

Lesson #6: The War at Home

Defective Goods

- Sam Hughes, Canada's Minister of Militia, was in charge of Canada's shell industry.
- Canada supplied about 1/3 of the shells used by the British.
- Canada produced supplies from ammunition to training planes
- Unfortunately, there were many problems.
- Many producers made inferior products because of the rush to fill contracts and in some cases, because of **profiteering**, using cheap or incorrect material to maximize profits.
- This led to boots that fell apart in mud & useless trench shovels
- It also cost lives as shells and guns misfired or exploded.

Paying for the War

- Soon, the Gov't was running out of money
- The Gov't decided to sell "War Bonds" or "Victory Bonds"
- 1915-1917- over \$700 million was raised.
- This wasn't enough- more money was needed.
- A temporary tax was introduced- a tax on income.
- Today, this temporary tax is still with us, "INCOME TAX"

Wartime Propaganda

- Propaganda motivated people to enlist, ration food, and buy victory bonds.
- Propaganda appealed to a sense of duty, patriotism, and even shame.

Ethnic Problems In Canada

- 1914- 100,000 Germans, Hungarians & Austrians Lived in Canada
- Loyal ones returned home to fight, BUT those who stayed were viewed with suspicion
- The flip side of patriotism is intolerance
- By summer of 1915, 6000 "enemy aliens" were living in internment camps.
- City of Berlin, Ontario changed its name to Kitchener.
- Many companies & workers saw this as a good chance to get rid of ethnic competition in the workplace.

Power To the Women

- Women experienced more responsibility and influence.
- Many women pushed for the vote and for prohibition.
- A grain shortage made prohibition an easy task.
- Empowered by this, many of the same women continued to push for the vote.
- Women with family in the CEF were given the vote in 1917 to support conscription.
- In May of 1918, all women over 21 got the vote.

Lesson #7: Crisis at Home

- Borden took his Conservative party to the polls in 1917
- Biggest issue was Conscription, Borden needed votes
 - Soldiers located anywhere could vote
 - Women in the CEF (or wives of CEF) were given the vote
 - Both these groups would support conscription.
- Borden invited Liberals who supported conscription to join a new "Union Gov't".

- Laurier opposed conscription and the Liberals lost support except for Quebec.
- RESULT: Laurier/Lib 82, Borden/Cons (Union) 162
- 1917- Borden introduced the "Military Service Act"- Conscription
- Opposition was strong - an exemption was given to farmers
- 404,395 men were called BUT 380,510 appealed!
- Tribunals in Que. exempted Canadian, but forced Anglo. to serve.
- An appeal court overturned the exemptions.
- Easter 1918, Que. City, a man w/o exemption papers was arrested
- A riot broke out and Ottawa sent 700 troops from Ontario
- Mon, April 1, 1918, soldiers fire at a crowd, killing 4
- Riots ended at the request of the Catholic Church
- Borden doesn't give in
- All exemptions are cancelled

★ The Halifax Explosion

- Halifax was an important harbour for convoys.
- Dec 6, 1917, the Mont Blanc was leaving the harbour
- The Mont Blanc was loaded with 2,300 tons of wet and dry picric acid, 200 tons of TNT, 10 tons of gun cotton, & 35 tons of benzol
- A Norwegian ship, the Imo, struck the Mont Blanc
- Fire broke out on the Mont Blanc & she burned for 20 minutes
- People watched, amazed by the spectacle.
- At 9:05 am, the Mont Blanc exploded
- 1,900 people died, 250 bodies never identified, 6,000 w/o shelter
- 1,630 homes were completely destroyed, 12,000 houses damaged
- Hardly a pane of glass in Halifax and Dartmouth was left intact.
- In hospitals, 25 limbs amputated; more than 250 eyes removed
- It was the largest man made explosion in history (until 1945)

Spanish Flu

- In 1918 returning Soldiers brought back a bad strain of Influenza
- In Montreal, a trolley car was adapted to carry coffins because city hearses could not keep up with the volume of dead bodies.
- About 50,000 Canadians Died

Lesson #8: The End of the War

End of the War & Peace

- 1917 David Lloyd George elected PM of Britain
- George calls Dominion PM's to form a War Cabinet
- Borden was a strong advocate of Canadian involvement
- Canadians took part in the final offensive, driving Germany back
- An Armistice was signed & the war ended on Nov. 11, 1918
- The war cost ~10,000,000 lives, Can. lost >68,000 men
- Canada's debt had quadrupled
- The peace treaty was concluded at the Palace of Versailles in France.

Leaders at The Peace Negotiations

- Woodrow Wilson- US Pres

- Optimistic, idealistic, wanted to create a lasting peace
- Not taken seriously by European leaders (the US had entered late & hadn't suffered the same way.)
- Wilson drafted the "14 Points", (war aims) and many hoped they would shape the peace
- The 14 Points included:
 - "Freedom of the Seas", "End to Secret Treaties"
 - "Self Determination", "creation of a '*League of Nations*'"

George Clemanceau (The Tiger)- French Pres

- Wanted BLOOD. Germany was to be punished, crushed and humiliated. He wanted a "pound of Flesh".

David Lloyd George, PM of Britain.

- Wanted to keep his colonies and his Navy
- Wanted Germ. to pay reparations (*payments for damage*)

Robert Borden (PM of Canada)

- He wanted reparations & to be recognized as an independent country, not a colony of Britain

Despite other's protests, Borden got a seat at Versailles

- The Peace was harsh for Germany.
- Among many other penalties, they were forced to admit guilt and accept responsibility for the war.
- Germany was not part of the negotiations & was forced to sign
- Borden Signed the Treaty of Versailles on behalf of Canada
- Wilson took it back to the US congress, Congress didn't ratify it
- The US began a period of isolation.