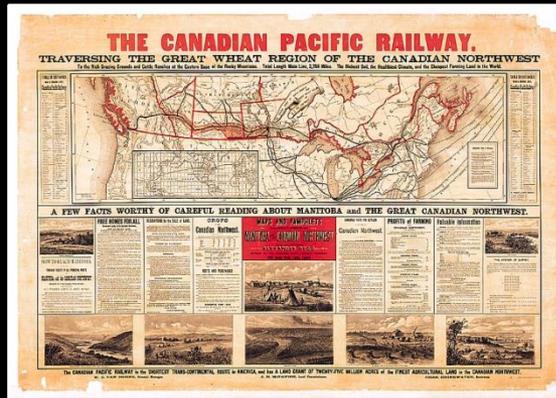
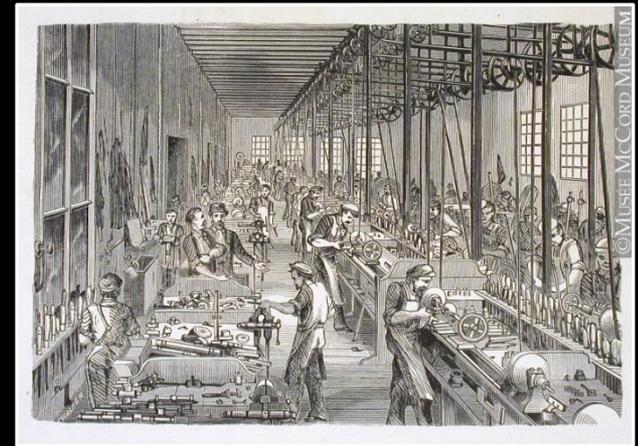
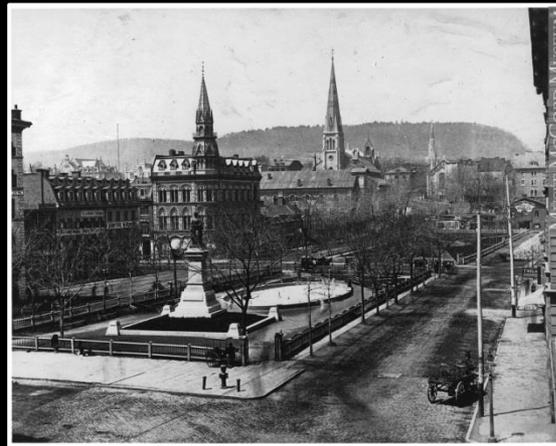
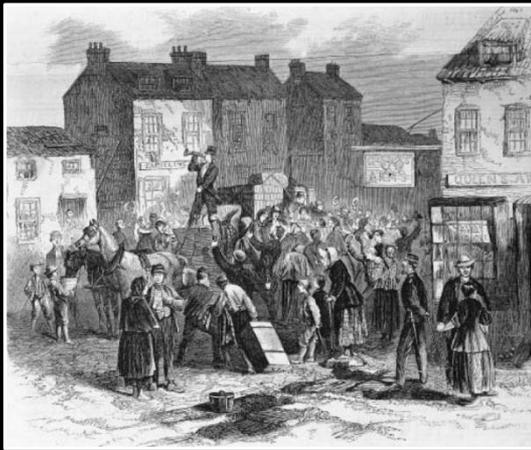


Chapter 1

1840-1896:

The Formation of the Canadian Federal System

Section 11: Womens' Roles in the Late 19th Century



Pages that correspond to this presentation

The Role of Women:

79-80, 82

Legal status & rights of women:

Late 19th century

- Late 1800s/early 1900s:
- Women were viewed as **minors**
- No right to vote or run for political offices in federal/Quebec provincial elections
- Needed **consent** (from fathers or husbands) to do a lot of things
- Women did not have the **same right to education** as men for a long time → higher education like university
- **Wages** for women were often times much **lower** than men for the same type of work
- Many women expected to work AND take care of the home

Legal status & rights of women: Late 19th century



Sketch depicting poor treatment of women in the household:

"My poor husband, you complain of your ten hours of work. I've been working fourteen hours, and my day is not yet over."

