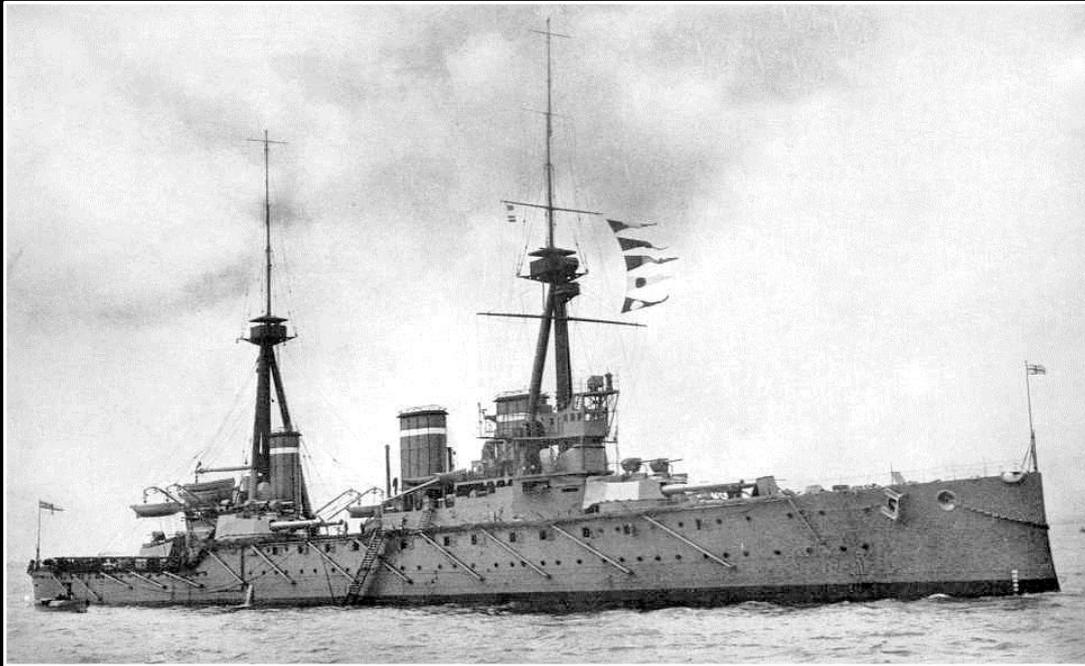
The Canadian Naval Services Bill

- By 1909 → 'arms race' between England and Germany
- 2 countries indirectly competing to build up military forces → naval fleet
- 1909 panic in Britain over amount of ships built by Germany
- In response → England pressures it's dominions (like Canada) to build up their own naval fleets to support the Empire
- This is another issue that divides Canadian Imperialists and French Canadiens

The Canadian Naval Services Bill

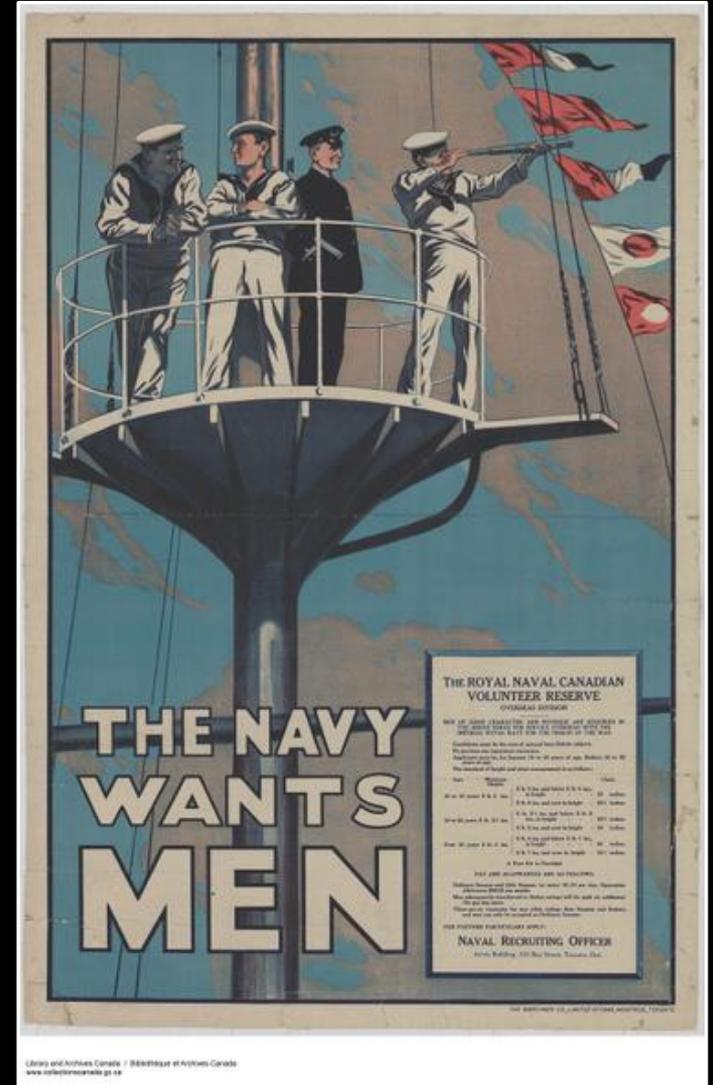
- 1910 → Canadian Naval Services Bill/Act
- Laurier and the Liberal Party develop another 'compromise'
- Canada will purchase ships to protect its own waters
- Will only allow England to use these Canadian ships IF Parliament votes in favour of it
- In addition, Canada would start recruiting and training sailors for its navy

