A Different Nation: Canada enters the 20th Century
1914-1929

- 20th century (1900’s)- very different than Canada in the 19th century (1800’s)
- Events, trends, and themes: Diverse population, International recognition, domestic changes, acts of tolerance/intolerance and economic boom and hardship
- Canadians were forced to ask who they were and what they valued
- World War One- an independent nation, but terribly proud of its connection to Britain
Alberta and Saskatchewan are created as provinces to make a total of nine provinces in the Dominion of Canada (1905). The District of Keewatin is transferred back to the Northwest Territories. Due to changes in adjoining areas the boundaries of the Northwest Territories are redefined (1906).
What defines Canada in the early 1900’s and what attitudes and expectations did Canadians have for the century ahead?

How can we find the answer to this?
“Let me tell you, my fellow countrymen, that the twentieth century shall be the century of Canada and Canadian development. For the next 75 years, maybe 100 years, Canada shall be the star towards which all men who love progress and freedom shall come” - Wilfrid Laurier 1904
Rural – mostly farmers, fishers, loggers, construction workers

Social activity – baseball / hockey games, church socials, traditional values

Local travel – horse and buggy

Long-distance travel – train

Few / no cars
SOCIETY AND WOMEN IN CANADA 1900S
SOCIETY AND WOMEN IN CANADA 1900S

- Temperance Movements- prohibition
- Suffrage- Suffragists- Nellie McClung
- Need for reform on child labour, pollution, poverty
- These reforms were very much up against the social norms of the time- “ladylike behavior, vs. manly behavior”
- Women were considered property, not people under the law
- Many women worked (until marriage)- domestic service, factories, education
Beginning of the 1900’s- many Canadians start moving to cities (urbanization)

Canadian literature and art- sentimental towards rural life, simple values and happy endings- 1908 Anne of Green Gables

Serious Artistic Movement based on Canadian geography and rural life
Canada West
THE LAST BEST WEST
HOMES FOR MILLIONS

RANCHING
DAIRYING
GRAIN RAISING
FRUIT RAISING
MIXED FARMING

ISSUED BY DIRECTION OF HON. SYDNEY FISHER
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, OTTAWA, CANADA.
The Shop at the Door of which the Children are sitting was one of those attacked.
"The same act which Excludes Orientals Should Open Wide the Portals of British Columbia to White Immigrations." Cartoon by H.H. Hawkins, Saturday Sunset. (1907)
URBANIZATION

- Canada opened its borders to immigrants- Western Canada- Last Best West
- At the same time many immigrants and rural Canadians began moving to cities
- Rich and poor divide
- Terrible living conditions for the working poor, illnesses, lack of clean water and sewage treatment and yet people still flocked to the cities- WHY?
URBANIZATION

- Cities growing
  - factories
  - jobs

- Divide between the rich and poor grew
  - factory owners got rich - lived in big houses
  - Factory workers were poorly paid – lived in slums
Okay...so *what was* the nation of Canada?
Canada- The Nation

• Nations are “imagined communities”- created by those who wish to build

• On the eve of WW1, The Great War, Canada existed as a state, but was not a nation

• Canadians were not connected to an idea of Canada, rather to their church, local community, language or their “King”

• Canada could control our domestic affairs- but Britain had final say
In other words....we did not have a “Canadian” identity

...but based on some brief evidence, let’s try and describe a “Canadian” in 1914
L'IMMIGRATION

SIFTON: Voici un joli lot d'immigrants que j'ai eu pour presque rien. Mlle CANADA: Mon Dieu! Combien va-t-il m'en coûter pour les renvoyer?
Canada- The Nation

- So what makes a nation- maybe start there...

- PM Wilfrid Laurier launched the “Last Best West” campaign- purpose?

- Ethnocentrism
I may here say that this is a very fine tract of fertile land, commencing at Edmonton south through the celebrated Clover Bar and Agricola districts on to Fort Saskatchewan, and still on to Victoria, a distance of a hundred miles...every acre rich, fertile and desirable; no bad sections, but a grand tract of beautiful land of excellent quality — such as the kind of country possessed by the Galicians at Edna, and there still remains a number of Townships open for colonization.

— Marshall A. Nay, Trailblazers of Ukrainian Emigration to Canada: Wasyi Eleniak and Ivan Pylpyow

Between 1896 and 1921, the government issued millions of posters and pamphlets extolling the virtues of the Canadian West. The campaign to fill up the West resulted in a population increase of 64% between 1901-20.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Growth</th>
<th>1901</th>
<th>1911</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>255,211</td>
<td>455,614</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alberta &amp; Sask.</td>
<td>164,281</td>
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**CANADA**

HIGH WAGES
GOOD HOMES
HEALTHY CLIMATE

WANTS
DOMESTIC SERVANTS

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**URGENT!**

Thousands of nice girls are wanted in THE CANADIAN WEST.

Over 50,000 Men are sighing for what they cannot get—WIVES! Shame!

Don’t hesitate—COME AT ONCE.

If you cannot come, send your sisters.

So great is the demand that anything in skirts stands a chance.

No reasonable offer refused.

They are all shy but willing.

