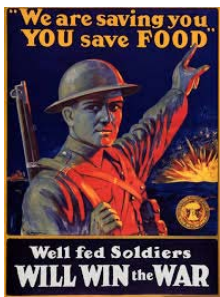


Canada's home front during WWI

SUPPORTING THE WAR EFFORT



Prime Minister _____ took direct control of the economy during the war. The _____, led by Joseph Flavelle, was created to focus on the production of ships, airplanes, and shells. Another contribution our country made to the war effort was providing natural resources and food, such as wheat, dairy, and beef. The war effort stimulated our economy and helped create jobs.



All efforts were geared towards the war effort, so most of what our country had was sent to Europe. This meant that there was a shortage of goods in Canada. As a result, the cost of items increased, known as _____, and _____ was not uncommon. Canadians soon discovered they had to stretch their wages further since the price of consumer items was rising but their wages weren't.



Citizens on the home front were expected to 'do without' as part of the war effort: _____ of items such as butter, sugar, meat, and fuel occurred. Guidelines for food consumption and recipes were created; penalties could be imposed for wasting food. Even sugar was regulated and certain breads and pastries were prohibited!



By 1918, it cost \$2.5 million per day to fight the war! How was the government going to pay? A number of initiatives were used to raise funds to support the war effort. The federal government introduced taxation as a way to earn money. _____ – paying anywhere from 1% to 15% of your wages to the government - was supposed to be a temporary measure...but we still pay it today! Businesses



paid a _____ of 4%: many believed this was too low, considering how much profit they were making off the war. The government also encouraged Canadians to give their money to the war effort by purchasing _____. Canadians could buy a certain amount and would receive the money back, with interest, when the war was over. This proved very popular and helped to raise almost \$2 billion dollars for the war effort! Today's Canada Savings Bonds are a direct descendent from this program!

Even with all these new sources of income, the Canadian government still did not have enough money to pay for the war. We incurred _____ from other countries, in particular the United States.

PROPAGANDA

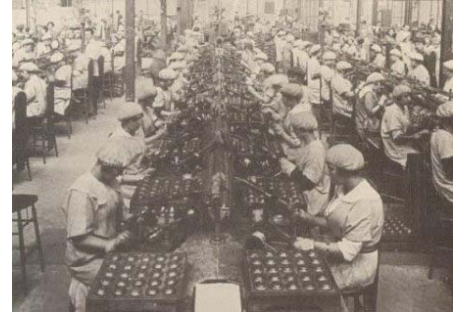
The government used _____ in order to get support for the war. It took various forms, including posters, films, radio programs, magazine articles, speeches, and special appearances by war veterans. Propaganda was used for many purposes: to encourage _____, buy victory bonds, ration _____ and _____, and support the _____.

The propaganda was not always truthful or accurate. The government wanted to send a certain message to Canadians to increase support for the war; however it also created prejudice and racism at home.



ROLE OF WOMEN

With many men off to fight on the Western Front, there was a need for workers at home. Women stepped up and contributed to the war effort in many ways. They worked in _____, operated fishing boats, worked on the farm (“farmerettes”), and volunteered to raise money and create care packages to send to soldiers. Women worked on



_____, in the police force, and in banks. Upwards of _____ women worked in the munitions factories and were given the nickname “girls with the yellow hands” – their skin became discoloured from touching the gunpowder. Even though women were doing the same work as men, they received _____.

After the war, women were expected to resume their lives pre-WWI. Their role in the work force was seen as a “temporary phenomenon”. But after having the opportunity to work and show their capabilities, women did not want to go back to the private sphere of wife and mother. Women would have to fight to remain part of the work force.

Women also had to fight for the _____. Manitoba was the first province to give women the right to vote in provincial elections in _____ (this didn’t happen in BC until 1917). Women would also earn the right to vote in federal elections as a result of their _____.



ROLE OF CHILDREN

Canadian children were also asked to “do their bit” for the war effort. Some collected money for the _____, an organization that supports soldiers and their families. Others sewed clothing for care packages that went overseas or had time off from school to work on



_____. Children were also encouraged to save their money and help buy a Victory Bond. Children were expected to assume a greater role _____ with their mothers working and fathers serving on the home front or Western Front.



