# World War One (part 2)

Chapter 2

Today:

- Canada during the war
- Conscription
- End of the war
- Halifax explosion


OVERSIMPLIFIED
WW1
1

# What was happening in Canada during World War 1?

# Men and women in the war effort

Everyone expected World War I to **end quickly**

- Canadians joined the front lines feeling **positive and confident**

Instead, the **war dragged on** because the dugout **trenches** and machine guns made it easier for defence rather than to conquer

By the fall of 1914, **both sides were heavily relying on trench warfare**





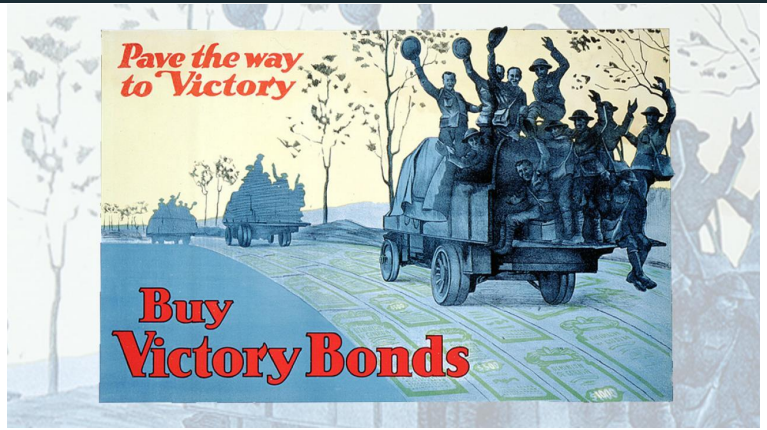
# Financing the war

Canada needed to figure out how to get more money to finance the war

Canada launched the **Victory Loan Campaign to sell Victory Bonds**

- Canadian citizens and businesses could l**end money to the government** which would **repay t**he loan 5,10 or 20 years later **with interest**
- The government raised around $2 billion

Canada also introduced **personal income tax** in 1917 to finance government needs



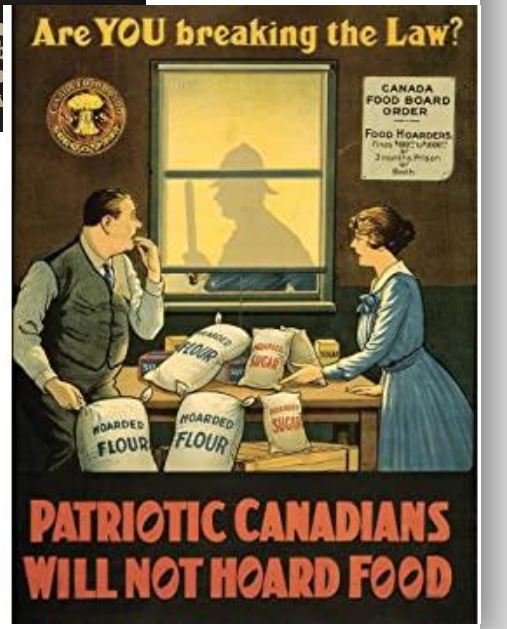



# Changes at home in Canada

Canadians were required to **avoid various goods** and commodities to **send them to soldiers** in Europe

- **Gasoline** was rationed
- **Butter** was requisitioned ( government controlled amounts)
- Bakers used **substitute flour**
- Many **foods** including some fruit were **no longer imported**
- Railway workers were **forbidden from striking**






Montreal

# Quebec set to allow yellow margarine

Province ready to soften ban on butter-coloured margarine

CBC News · Posted: Jul 08, 2008 5:52 PM ET | Last Updated: July 8, 2008

Yellow margarine may soon be allowed in Quebec grocery stores after the province's cabinet quietly agreed to change a 21-year old law that forbids any coloured form of the oily spread to be sold in La Belle Province.

In late June, the Quebec Cabinet agreed to repeal a provincial law that prevented margarine makers in the province from adding yellow colour to their product.

The decision could open the door for margarine producers to tint their products yellow, a longstanding practice in most parts of the world and in the rest of Canada.

the issue to the Supreme Court. Despite federal law, some provinces forbade the colouring of margarine; today the provinces permit it but control the colour.

