

CHAPTER 2

1896-1945

*Nationalisms and
Canadian Autonomy*

PART 2

Migration flows

Ethnic origin of immigrants



Clifford Sifton

Canadian minister of the Interior, 1896

(Who? When?)

Ethnic origin of immigrants



In 1896, Minister Sifton:

- made it **his goal to increase the number of farmers in the Prairies** (*What?*)
- was hoping that these new farmers would make profits that could be used to finance industries elsewhere in Canada (*Why?*)
- put out a major ad campaign and sent recruiters to London to encourage immigration to Canada. (*How?*)

WESTERN CANADA
THE NEW ELDORADO

HOMES FOR EVERYBODY
EASY TO REACH
NOTHING TO FEAR
PROTECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

WHEAT LAND
RICH VIRGIN SOIL
LAND FOR MIXED FARMING
LAND FOR CATTLE RAISING

A WHEAT FARM IN THE CANADIAN WEST

MARKETING HIS CROP IN WESTERN CANADA

THE OLD AND THE NEW HOME

WESTWARD THE STAR OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY
WHY NOT EMBRACE IT?

FREE 160 ACRES
WESTERN CANADA
FARM LANDS

INFORMATION AND ADVICE
CAN BE OBTAINED FROM
W.D. SCOTT
SUPERINTENDENT OF IMMIGRATION
OTTAWA, CANADA
J. OBEY SMITH
ASSY. SURETY AGENT & INSURANCE
11-12 CHARING CROSS
LONDON, ENG.

1906-1912

An advertisement encouraging immigration to the Prairies.

Ethnic origin of immigrants

In 1896, Minister Sifton targeted:

(Who?)

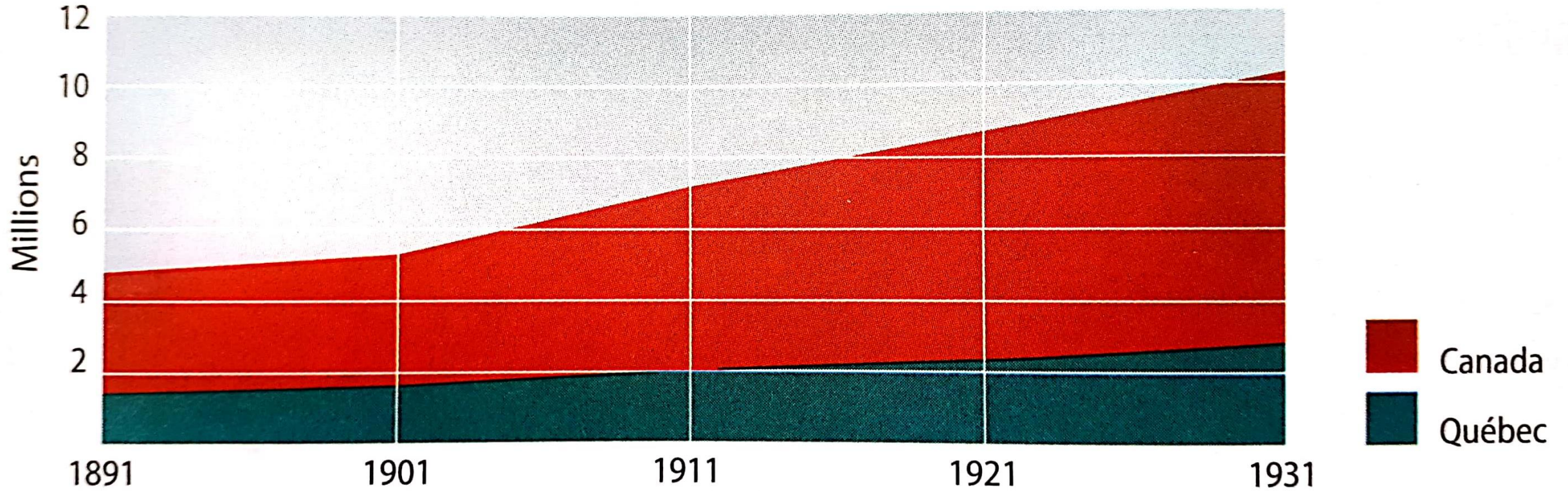
- hearty peasants from the Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Iceland
- Anglo-Saxons who would assimilate easily (similar culture)
- adult males, who were seen as valuable workers on both farms and factories
- Anglo-Saxon women to perpetuate the “race”.
- People from Asia (aside from the Chinese who built the railways) and Africa were generally not welcome in Canada.

