

Canada and the Twenties

Resource: *Counterpoints: Exploring Canadian Issues*, Chapter 3

Introduction

1. Describe two competing views of life in Canada that existed in the 1920s.
 - *Life was prosperous for some.*
 - *Life was filled with discrimination, poverty, lack of political influence for others.*

An Uneasy Adjustment

2. What did soldiers returning to Canada after World War I face?
No pensions; no special medical services; few jobs.
3. What rewards did workers who had taken wage reductions during the war face afterwards?
Cost of goods soared and wages did not cover living expenses.
4. Why were there so many strikes in years after WWI?
Workers wanted higher wages, better working conditions and the right to join unions.
5. What political ideas may have influenced union leaders in western Canada in this period?
Socialism or communism.
6. What was the OBU?
The Western Labour Conference (March 1919) founded the One Big Union to get more control of industry and government through peaceful means.
7. Define *collective bargaining*.
Negotiations between a union and an employer about conditions of employment.
8. What did Winnipeg's metal and building workers demand when they went on strike in 1919?
 - *Shorter work week.*
 - *Higher wages.*
 - *Right to collective bargaining.*
9. Describe the effects of this strike on Winnipeg.
Varied – 30,000 on strike; city paralyzed.
10. How did the *Citizens Committee of One Thousand* see the strike?
A communist conspiracy to overthrow the government.
11. What was the federal government's response?
Deported strike leaders; RNWMP and Winnipeg's special constables attacked a strikers' parade; would charge some leaders with treason.
12. Describe the events of *Bloody Sunday*.
Police on horseback charged a strikers' parade with pistols and clubs killing 1, injuring 20, and arresting scores.
13. Describe what happened to the strikers after it was all over.
 - *Seven leaders convicted of conspiracy to overthrow the government receiving sentences from 2 months to 2 years.*
 - *Many strikers were not rehired or hired only on promise not to join a union.*
 - *Distrust between workers and business leaders grew deeper.*
14. Which side do you think was *right*? Explain.
Opinion.

15. Who was J.S. Woodsworth?
Minister; arrested during the strike; helped strikers and their families; would eventually help found the CCF party.

New Challenges to Federalism

16. Define the term regionalism.
To be more concerned with the affairs of one's region than the affairs of the larger country.
17. What issues faced the Maritimes in the Twenties?
- *Population was shrinking – representation in Parliament was declining.*
 - *Businesses and banks were moving to Ontario and Quebec.*
 - *Products such as coal were declining in importance.*
18. What two issues concerned farmers?
- *Tariffs protecting eastern manufacturers made the cost of equipment expensive.*
 - *Freight rates and wheat storage costs were high.*
19. Why were political parties such as the *United Farmers Parties* and *The Progressive Party* formed in this period?
To support farmers' demands for free trade and public ownership of the railways.
20. What successes did they experience?
United Farmers were successful in some provinces; Progressives had some success at the federal level and had a bit of influence on the Liberal government.
21. Who was Arthur Meighen?
Replaced Borden as leader of the Conservatives and was a Prime Minister.
22. What approach to politics did he take?
Believed in adhering to his principles rather than compromising to stay in power.
23. Who was William Lyon Mackenzie King?
Leader of the Liberals after 1919; would go on to be a long-serving Prime Minister.
24. What approach to politics did he take?
Conciliatory; sought the middle path to offend the fewest people.
25. List the results of the 1921 election.
- *Conservatives: 50 seats*
 - *Independent Labour Party: 2 seats*
 - *Independent Liberals: 1 seat*
 - *Labour-Liberals: 1 seat*
 - *Liberals: 117 seats*
 - *Progressives: 64 seats*
26. Who formed the government?
Liberals lead by WLM King.
27. What is a *minority government*?
Where the party forming the government has less than 50% of the seats in Parliament.
28. Which party's support did the Liberals need in order to continue to form the government?
Progressives.
29. What influences on government policy did this party have?
Persuaded the Liberals to introduce an old age pension.

Canada's Growing Independence

30. How did Prime Minister King assert Canada's independence from Britain in international affairs?
 - 1922: *refused to support Britain's plan to invade Turkey.*
 - 1923: *insisted Canada sign international treaties without Britain's "co-signature".*
 - 1926: *challenged Britain's role in Canadian politics in the "King-Byng" affair.*
31. King's Liberals formed another minority government in 1925. When the Conservatives called for a *motion of censure* King asked Governor General Lord Byng to call an election. Byng refused because he felt the *motion of censure* should be voted on first. What election issue did King create out of this refusal?
That it was undemocratic for a Governor General appointed by Britain to refuse an elected Prime Minister request for an election.
32. Who do you agree with? King or Byng? Explain.
Varied.
33. Who were the four *dominions*?
New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and Canada.
34. Define *autonomy*.
The power to make one's own decisions.
35. What did they demand of Britain at the 1926 Imperial Conference?
Formal recognition of their autonomy and freedom to govern themselves.
36. What was the *Statute of Westminster*?
An act of the British Parliament which changed the Empire to a Commonwealth where the Dominions were equal to Britain.
37. How was the *British Commonwealth* different from the *British Empire*?
Varied.
38. Define the term *amending* formula.
The procedure for changing the BNA Act or Canada's constitution.
39. What two restrictions remained on Canada's independence?
 - *Canada's constitution (the BNA Act) had to be changed by Britain at Canada's request.*
 - *Canada's highest judicial court was in Britain.*
40. Why did this limitations exist for Canada and not the other dominions?
The provincial and the federal governments could not agree on a way to change the constitution.

