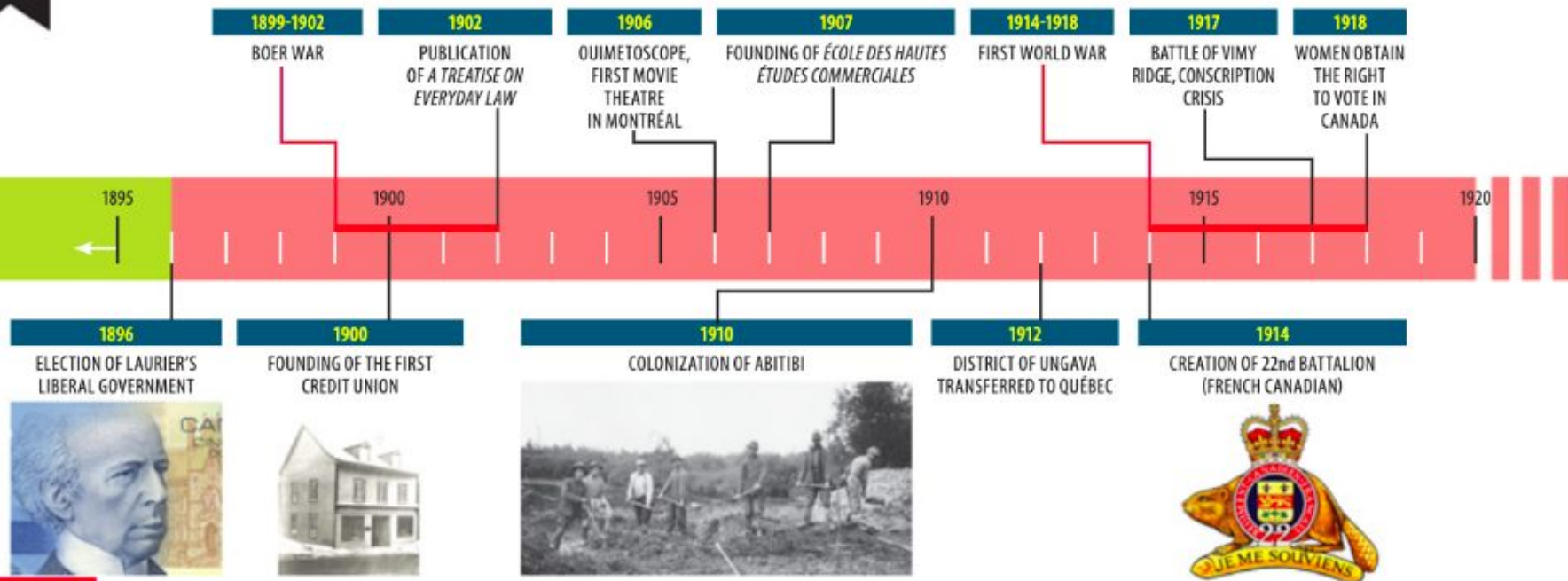


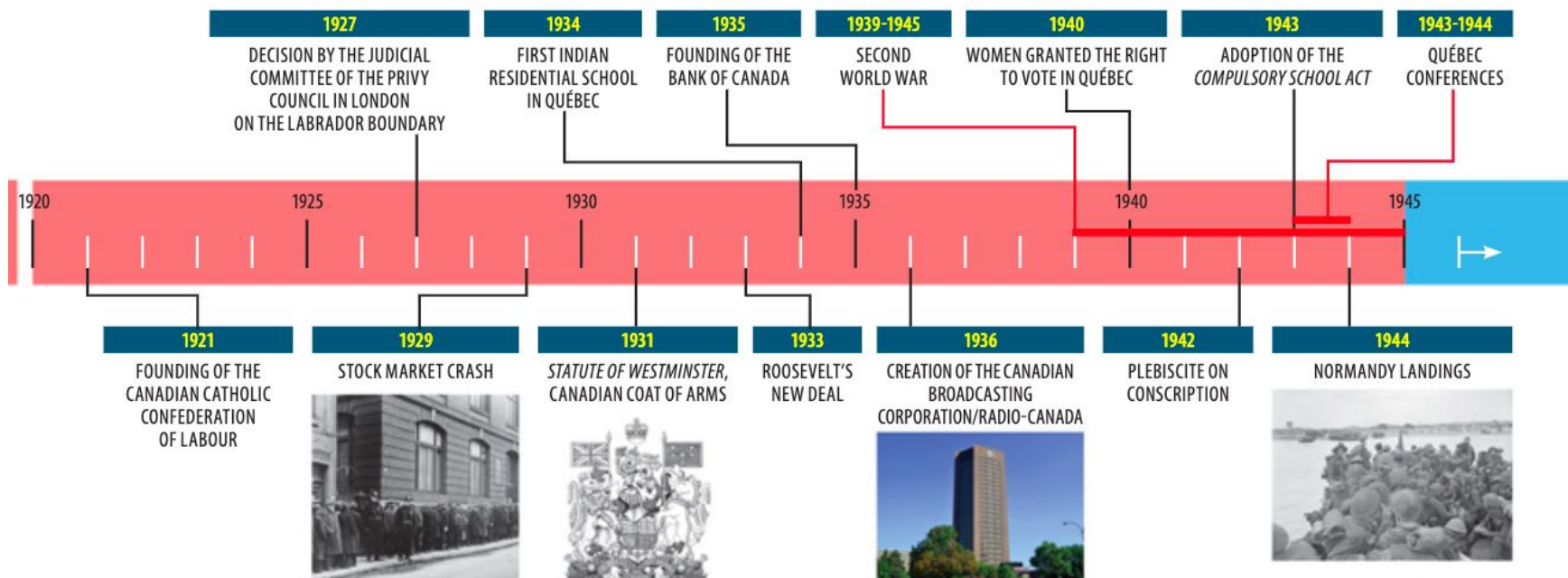


Wilfred Laurier Government