# Canada's soldiers

The most significant battle for WWI was the **1917 Battle of Vimy Ridge in France**

- A **Canadian army corps** under British general **took control of a German-held area**
- They were successful but almost **3600 died and more than 7000 were wounded**

The Canadian involvement shows that **Canada was capable** of **effectively forming and managing an army**

**It was the first battle that all four divisions of the Canadian corps fought together**



**2.36** *The Taking of Vimy Ridge*, by Richard Jack, 1917.

# Canada’s soldiers

Canada’s active participation served as a **step towards achieving future independence**

In total **620,000 Canadian soldiers were enlisted in the war of which nearly** 425,000 served in Europe

Around **60,000 died in action**





# Conscription crisis

When Canada first entered the war, the federal government specified that military recruitment would be by **volunteering only**

In 1916, **enlistment declined**-especially seen among French Canadians who were accused of not doing their part for the war

On July 24, 1917, Borden introduces the ***Military Service Act*** which divided parliament



CANADA

MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that, by the effect of the regulations of the Governor General of Canada in Council of the 20th of April, 1918, and the Proclamation of 4th May, 1918, recently published, every male British subject resident in Canada, born on or since the 13th of October, 1897, who has attained or shall attain the age of 19 years and who is unmarried or a widower without children must, (unless he is within one of the classes of persons mentioned in the schedule of Exceptions to the Military Service Act) report as hereinafter directed on or before the 1st day of June, 1918, or within ten days after his 19th birthday, whichever date shall be the latter.

Such report must be in writing and must give his name in full, the date of his birth and his place of residence and also his usual post office address.

The report must be addressed to the Registrar or Deputy Registrar under the Military Service Act of the Registration District in which he resides (see below) and shall be sent by registered post, for which no Canada postage is required.

Young men so reporting will not be placed on active service till further notice. They must, however, notify the appropriate Registrar or Deputy Registrar of any change of residence or address.

On receipt of the report an identification card will be forwarded by the Registrar which will protect the bearer from arrest.

Punctual compliance with these requirements is of great importance to those affected. Failure to report within the time limited will expose the delinquent to severe penalties and will in addition render him liable to immediate apprehension for Military Service.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH, this 10th day of May, 1918.

- **Opposed by almost all francophones and non-British immigrants**
- **Supported by anglophones and British immigrants**

# Military Service Act



Borden's party had a majority in all of Canada except for Quebec, so he was able to **push the Act through Parliament**

- The consequence of this law was c**onscription being imposed making all men between 20-35 to enlist for the army** (unmarried or widowers without children)


The Globe.