All Prizes! No Blanks.

Hustle up now Girls and don’t miss this chance. Some of you will never get another.

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**IMPORTANT**

Farmers, Farm Labourers, and Female Domestic Servants are the only people whom the Canadian Immigration Department advises to go to Canada.

All others should get definite assurance of employment in Canada before leaving home, and have money enough to support them for a time in case of disappointment.

The proper time to reach Canada is between the beginning of April and the end of September, though female domestic servants are sure of securing positions at once irrespective of the time of year they reach Canada.
DO YOU KNOW THAT THE PRESENT RUSH OF SETTLERS TO CANADA REPRESENTS A NEW SETTLER EVERY MINUTE OF OUR WAKING HOURS?

Have you ever CONSIDERED what makes CANADA such an ATTRACTIVE FIELD FOR SETTLEMENT?

The Canada of today is a land of Peace and Plenty, a place of Sunshine and Big Crops, a country whose soil spells WHEAT and out of whose farms thousands are growing rich.

Already CANADA’S per capita wealth is the greatest in the WORLD.

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS WRITE TO—


URGENT!

Thousands of nice girls are wanted in THE CANADIAN WEST.

Over 30,000 Men are fighting for what they cannot get—WIVES! Some!

Don’t hesitate—COME AT ONCE.

If you cannot come, send your sisters.

So great is the demand that anything in skirts stands a chance.

No reasonable offer refused. They are all shy but willing.

All Prizes! No Blanks.

Mustle up now Girls and don’t miss this chance. Some of you will never get another.

“The best way you can help the manufacturers of Canada is to fill up the prairie regions of Manitoba and the North-west with a prosperous and contented people, who will be consumers of the manufactured goods of the east.”

— W.S. Fielding, budget speech, House of Commons Debates, 16 April 1903
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<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td>5 371 315</td>
<td>7 206 643</td>
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Canadian Identity?

• 1900s many of the immigrants who came where non-white (hardly the most though)- particularly in British Columbia

• BC was a desirable location for immigrants from the Pacific Rim- Local Reaction?

• Here’s the odd part in regard to nationalism- Most of the immigrants were from British controlled areas, therefore they were British, same as white Canadians-
"The same act which Excludes Orientals Should Open Wide the Portals of British Columbia to White Immigrations." Cartoon by N.H. Hawkins, Saturday Sunset. (1907)
Above: A Chinese Head Tax certificate issued by the Immigration Branch Department on 6 August 1913.

The Chinese Head Tax was first imposed in 1885 at $50; by 1904 it had been raised to $500. Designed to reduce the number of Chinese immigrants, the Head Tax also stopped existing Chinese immigrants from bringing in wives or brides. According to the 1911 census figures, there were close to 2,800 Chinese men in Canada for every 100 Chinese women. Among immigrants overall, the proportion was 158 men for every 100 women.
Violence- Source A

To what degree did the Canadian government respond to the racial issues of the time?

Source: Deputy Minister of Labour William Mackenzie King was sent to deal with the issue (1907 white Vancouverites rioted against the Chinese and Japanese in the city)

“That Canada should desire to restrict immigration from the Orient is regarded as natural, that Canada should remain a white man’s country is believed to be not only desirable for economic and social reasons, but highly necessary on political and national grounds.”

OPCVL the heck out of this...
Murder

• 1914 the Komagata Maru landed in Vancouver after a 2 month trip from Hong Kong

• 400 South Asians (Sri Lankan)- all British subjects- expected to be allowed entry in Canada

• The ship was denied entry and literally towed out of Canadian waters- it returned to India and many were arrested (19 killed)

• http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/688228931606/
The "continuous journey" regulation, introduced in 1908 and renewed in the Immigration Act of 1910, allowed entry only to passengers on ships which had sailed on a "continuous journey" from homeland to Canada. Since there was no direct passage between India and Vancouver, this in effect outlawed all South Asians from landing in Canada.

Below: Memorial plaque in Vancouver, B.C., commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Komagata Maru incident.

On May 23, 1914, 376 British Subjects (12 Hindus, 24 Muslims and 340 Sikhs) of Indian origin arrived in Vancouver harbour aboard the Komagata Maru, seeking to enter Canada. 352 of the passengers were denied entry and forced to depart on July 23, 1914. This plaque commemorates the 75th anniversary of that unfortunate incident of racial discrimination and reminds Canadians of our commitment to an open society in which mutual respect and understanding are honoured, differences are respected, and traditions are cherished.

Above: Sikh delegation returning to the S.S. Komagata Maru after futile negotiations for the passengers to disembark in Vancouver, B.C., July 1914.
Historical Inquiry

How was Canadian identity defined?

How does it appear that immigrants were treated?

To what extent was the Canadian immigration policy “Open and Prosperous for All?”

Can you predict some potential consequences of non-British immigration in the years before WW1?
Cultural Extinction -

Aboriginal Reserves 1880’s- purpose?

Residential Schools- Assimilation

"The Indian problem is not solved, but it must not be given up, and it need not be deserted in despair until there is a proper and final solution. I believe it possible to civilize, educate and Christianize the Indian." - J.S. Woodsworth