Chapter 2 1896-1945







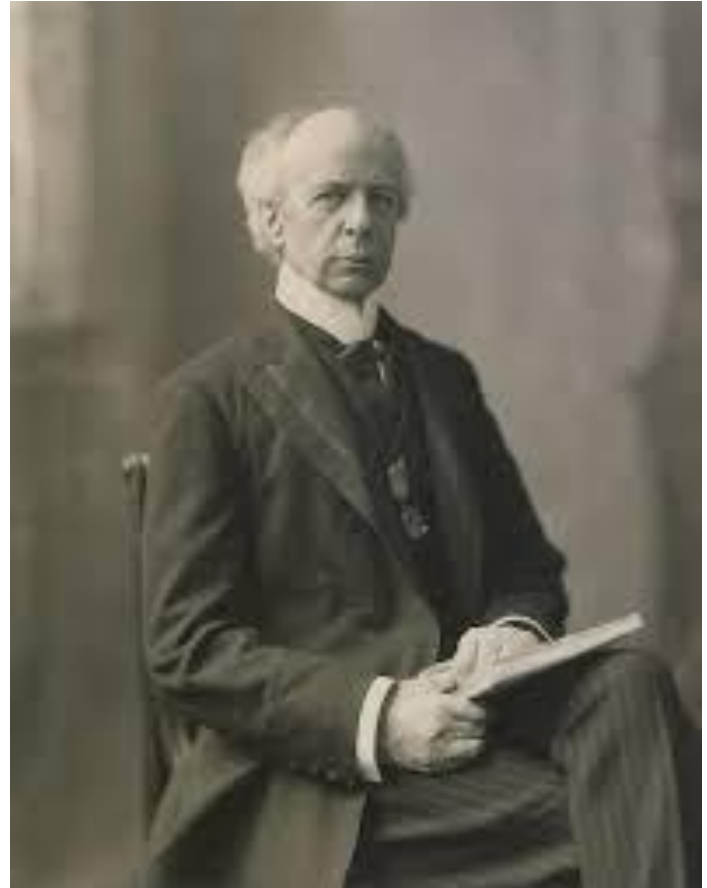


What happened under
Laurier's liberal
government?