At school, children learned about _____ but were spared horrific details of trench warfare. Some students were told to encourage their male family members to enlist. Some _____ boys forged their birthdates and enlisted in the army. Children began collecting toy soldiers and tanks and “playing war”.

Some children remember WWI as a time of excitement, adventure, and the return of their fathers and brothers from distant lands with wonderful stories. Other children remember WWI as a time of grief, tragedy, and economic hardship.



KEY EVENTS AT HOME

a) _____

Halifax, Nova Scotia was an important city for the Allied war effort. Warships were brought here for refueling and to be repaired and Canadian soldiers and supplies departed for Europe. In December 1917, a vessel carrying 2,500 tonnes of explosives was accidentally hit. The resulting explosion rocked Halifax and the harbor, leveling the city. More than 2,000 people were killed, 9,000 were injured and thousands were homeless.



b) Conscription Crisis

At the outset of the war, PM Borden said there would be no _____ (compulsory enlistment or forced service). However, by 1917, the Allies had suffered devastating losses and the number of volunteers was dwindling. More soldiers were needed on the Western Front to defeat the Central Powers. In 1917, Borden passed the _____ – forced service in the military. There were exceptions for those with disabilities, the clergy, men with jobs on the home front, and _____ (people who oppose the war due to religious beliefs). Conscription drove a wedge amongst Canadians and created tensions in the country that can still be felt today.

The majority of volunteers had come from _____ Canada and they felt the rest of the country should also pull their weight. _____ Canadians were adamantly against conscription: they felt little allegiance to Britain or France. One critic, Henri Bourassa, believed enough lives and money had been lost fighting a war that didn't affect Canada. Tensions arose between _____ and _____ both within Quebec and across the country. Other groups also opposed forced enlistment, including farmers and factory workers.

So how was the government going to get support for conscription when there was widespread opposition?

Borden first tried to make a coalition with the Liberal party, led by Wilfred Laurier, but they did not agree with conscription. So in order to ensure conscription would happen, Borden passed 2 laws: the

_____ and the

_____. The Military

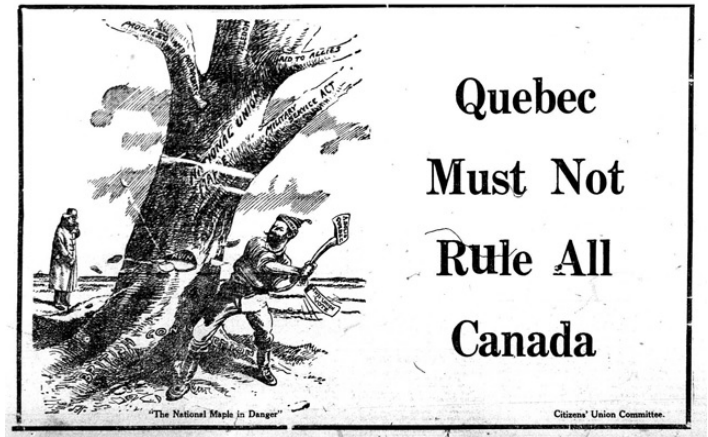
Voters Act gave all men and women serving overseas

the right to vote. The Wartime Elections Act gave all

Canadian women who had family in the service the right to vote and cancelled the right to vote for



conscientious objectors and immigrants from “enemy” countries within the last 15 years. The goal of these 2 acts was to give the vote to people connected to the war – they would definitely support conscription because they had family in the war. An election was held in 1917: Borden formed a coalition with some Liberals and independents and the _____ won. This election is known as the ‘_____’ because the military vote was highly sought.



The election didn't end the tensions surrounding conscription. They actually escalated in Quebec: in 1918 there was a riot in Quebec City that left 4 civilians dead and 10 soldiers wounded. Conscription did go ahead: 401, 882 men were called to duty. Of these, only 125, 000 men were enlisted and 25, 000 were sent to France in 1918. About half of these men saw battle on the Western Front. The _____ created a rift between English Canada and French Canada – one that will widen throughout the 20th century. And when we are called to war again in 1939, history will repeat itself.