Ethnic origin of immigrants

- **The population of Canada grew ↑:**
 - In 1891: 4,833,239 people
 - In 1931: 10,376,786 people.
- **Between 1896 and 1929:**
 - more than 4,600 000 European and American immigrants arrived, seeking a better quality of life.
- Few immigrants spoke French.
- The immigrants who settled in Québec were mostly European Jews and Italians.

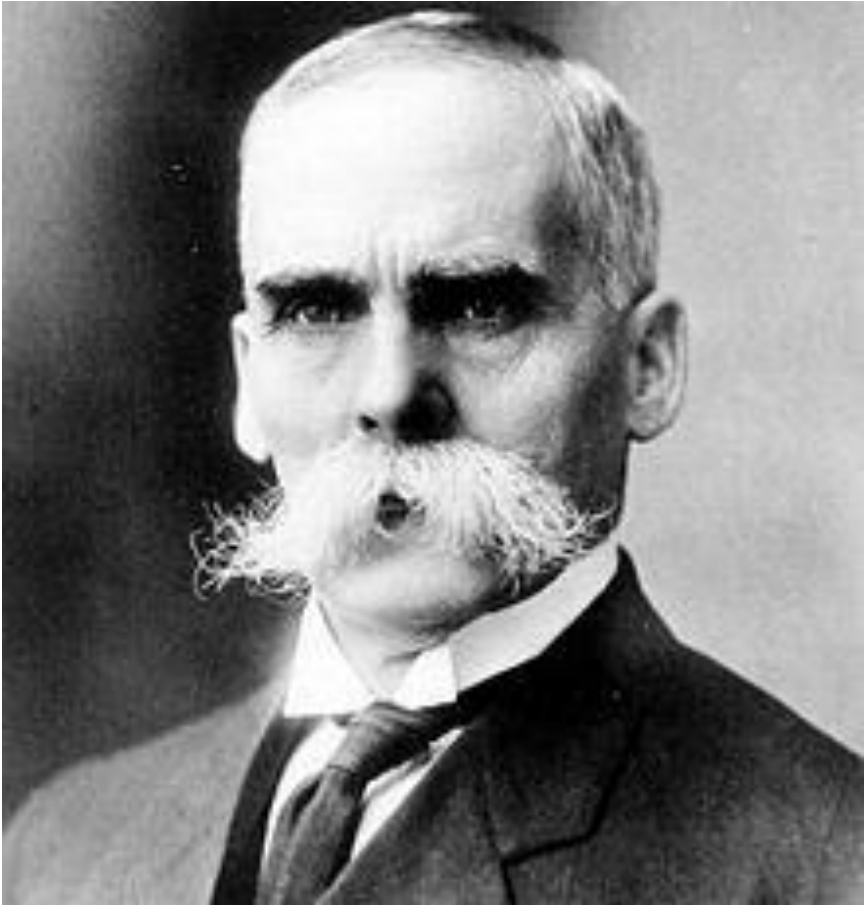
2.17

EVOLUTION OF THE POPULATION OF QUÉBEC AND CANADA FROM 1891 TO 1931



Source: Statistics Canada

Immigration control



Frank Oliver

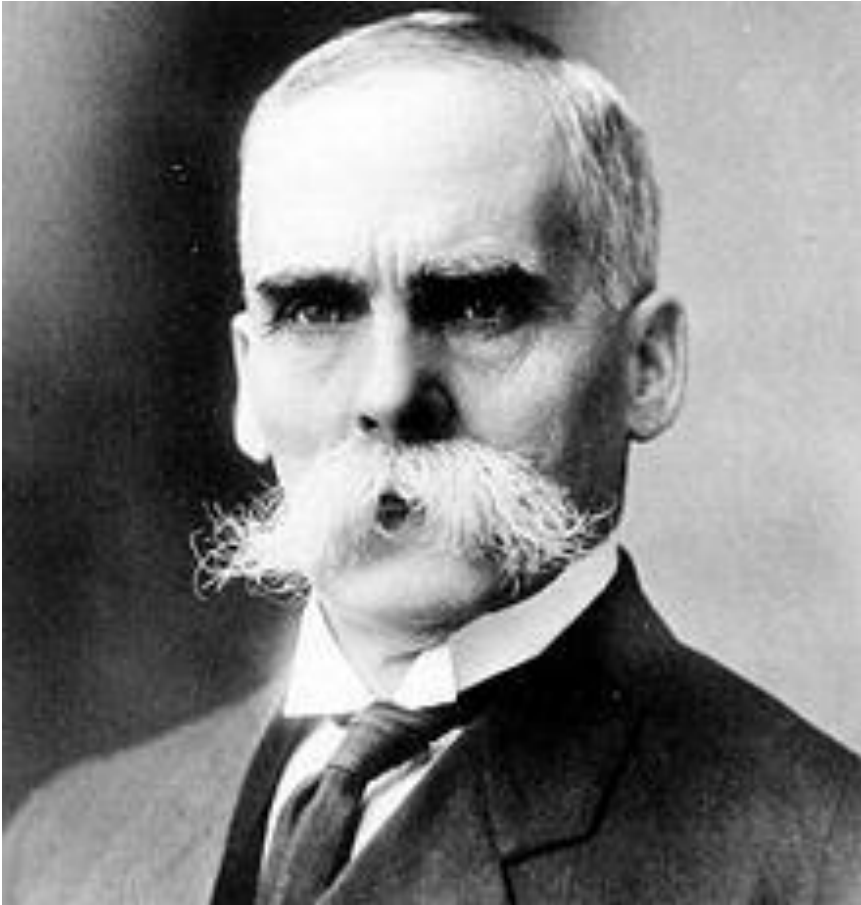
New Canadian minister of the Interior,
1905-1911

(Who? When?)

Immigration control

Frank Oliver:

(What?)



- strongly believed that **the ethnicity of immigrants was more important than their professional experience.**
- passed the *Immigration Act* in 1906
 - Epileptics, the blind, the mentally ill, criminals, prostitutes, and the poor, were deemed undesirable immigrants.
 - Oliver gave the right to refuse immigrants arbitrarily (at will, without following any law).
 - Oliver implemented a procedure for the deportation of undesirable immigrants.