CONSCRIPTION FOR CANADA

Statements in Commons on Conscription Proposals



# Slander!

That man is a slanderer
who says that

## The Farmers of Ontario

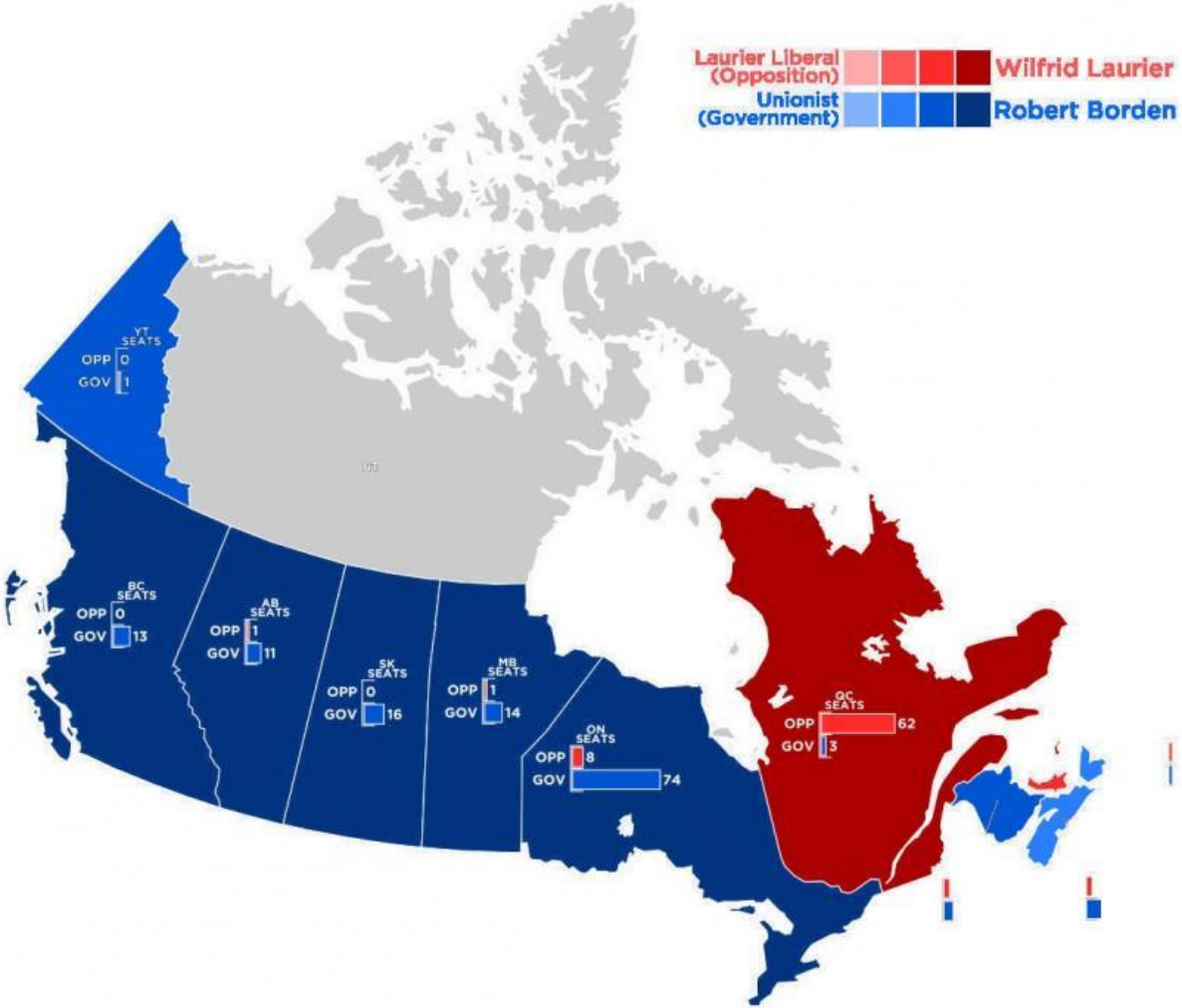
will vote with

Bourassa Pro-Germans
Suppressors of Free Speech
and
Slackers

# Never!

*They Will Support Union Government*

Citizens' Union Committee.



# Conscription crisis

Conscription **divided the country**

- French Canadians,farmers, unionized workers and non anglophone immigrants were opposed to it and saw it as a **betrayal by the government** who had promised the military service would be voluntary
- Henri Bourassa was opposed to conscription
- Opposition to conscription wa so strong in Quebec that in January 1918, J**oseph Francoeur of the legislative assembly presented a motion for Quebec to withdraw from Canada**



# Conscription Crisis

In March 1918, an **anti conscription demonstration in the city of Quebec turned into a riot**