Laurier

- Wilfrid Laurier's Liberal Party took office in 1896. This led to battles between the French and the English as the French did not have the same sense of belonging to the British and the English Canadians felt.
- Laurier hoped to ease the tensions and thought the groups should focus on what they had in common in order to encourage Canadian unity



British imperialism

- British Imperialism was an ideology that made its way to other parts of Canada
 - The primary goal was to **strengthen the British Empire** and its territories under a federal union with common governance over economic, military, political and social sectors
 - They joined organizations like the **Imperial Federation League** which was founded in London in 1884



4 A Canadian postage stamp



This postage stamp was issued on December 7, 1898. It captures the feeling of pride in belonging to the British Empire. All of the territories in the British Empire are represented in red.



The expression in the top banner captures the size and scope of the British Empire.

French Canadian Nationalism

- The rise of British imperialism fuelled **French Canadian nationalism**, a movement that was distinct from English Canadian patriotism
- Both imperialism and French Canadian nationalism were in politically opposed, yet they both **feared an American takeover** of Canada
- French Canadian Nationalists were demanding that Canada have greater autonomy. They were against Canada getting involved in British wars.



2.3 Henri Bourassa (1868-1952), journalist, politician and grandson of renowned *Patriote* Louis-Joseph Papineau.

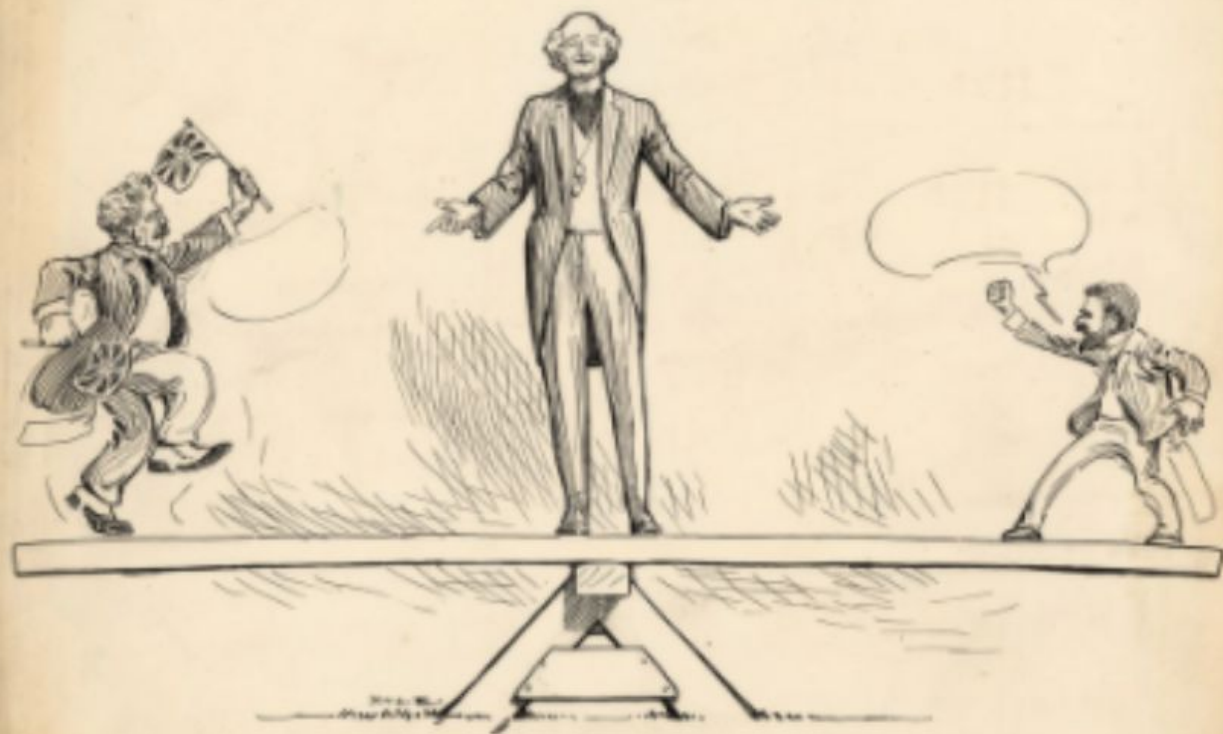
French Canadian nationalism

Henri Bourassa was the leader of this movement and promoted French-Canadian nationalism