Joseph Swain (1820-1909)

Legal status & rights of women: Late 19th century

- From 1791 to 1849 → women who owned land could **vote**
- This right was **taken away** from 1849 to 1867 → after 1867 → 'propertied women' (women who owned property could vote in **some local/municipal elections**)
- **NOT provincial or federal elections**

Legal status & rights of women: Late 19th century

- Women also demanded **equality in education** → to have access to the same courses as men
- 1884 → McGill University started to offer **SOME university programs to women** (literature, history, philosophy)
- Francophone women had to attend English universities such as McGill because the **RCC did not allow Francophone universities/colleges to accept women**

Women and sectors of activity:

Late 19th century

- Since women who were educated at institutions of ‘higher learning’ were few and jobs for these women were scarce
→ we saw women involved in other areas of the work force
- Many **women in rural regions worked on farms** as farming usually involved many members of the family
- Women also worked as:
 - **Teachers**
 - **Factory workers** (textiles, shoes, tobacco products, etc.)
 - As **domestic servants** (‘maids’)
- Women did not have the same choice as men when it came to employment

Women and sectors of activity: Late 19th century



Example of a female domestic servant in the late 19th century

“WHAT: Contracts between servants and masters from the early 1870s indicate that young women would earn approximately \$76 annually, a sum that added greatly to a poor family's budget.

WHERE: Sometimes girls were placed in service because their own families could not support them. As domestics they were sometimes better sheltered, fed and clothed than they would be living at home.

WHEN: The typical Montreal female servant in the late 19th century was single, in her early twenties and from either rural Quebec or Europe.

WHO: Domestic service was the most common paid employment for women in Canada before 1900.”

Women and sectors of activity: Late 19th century

One room schoolhouse in the Outaouais region – late 1800s



Source: Fortin, S., Lapointe, D., Lavoie, R. & Parent, A. *Reflections.qc.ca.: 1840 to Our Times*. Cheneliere Education. 2017. Page 68

Women and sectors of activity: Late 19th century

- Many **French Canadian women** chose to join religious orders in Quebec → **nuns**
- Female religious orders **helped run charitable organizations, orphanages, hospitals and schools**
- Nuns also oversaw many **private educational institutions** for girls who wished to pursue education after elementary school
- Most of these female religious orders were found in cities → increasing populations that needed help

Womens' Literature: Late 19th Century

- **Women** in Quebec started to **speak out** against social inequalities → Francophone women especially
- By the 1890s → many women **published their literary works** → poetry, novels, short stories, etc. → found in **newspapers and magazines**
- Print media like magazines and newspapers were important vehicles for female writers to gain popularity and to promote their ideas and values
- Many publishers wanted female writers so that they could attract female readers

Women and Reformist Associations

- As industrialization intensifies in the late 19th century
→ more social inequalities
- Many **Anglophone bourgeoisie women** take it upon themselves to establish charitable **organizations** to push for **social reformism**
- Social reformism = ideology that fights for change in areas such as education, poverty and womens' rights
- At first, these associations held traditional views of women → as time went on → these organizations **fought for education and womens' rights** → this lead to **FEMINISM** as we know it in Quebec

Women and Reformist Associations

- An example of a woman that pushed for womans' rights: **Lady Aberdeen**
- Lived in Canada from 1893-1898
- Wife of the Governor General of Canada
- Took it upon herself to help **establish organizations that helped women:**
 - **National Council of Women of Canada** → organization aimed at helping women in their daily lives (support for healthcare, education and womens' suffrage)
 - **Women's Art Association of Canada**
 - **Victorian Order of Nurses**

Women and Reformist Associations



Lady Aberdeen in 1891