Soldiers were ordered to fire into the crowd, killing four men

Ottawa refused to change and **conscription remained in effect**

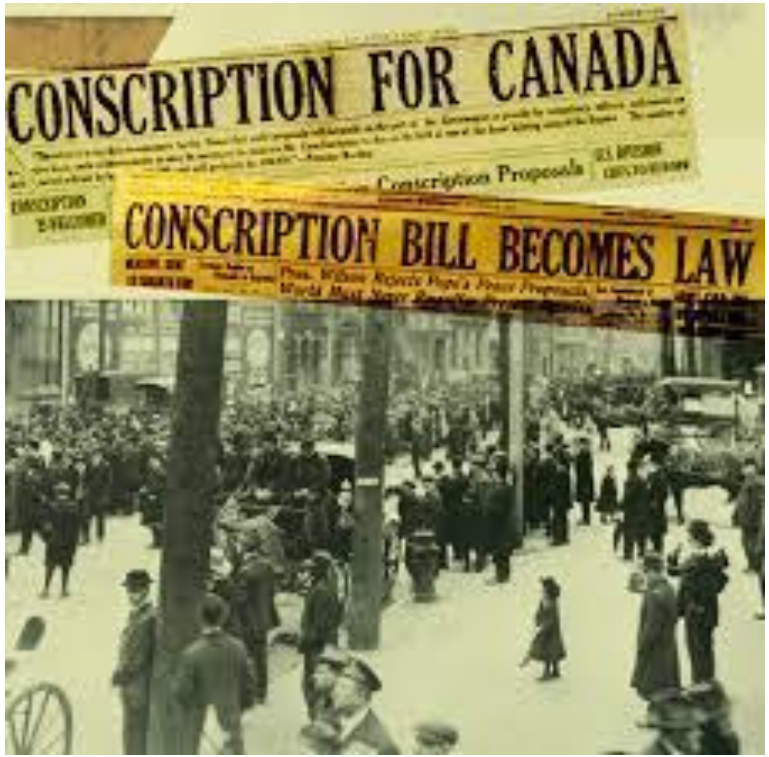


**2.37** An anti-conscription demonstration in Montréal's Victoria Square in May 1917.

# Was the Act successful?

The *Military Service Act* was **not very effective**

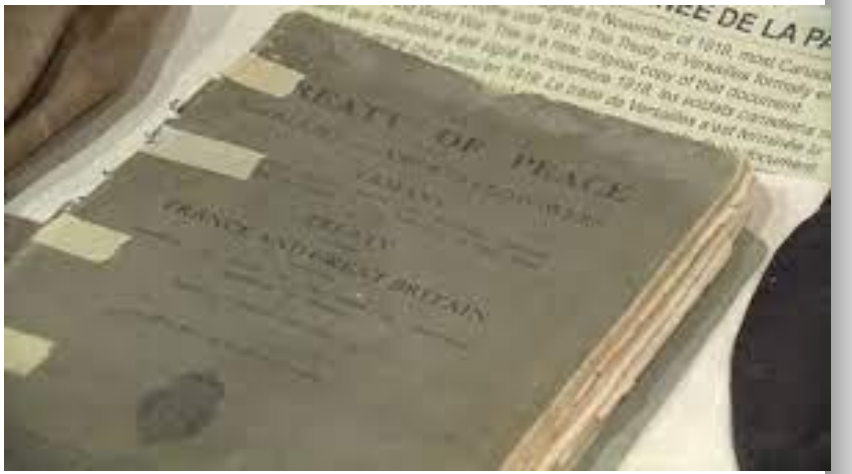
Over the time it was in place, the average recruitment per month was around the **same as it had been before conscription**



# End of WWI

WWI ended on November 11, 1918 and was made official with the **Treaty of Versailles in June of 1919**

- Canada signing this treaty was an important symbol of its autonomy in external affairs and diplomatic relationships, becoming a member of the **League of Nations**
- The goal of the League of Nations was to prevent another world war





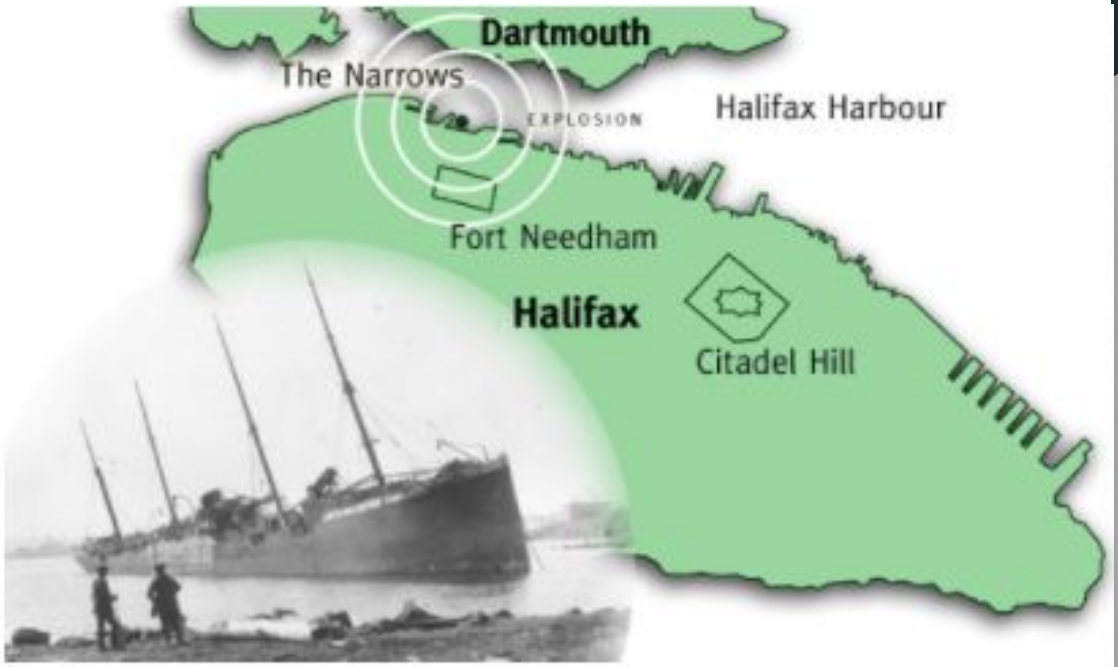

Halifax Regional Municipality

# Halifax explosion

Mont Blanc was moving into the harbour after being stuck outside the harbour for the night