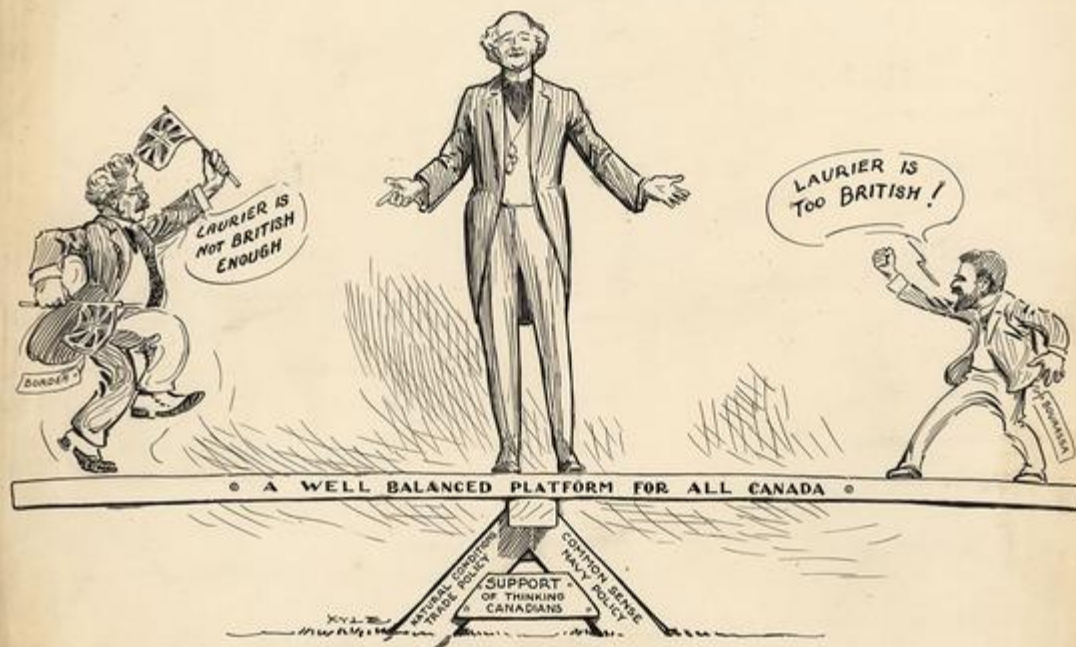
- In 1910 he founded *Le Devoir* newspaper and used it as a platform to promote his nationalist ideas to the French speaking population
- His vision was to **close the divide** between English Canadians, French Canadians, and immigrants to foster a **unified nationalism**
- He was a member of the Nationalist League that was founded in 1902 to promote French Canadian nationalism



2.2 Offices of *Le Devoir* newspaper in Montréal, 1910.



SIR WILFRID AND THE EXTREMISTS



WHERE LAURIER STANDS

extra good cut — 6 1/4 — weekly paper style sheet

Canadian military support



The Boer War(1899-1902)

The Boer war **increased the differences** between British imperialists and Canadian nationalists

The Boers were descendents of the Dutch in the British colony of South Africa and republics of Transvaal and the Orange Free State

- In the mid-19th century the Boers **requested independence** from the UK which was denied- Britain wanted the British in the area to have more of a political say
- **Tensions** between the British and the Boers led to war in 1899



Boer War

The United Kingdom used the war to **strengthen imperial ties with its colonies**, asking them to send soldiers: this request **divided Canadians**

- **Imperialists supported sending soldiers** seeing it as an opportunity for Canada to play an important role in and protect the empire
- **Nationalists opposed sending soldiers**; they viewed the war was a waste of resources and human lives. They believed that participating in the Boer War would lead to them needing to participate in future wars of the empire



