

# Canada Between the Wars

## Chapter 16 & 17

### Pages 372-433



## A. Immigration to Canada

- Between 1892 and 1917 immigration was encouraged in the hope of stimulating immigration to Canada's northwest.
- By 1914, the prohibited classes widened to include the:
  - - feeble-minded, insane, & idiots
  - - persons afflicted with tuberculosis or any other disease (unless the disease was treatable on board ship or at dockside medical facilities)..

- - It also banned the mute, blind, or otherwise physically defective, unless self-supporting.
- - Persons convicted of "... any crime involving moral turpitude, prostitutes, pimps professional vagrants or beggars could not enter."
- - Immigrants to whom charitable monies for the purpose of enabling them to qualify for Canada's immigration requirements were likely unfit as were alcoholics, psychopaths, and public charges.

- In the aftermath of World War One anti-foreigner sentiment strengthened immigration requirements.
- The government between 1918 and 1923 excluded enemy aliens, including Japanese, Germans, and Ukrainians.
- In 1918, regulations prohibited admission of people not possessing evidence of exemption from military service.

- In 1919, immigrants were required to possess \$250.00 in landing money.
- In 1921, another new rule was introduced. Now everyone needed a visa to get into Canada, and this visa had to be obtained overseas

# B. The Roaring 20's

- The end of the war brought hardships to the returning veterans
- During the War unions emerged
  - Shortage of workers
  - They demanded higher wages and better working conditions
  - The veterans became attracted to these principles

# C. Summer of 1919

- In May 1919 strikes were brewing in Winnipeg
  - 94 of 96 unions called for a General Strike
    - Building trades
    - Metal workers
    - Police
    - Fire fighters
    - Water workers
    - soldiers

- The city was paralyzed
- Strikers were confronted by city, provincial and federal officials
- Mayor Gray (Winnipeg) reads the "Riot Act" on June 16, 1919
  - Governments feared it was a Bolshevik revolution

# D. Bloody Saturday

- The reading of the riot act leads to a riot
- NWMP fire on the crowds
  - One striker is killed instantly
  - One striker dies in hospital
  - Many strikers and NWMP are injured
  - The strike comes to an end

- The Federal Government changes the Criminal Code of Canada to include:
  - Section 98
    - Banned organizations that advocate government, industrial or economic changes by force
- The law crushed the momentum of organized labour in Canada

# E. Women Become Persons

- The War Experience
  - During the war women in Manitoba, followed by Saskatchewan, grant women the right to vote
  - By 1920, all provinces, except Quebec, and the Federal government allow women to vote

- Women contributed to the War effort by working at home and in factories
- Following the war, women were expected to go back home.

**TO THE WOMEN  
OF CANADA**

1. You have read what the Germans have done in Belgium. Have you thought what they would do if they invaded this Country ?
2. Do you realize that the safety of your home and children depends on our getting more men NOW ?
3. Do you realize that the one word "GO" from you may send another man to fight for our King and Country ?
4. When the War is over and someone asks your husband or your son what he did in the great War, is he to hang his head because you would not let him go ?

**WON'T YOU HELP  
AND SEND A MAN TO  
ENLIST TO-DAY ?**

Source: World War I Poster Slides, Queen's University Archives



**WASTE NOT—WANT NOT**



**PREPARE FOR WINTER**

**Save  
Perishable Foods  
by  
Preserving Now**



- **Women at Work**

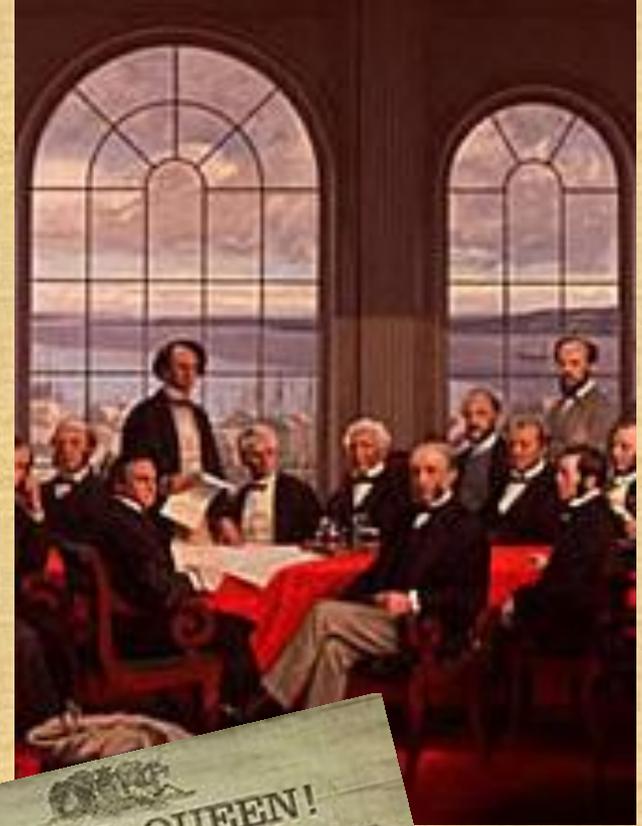
- Working women were given certain professions outside the home
  - Secretaries, receptionists, librarians, teachers, & nurses
- Governments passed legislation allowing women to earn only 54 – 60% of a man's salary
- Women also had to quit their jobs when they married

- **Women in Government**

- In 1921, Agnes McPhail was the first woman elected to the House of Commons
- This was followed by several women getting elected at the provincial and municipal levels



- The Senate is still out of reach for women
- Section 24 of the BNA Act, 1867, stated women could not be senators because they are not persons



# The Persons Case

- The Famous Five start the process of having women be legal persons in Canada
  - Henrietta Muir Edwards
  - Nellie McClung
  - Louise McKinney
  - Irene Parlby
  - Emily Murphy



- The famous five asked the question, “Are women persons?”
- The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that women did not constitute “qualified persons”
- The Famous Five appeal this decision to the Privy Council in England
  - They rule “relic days more barbarous than ours”
- Women become people and can become senators
  - Cairine Wilson is appointed to the Senate in 1930

# Female Governor Generals



Jeanne Sauvé    Adrienne Clarkson    Michaëlle Jean