**An Unhappy Canada - Post WWI Canada**

Post WWI Situation

* Soldiers returned home to find no pension, no medical services, no jobs
  + At the same time, profiteers were rich off of the war
* Prices of many items were still expensive
  + Canadian goods were still being sent to Britain (inflation)
  + Families struggling to pay rent
* Canadian workers began to strike because many industries were closing down after war
  + Sign of changing economies/ industries (who needs more shells?)

OBU

* March 1919, One Big Union formed to represent all Canadian workers and establish more control of the government and industry through peaceful actions (strike)
  + Supported by the West
  + Grew to a peak of 50,000 members in 1920

What do unions do?

* Help workers attain higher wages, better working conditions
* Labour unions used collective bargaining to attain the goals of the workers and prevent exploitation

Winnipeg General Strike May 1919

* Metal and building workers walked off the job demanding higher wages and wanting collective bargaining
* Eventually 30,000 workers in Winnipeg went on strike and paralyzed the city
  + No firemen, postal workers, bus drivers, telephone services, etc.
* Business leaders, politicians and industrialists formed the Citizen’s Committee of One Thousand in response
  + Believed that the strikes were a communist conspiracy to overthrow the government

Bloody Saturday

* June 21, 1919, strike leaders were arrested
* People were outraged and began a protest parade
* Government orders the Northwest Mounted Police (RCMP) to put down the protest/strike
* One person killed, 30 injured

Results of the Strike

* Many workers who went to strike were not hired back
* Some were imprisoned for “trying to overthrow the government”
* Some found work but had to sign a contract that they wouldn’t join a union
* July 1919, a commission was established to determine if the workers grievances were valid and they were

More unhappiness - New Challenges to Federalism

Regionalism

* Areas/communities that focus on their own local problems and issues with less interest in national welfare

(Did WWI really unite the country?)

Example 1:

Maritimes

* Because of their lower population, they had fewer MPs in parliament
  + their influence in national politics was declining
* Businesses and banks moved to Ontario and Quebec
* Industries like coal were suffering because of new technologies that used oil (lowers demand for coal)
* Formed the Maritime Rights Movement which sought to promote national polices that benefited the region

Example 2:

Prairies

* National Policy (1878) tariffs or duties were placed on foreign goods
  + Tariffs are used to dissuade people from purchasing foreign goods by making them more expensive
  + Canadians should buy Canadian goods which would support more Canadian businesses and jobs
* Farmers wanted free trade (no tariffs) so that they could save money by purchasing from the US which sold their farm machinery cheaper
* Progressive Party would campaign to rid of the National Policy

Example 3:

Quebec

* Becoming wealthy with selling resources to the US during their Roaring 20s (newspaper, lumber, etc.)
* Starts building energy infrastructure (hydroelectricity)
  + Allows for aluminum smelters
* Quebec is starting to think it can thrive on its own
* Embittered by WWI and having their wishes cast aside by Anglo Canada’s interests

Example 4:

BC

* BC’s economy starting to boom with demand for lumber from the US
* John Oliver (Premier) persuades federal government to lower freight rates
  + Increases shipping of grain through BC

1921 Election