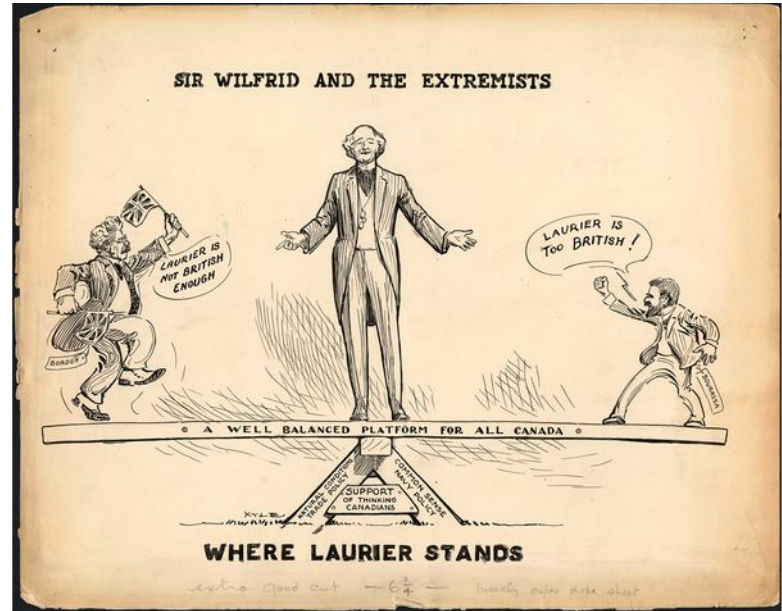
2.5 This imperialist pamphlet targeted those who opposed sending Canadian soldiers to South Africa.

Boer War

Some French Canadians opposed the British war effort since they sympathized with being a minority group

The Laurier government contributed \$3 million and send over 7000 volunteered soldiers over the course of the three years

The British won the war, yet the whole experience created a **separation between imperialists and nationalists in Canada**



Source: courtesy Library and Archives Canada/MIKAN 3636195

Canadian Navy

Due to fear of Germany's growing power, the UK called on its colonies to send subsidies to help maintain its Royal Navy

- **Subsidies: Sum of money granted as assistance**

In 1895, the **Navy League of Canada** was founded in Toronto to support the creation of a Canadian navy to patrol and protect its waters



Canadian Navy

Two major reasons there was a need for the navy included;

- In 1907, **Britain withdrew its navy** from Canadian coasts in order to send them to Europe instead
- In 1909, technological advances allowed **Germany's navy to present a serious challenge** to Britain's naval supremacy

In **1910 the *Naval service Act*** was passed which led to the creation of the Royal Canadian Navy



Response to the creation of the Navy

- **Imperialists** would have preferred to **send money** to London or to build a Canadian navy to help secure Britain's naval supremacy
- Some **nationalists** felt that creating a strong Canadian navy was an important step in **establishing their independence**
- **Other nationalists** (French Canadians and rural inhabitants) **rejected the idea of investing in the define of the British Empire.**



2.6 The HMS *Niobe* was one of two Canadian ships at the outbreak of the First World War in 1914.

From after the creation of the Navy, the country's prime ministers all fought hard for Canada's autonomy in different aspects of international affairs. Canada started to show that it was capable of managing its own policies and affairs.

FOCUS on ...

CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Canada became more politically autonomous when its own Department of External Affairs was established in 1909. Its mandate included issuing passports, keeping records of international relations and managing relationships with visiting foreign officials.

5 Read the following excerpts from Canadian newspapers during the Boer War.

A.

the 20th season.
"Canada, and especially the province of Québec, has no choice but to take up the quarrels of England, Russia, France, Germany and the United States. We are raising our children for more than to spill their blood [...] in all the oceans and continents of the world." [TRANSLATION]

L'Avenir du Nord

A
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H
Lyl
n
line

B.

"While everyone supports sending soldiers, Québec is obstructing these efforts, and the representatives of this people, to whom the motherland has offered so many privileges and special concessions, have shamed us in front of the whole world [...]. Never has the Canadian heart beat so strongly in unison with the British; but it has been constricted by French-Canadian apathy; Québec has stopped their hearts from beating as one."

News

a) What issue do both of these excerpts refer to?

b) Which excerpt reflects the imperialist view and which one reflects the nationalist view? Why?

Imperialist: _____

Nationalist: _____

???

DID YOU KNOW

In 1867, the United States purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7.7 million dollars. This led to heated debates between Canada and the United States over the boundaries of the newly created American state, as each country wanted possession of the gold mines recently discovered along the Alaskan frontier. The issue was finally resolved in 1903, when an international court ruled in favour of the United States.



CANADIAN AND AMERICAN CLAIMS OVER THE ALASKAN BORDER



