

The Emergence of Modern Canada 1896-1914

Overview

- In 1905 new province of Alberta and Saskatchewan joined Confederation as the eighth and ninth provinces.
- The problem of defining Canada's role as a member of the British Empire had one negative side effect. It caused much fighting between English and French Canadian concerning, loyalty to Britain.
- **Global markets** opened up for Canada's minerals, lumber, wheat, and manufactured goods.
- Immigrants from all over, Europe, Britain, U.S., Asia, settled into Canada West.
- New inventions such as, telephones, planes, cars, radio, etc.
- Growth in population: Women and First Nations peoples began to fight for their equality and human rights. Workers organized unions. Many immigrants were made to feel unwelcome.

French-Canadian Relations

- Wilfred Laurier is elected as the first French-Canadian prime minister.
- Most Quebec voters happy because they wanted their Roman Catholic rights and French language protected
- On-going distrust between French/English Canadians – a distrust that had been around and worsened since the Northwest Rebellion of 1885 and the execution of Louis Riel.
- Most English-Canadians were loyal to Britain and were proud to belong to the British Empire.
- French-Canadians felt less pride in Canada's status as a self-governing colony of Britain. As a minority, French-Canadians felt isolated.

Prosperity Began

- New technologies helped the development of Canada's rich natural resources: forestry, pulp and paper mills, newspaper industry to grow, rich deposits of nickel, copper, and other minerals.
- BC: mining, lumber, and fishing industries grew as the boom extended to the West Coast.
- Forestry, agriculture, hydroelectric potential were used to power the new factories and the mines.
- "More money" and "more people" characterized this era.
- The flourishing economy attracted immigrants, who in turn stimulated economic growth, which encouraged more immigration

Immigration

- Canada's **open-door policy** created diverse group, more than the eastern Canada. Ukrainians, Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, Rumanians, Austrians, Americans, Britain.
- Americans welcomed, easily assimilated.
- Between 1891 and 1921, Canada's population almost doubled because of "push-pull" factors.
- Vast migrations of populations occur for two reasons: a need to leave one's homeland (push factor) and or the lure of opportunity in another country (pull factor)

Immigrant Life

- Two thirds of the immigrants to Canada settled in the Prairies
- Cold winters, the monotonous diet, difficult landscape, and natural disasters: drought, hail, and grasshoppers made life difficult on the prairies.

- Almost one third of the immigrants to Canada settled in the cities.
- Montreal and Toronto doubled in size. Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver grew rapidly as well.
- Life was hard for many of the newcomers because many were unskilled and spoke little English.
- They were often **exploited** in unsafe, low-paying factory jobs, which frequently led to disease.
- Many lived in ghettos, crammed into one-and two room tenements that offered little fresh air, light or heat.
- Women and children took jobs as well to make ends meet; unlikely to receive an education.
- No social welfare programs such as unemployment insurance or family benefit existed because the government did not think it was responsible for the needs of the poor.
- Poor families relied on each other or charitable organizations for help.

Review Questions

1.) What is a *global market*?

2.) Why would Quebec be happy with Laurier as the new Prime Minister?

3.) What other events contributed to the poor French/English Canadian relations prior to the Northwest Rebellion and execution of Louis Riel?

4.) Explain the statement, "Many Canadians viewed Canada's military affairs as the responsibility of the British."

5.) Explain how the "more money more people" concept worked.

6.) In your own words, explain what the term "open-door policy" means.

7.) Think of one example of a "push" factor and one example of a "pull" factor.

8.) What does the term "exploited" mean?
