



## LIFE IN THE EARLY 1900s CANADA AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

1900 - population of Canada was 5.2 million; largest cities were Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City

By 1911 - populations were Montreal (490,504), Toronto (381,833), Winnipeg (136,035), and Vancouver (120,847)

men - most worked on farms; others worked in logging camps, railways, fishing, construction

### Women

- factory-workers, servants to the rich, teachers, store clerks, housewives / houseworkers
- not seen as “persons” under the law, and therefore cannot OWN property; they also can NOT vote (suffrage = right to vote)
- fought for *temperance* (moderation in the use of liquor) or outright *prohibition* (banning the sale of liquor)
- men often received paycheques at bars / pubs at this time, and could use up the family’s money drinking at the tavern before returning home the same night
- women wanted more rights to protect themselves and their families from the evils of alcohol!



1916 - Women get the right to vote in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, thanks in large part to people like Nellie McClung

### Transportation

- short distance -> horse & buggy; long distance was via the train
- Automobile - began production in the early part of the century
- 1907 - McLaughlin Carriage Company produced 193 cars;
- by 1915 carriage-making business sold in order to make more

Chevrolets

By 1918 - General Motors bought the company, and Sam McLaughlin became president of the new Canadian *branch plant*

\* What are the + / - of Canadian businesses being bought by larger American companies? What are several examples of branch plants in Sudbury?

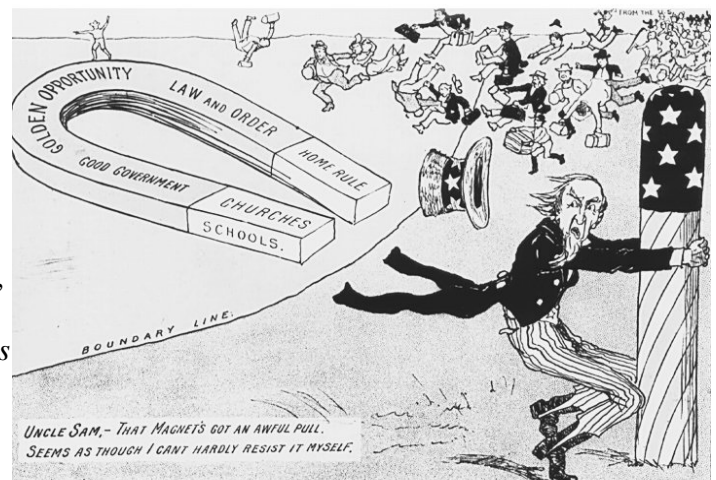
### Entertainment

- centred on local community (ex. Some sports, dances, concerts, church socials)

\* Why would communities be closer at this time? In what ways has our society changed?

### The West

- was of grave concern to the Canadian





## Political Issues

Tariffs - raised by Macdonald in 1879 in order to protect Canadian business; helped some but angered others (ex. Farmers)

\* *How do tariffs work?*

**1870 - 1885: Louis Riel led rebellions in Manitoba** fighting for improved conditions for the Metis, Indians, and other settlers in the new province

**By May 1885** - North West Mounted Police surrounded Riel's headquarters at Batoche, and arrested various leaders



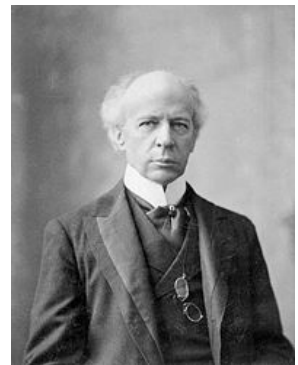
- several jailed while 8 natives were hanged; Riel's trial eventually led to a guilty decision, but with a plea for mercy - Macdonald accepted the judge's death sentence, and on November 16, 1885 Riel was executed  
- created tensions between English (who supported the execution) and the French (who supported Riel)

### 1890 - Manitoba Schools Act

- new education law in Manitoba meant that only public schools would be funded by the province (despite Manitoba Act of 1870 which stated that religious schooling was guaranteed)

1896 election - PM Laurier compromised on the issue

- religious education would be at the end of the day in public schools; if there were enough students, a Roman Catholic teacher could be hired, and students could be taught in French  
- upset French (not enough) and English (too much)



### **1899-1902: (Second) Boer War**

- largely over British desire to increase wealth after Dutch settlers (Afrikaners, or Boers) find gold in Orange Free State and (South African)

Transvaal Republic

- splits English / French opinion in Canada - English want to support the British, while the French don't see how the confrontation has any importance to Canada;  
- PM Laurier allowed Canadians to volunteer to fight with the British in South Africa, but nobody would be forced to go  
- eventually some 6000 volunteers would be paid by the British government



### Alaska Boundary Dispute

1867 - U.S. bought Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million; Alaskan panhandle was an area U.S. and Canada disputed as being their own

- commission of 6 men (3 American, 2 Canadian, 1 British) studied the issue, and eventually sided with the U.S. -

Canadians felt betrayed by Britain, after Lord Alverstone (British) sided with U.S.

1909 - International Joint Commission established by Canada and U.S. to resolve border issues

- PM Laurier also est. a Department of External Affairs



### The Naval Question - 1910

- Britain had the largest navy in the world, but others were striving to be larger (ex. Germany)

- asked Canada for contributions to their navy; English supported this, while French did not

1910: Naval Act - created a Canadian navy to defend Canadian shores; could be used by the British fleet, but only if Canadian Parliament approved

- PM Laurier's "tin pot navy" (Robert Borden) pleased nobody and created more tensions again bt. English & French

### 1911 - Reciprocity Treaty

- U.S. wanted reciprocity with Canada (for cheap raw materials); some areas of Canada were also in favour of this

- PM Laurier negotiated a treaty with U.S., and would allow Canadians to decide during the election of 1911; when the Liberals lost the election, the reciprocity agreement disappeared

\* *Who do the figures represent in the cartoon? Explain their symbolic significance.*