The Canadian Naval Services Bill



Source: Wikipedia.
<[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Invincible_\(1907\)#/media/File:HMS_Invincible_\(1907\)_British_Battleship.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Invincible_(1907)#/media/File:HMS_Invincible_(1907)_British_Battleship.jpg)>

Top Left: HMS Invincible in 1907- A 'Dreadnaught' ship
Right: Canadian navy recruitment poster around 1914



Source: The Canadian Encyclopedia.
<<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/naval-service-act/>>

The Canadian Naval Services Bill

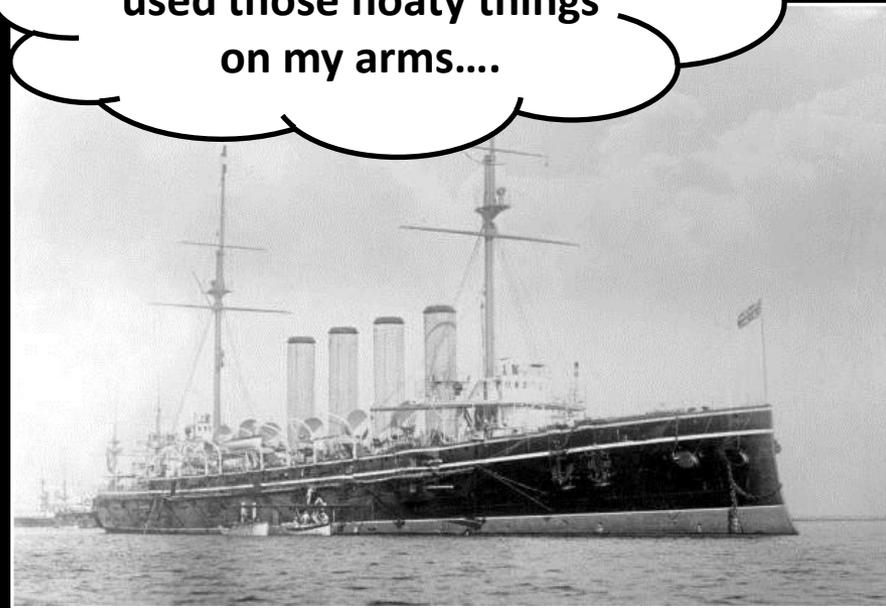


Source: the Government of Canada- the Royal Canadian Navy. <<http://www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/navy-history/centennial/image-gallery.page>>

Left: Group of men that were part of the First recruits for the Canadian Navy

Right: HMCS Niobe – acquired by Canada after 1910

I can't even swim... I used those floaty things on my arms....



Source: Wikipedia. <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Niobe_\(1897\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Niobe_(1897))>

The Canadian Naval Services Bill

- Like Laurier's 'compromise' on the Boer war → **Naval Services Bill was unpopular**
- **French Canadians** like Henri Bourassa thought it was going '**too far**' to help England
- Canadian **Imperialists** wanted Canada to **build more ships** and let England use these ships without consent
- Laurier could not win...
 - *"I am branded as a traitor to the French, and in Ontario as a traitor to the English... In Quebec I am attacked as an imperialist and in Ontario as an anti-imperialist. I am neither. I am Canadian."*

– *Wilfred Laurier in 1911*

The Boer War & the Naval Services Bill:

Why were they important?

- These two events brought up **sentiments** on many sides over how to proceed with the British Empire
- It was clear that many Canadians still considered themselves and Canada as an important part of the British Empire
- **French Canadians** wanted **more independence** from the Empire → they saw themselves as Canadian
- These issues would force Wilfred Laurier to make compromises that would not satisfy many Canadians
- These issues **foreshadowed** the division in Canada that would play out in other events later on in the 20th century

'Big Ideas/Take Aways' from this PowerPoint:

1. Imperialism in the late 1800s/early 1900s:
Some Canadians thought that Canada should continue to support England (military/economically)
2. French Canadian Nationalism: Idea that French Canadians are equal to English Canadians (culture, language, etc.). Canada should not be supporting England in its wars (Boer War). Important player: Henri Bourassa

'Big Ideas/Take Aways' from this PowerPoint:

3. The Boer war. England vs. Boers in South Africa from 1899-1902: England demands Canada's support. Wilfred Laurier has to make a compromise and send volunteer soldiers over the 3 year war.

4. Canadian Naval Service bill in 1910: England asks all dominions to build/buy war ships to support England. Fear over Germany's naval fleet. Laurier decides to buy ships for Canada and compromises: Canada will help England ONLY if parliament agrees.

'Big Ideas/Take Aways' from this PowerPoint:

5. Many compromises Laurier made were unpopular with many Canadians: either not helpful enough to England OR too helpful to England

Connections to the Precisions of Learning

Canada's status in the **British Empire**

- a. Imperialism
- b. French-Canadian nationalism
- c. Canadian military support
- ~~d. Statute of Westminster~~