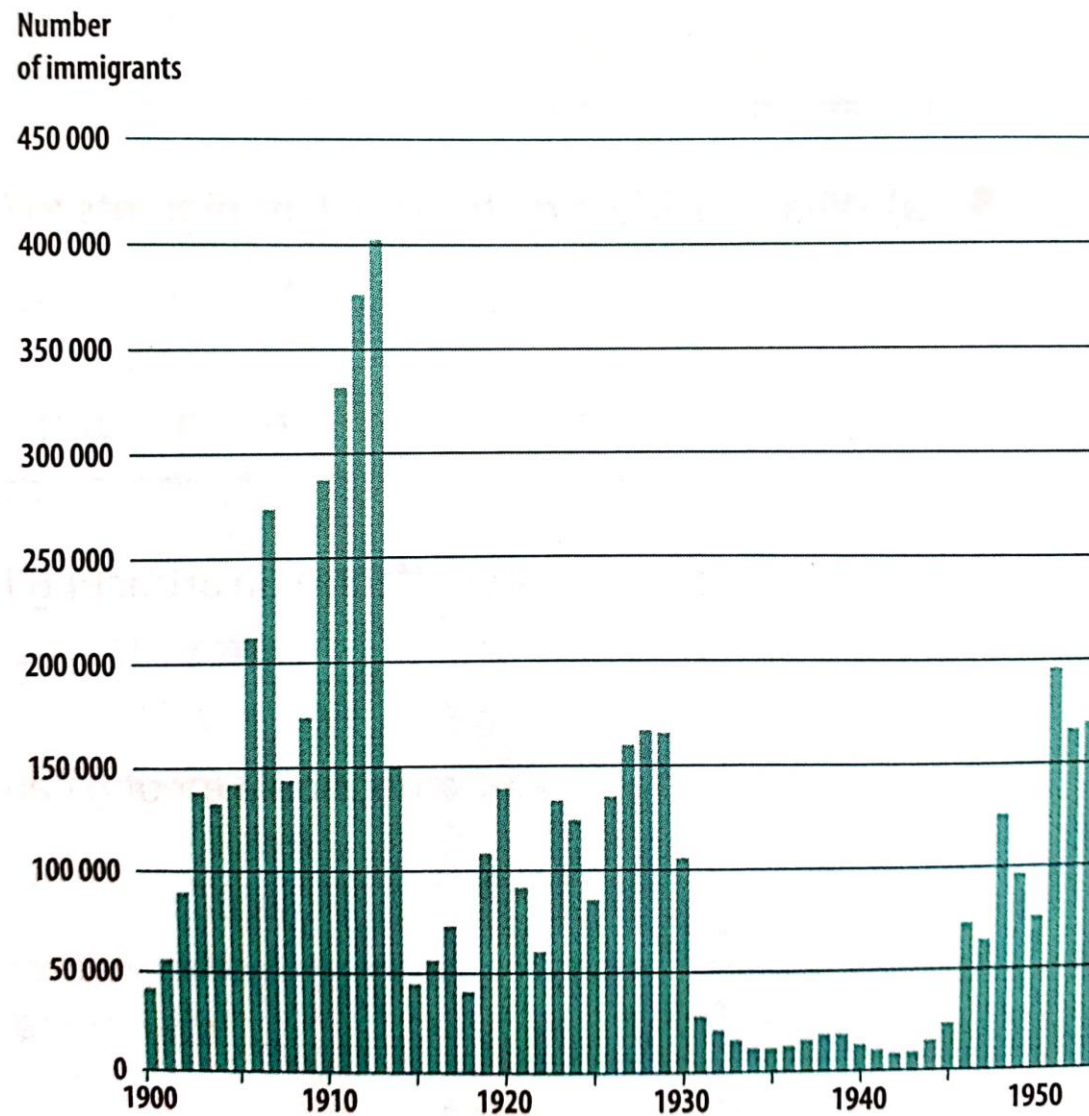
Treatment of newcomers and the rise of xenophobia

- Immigrants tended to group together with others from their homeland, **often in cities**, where many ended up working in factories.
- **New immigrants often had trouble adjusting because:** *(Why?)*
 - the government did not provide infrastructure or services to make their integration easier
 - the reality of their situation was very different from the one presented to them by recruitment officers
 - the harsh winters were a shock
 - the land they were given to settle wasn't cleared
 - they often didn't have the money to clear the land for farming.

Treatment of newcomers and the rise of xenophobia

In Canada there was widespread xenophobia: *(What?)*

- Many Canadians were not accepting of (hostile toward) immigrants who spoke different languages, practised different religions and came from different cultures.
- Because: *(Why?)*
 - some Canadians feared losing their jobs to newcomers
 - others worried that immigrants were too slow to integrate.
- At the same time, anti-Semitism (prejudice against Jews) was emerging among the Canadian population.
- Canada was becoming evermore multicultural, but the integration of immigrants from diverse backgrounds would not prove easy.

2.21**NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS ARRIVING IN CANADA
BETWEEN 1900 AND 1953**

Source: Statistics Canada