The Economy Improves

41. What country became Canada's main economic partner after WWI? Why?
US; Britain, Canada's former main trading partner was in debt due to WWI and the US had more surplus money to invest and buy Canadian goods.
42. How was American investment in Canada different from Britain's had been?
Britain had lent money to Canadian companies while the US bought them.
43. What is meant by the term *branch plant*?
Factories in Canada owned and operated by larger companies often based in the US.
44. What is meant by the term *primary industry*?
Industries that extract (mines) or collect (forestry) raw materials.
45. What is meant by the term *secondary industry*?
Manufacturing and construction industries.

46. Explain how the American economy benefited more than Canada's from all the US investment.
Canada gained jobs in the primary sector but the US gained more in the processing and manufacturing sectors using resources from Canada.
47. Why was Canada able to export great quantities of alcohol to the US up to 1933?
US had prohibition.
48. Compare this *export trade* to one that exists in our day.
Varied.
49. How did Canadians go about deciding to once again allow the sale of alcohol?
Each province made the decision for themselves – through plebiscites.
50. Why did more and more people move to Canada's cities during the Twenties?
Increased employment in the manufacturing sector (combined with increased mechanization on farms) attracted them.
51. What is meant by *urbanization*?
The changing from an area from rural to urban.
52. Why did the *city centre* become an undesirable place to live?
Industry concentrated there increased pollution causing the area to become one of cheap and often undesirable housing.
53. What made it possible for affluent families to move out of the city centre?
Automobiles.

The Role of Women

54. What prospects did women have in the society of the Twenties?
Wives and mothers; teaching, nursing, secretarial and clerical jobs; few women in law or engineering.
55. What issue was at the centre of *The Persons Case*?
Emily Murphy's appointment as a magistrate was questioned as she was not a "person" under the BNA Act.

A New Prosperity

56. Identify several features of the prosperity of the *Roaring Twenties*.
 - *People could afford radios, cars, ...*
 - *Movies were popular.*
 - *Fads spread from US to Canada; US fashions were popular*
 - *US tourists discovered Canada.*
 - *Jobs increased.*
57. Describe the changes brought about by the introduction of inexpensive automobiles such as Henry Ford's Model T.
Increase miles of paved roads; BC changed to driving on the right; drive-in restaurants; easy commute to the city from the suburbs.
58. Describe the impact of the airplane on Canada's remote frontiers.
Mineral exploration made easier; used to deliver supplies; helped in police searches (e.g. the hunt for the Rat River trapper).
59. Why did the invention of the radio have such a powerful impact on Canadians, especially those in rural areas?

Broke down the isolation of rural communities; allowed US cultural invasion through programs and powerful US transmitters.

60. How did movies, especially those from the US, impact Canadian culture?
Highly polished US productions overwhelmed homegrown productions; shows US culture as a model for Canadians.
61. How did the *Group of Seven* impact how Canadians saw themselves and their country?
Their style portrayed Canada in a new and distinct manner quite different from traditional European influence forms.
62. What was the focus of Emily Carr's art?
West coast forests and Aboriginal life.
63. List several prominent Canadian athletes of the Twenties and give their accomplishments.
 - *Percy Williams: won 2 Olympic gold medals in sprinting.*
 - *Ethel Catherwood: won an Olympic gold medal in high-jumping.*
 - *Charles Gorman: set 7 world speed skating records.*
 - *John Myles: set a record for the Boston Marathon in 1926.*
 - *Lionel Conacher: star in wrestling, baseball, lacrosse, football and the NHL.*
 - *Bobby Rosenfell: won gold and silver medals in the 1928 Olympics.*
 - *Various Canadian hockey teams were very successful.*

Missing the Roar

64. What discriminations did Aboriginal peoples continue to experience after WWI?
Were not persons; could not vote; reserves were poor; discriminated in with respect to employment; residential schools tried to undermine their culture.
65. What are *potlatches*?
West coast ceremonies to celebrate special events and to establish status by distributing wealth.
66. Why did the federal government ban them?
They were seen as obstacles to assimilation.
67. Do you agree with this? Explain.
Opinion.
68. Define the term *Aboriginal Title*.
Claims by Aboriginal peoples to land occupied by their ancestors.
69. What were the *cut-off lands*?
Lands taken away from reserves without the permission of the people of the reserve.
70. BC's native leaders objected to the loss of their ancestral lands during this period. Describe their actions to assert their claims.
Varied – court challenges.
71. What were the views of the federal and provincial governments on this matter?
The government claimed that the expense of running the Department of Indian Affairs justified the cut-offs; rewrote the laws to permit.
72. How were *blacks* treated by Canadian society in the Twenties?
Separate schools in Nova Scotia; open discrimination elsewhere.
73. Suggest reasons why the government favored immigrants from Britain and the US?
Varied.

74. Suggest reasons why the government restricted immigrants from Russia and Eastern Europe in this period.
The government feared they were socialist revolutionaries.
75. Suggest reasons why farmers, railway owners and other businessmen welcomed immigrants.
Could pay them low wages to do work others did not want.
76. Why do you think labour groups opposed immigration in this period?
Fearred they were willing to work longer hours for lower wages and would take work from those already in Canada.
77. Why do you think there were most severe restrictions placed on immigration from Asia?
Opinion.
78. What conditions were faced by immigrants when they did get to Canada?
Often ended up in company towns or in urban slums working for low wages in poor conditions.

The Stock Market Crash

79. What is the significance of *Tuesday, October 29, 1929*?
US stock market crashed.
80. Why do you think this happened?
Varied – over production; inflated stock prices; loss of confidence.
81. Define the term *depression*.
When economic activity slows and unemployment rises.
82. How could such an event affect ordinary people?
Varied.