Imo was leaving the Basin headed to New York

They struck each other due to miscommunication in the Narrows




IMO on the Dartmouth Shore

# Halifax explosion

The Mont Blanc caught fire as the crew jumped off the ship yelling in French that the people of Halifax did not understand

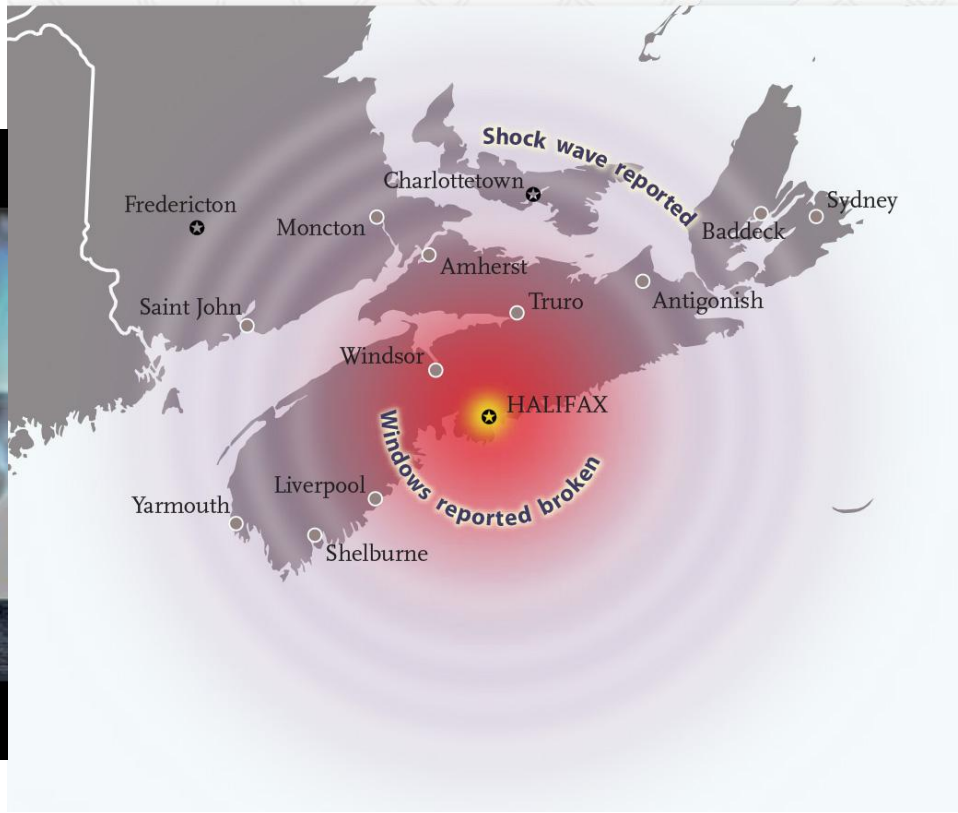
It was just before 9 am on December 6, 1917 as people ran to their windows and down to the water to see the burning ship

At 9:04 am this ship exploded, felt as far away as Cape Breton








Shock wave reported
Charlottetown
Fredericton
Moncton
Sydney
Baddeck
Amherst
Saint John
Truro
Antigonish
Windsor
HALIFAX
Windows reported broken
Liverpool
Yarmouth
Shelburne





Terrible Halifax Disaster. Wreckage Sugar Refinery. "S.S. Imo" in Distance

The Boston Daily Globe

BOSTON, SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 8, 1917—FORTY-TEN PAGES

# BLIZZARD CUTS OFF HALIFAX 20,000 SURVIVORS DESTITUTE

**Trains Carrying Injured to Nearby Places For Treatment and Rushing Aid to Homeless Thousands Stalled in Deep Snow Drifts— List of Dead May Reach 2000 With 3000 or More Hurt**

MAP SHOWING SECTION OF HALIFAX DEVASTATED BY EXPLOSION AND FIRE, INDICATED BY SHADED PORTION




HERITAGE
MINUTES