1.1: Immigration (part 2)

Unit 1: Canada @ the Turn of the 20th Century (1900-1914)
Changing Attitudes

- Despite government promises of a better life, immigrants discovered that many Canadians were prejudiced against different religions, cultures, & different skin colours.

- Nativists believed they had a dominant culture over newly arrived immigrants.

- Feared “foreigners” would threaten this superiority.

- They wanted to assimilate and “Canadianize” the newcomers through churches & schools.
A Changing Canada

- While many immigrants in the years 1900-1914 came to farm the West, many of the newcomers settled in other parts of Canada based on **employment** opportunities such as:
  - expanding railways
  - mining
  - lumber camps of Northern Ontario & the Maritimes
Immigration Impacts

- Growth of Cities
- New provinces
Immigration Impacts

- Despite the employment opps just mentioned, about 50% of newly arriving immigrants at this time decided on a urban rather than rural life (city over country life...Winnipeg, Edmonton, Montreal, Toronto)
• Any suggestions what may have caused this rural to urban shift?
Growth of Cities

- Many of our cities in the early 20th century contained new factories in need of workers.

- Many newly arrived immigrants in desperate need of employment found it in these factories, prompting them to settle there.
Growth of Cities

- City populations expanded as a result which led to a demand for more services, new employment opportunities, and the appearance of new social problems in these cities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>1901</th>
<th>1911</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>40 000</td>
<td>47 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint John</td>
<td>41 000</td>
<td>43 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>70 000</td>
<td>80 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>330 000</td>
<td>490 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>60 000</td>
<td>87 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>210 000</td>
<td>380 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>53 000</td>
<td>82 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>42 000</td>
<td>140 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina</td>
<td>2 200</td>
<td>30 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saskatoon</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>12 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>4 200</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>4 400</td>
<td>44 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>30 000</td>
<td>120 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Provinces

- In addition to city growth, western immigration was a driving force that prompted the federal government to **create two new provinces** in 1905, Alberta and Saskatchewan, from the old Northwest Territories.
Government Policy

- We have discovered that government policy favoured immigrants to Canada's West from certain regions believed to have the settlers best suited to life on the Prairies.
  - nearby Canadian provinces, Britain, the United States, & Northwestern / Central Europe

- What about immigrants from other areas of the world outside of the USA & Europe? What was the government policy and Canadian attitudes towards non-white settlers?
Clifford Sifton & Govt Policy

- Gvt immigration policy at this time was “Open Door” but very selective.

- It was open door policy when it came to immigrants from Britain, USA, north – central Europe.

- It was selective when it came to East Asian, African American, and Jewish immigrants.
Clifford Sifton & Govt Policy

- Sifton believed that "a stalwart peasant in a sheepskin coat" made the most desirable immigrant, and, has we have discovered, he set out to attract people suited for farming.
- His focus was attracting people who worked the land rather than town dwellers such as artisans or shop keepers.
- He also felt that an influx of immigrants into Canadian cities would create slums, unemployment, & be of no benefit to Canada.
Racial Exclusion

- As increasing numbers of non-White settlers came to Canada, many Canadians demanded that the government take action to “keep Canada White.”

- In the West, there was a clear government policy to exclude Black Americans from the general invitation to take up free land, they weren’t given CPR promotional tours, & compared to white settlers, stricter entry requirements were applied to Black immigrants by immigration officials.
Racial Exclusion

- At the turn of the 20\textsuperscript{th} century, the largest number of Chinese & Japanese immigrants to Canada had settled in British Columbia.
- For Chinese immigrants, they risked their lives to help build Canada's railroad in the 1880s. But as soon as the work was done, Canada just wanted them gone.
- By the early 20\textsuperscript{th} Century, there were limited employment options for Chinese in Canada: manual labourer, domestic labourer (the "Chinese houseboy"), restaurant worker or laundry owner.
Racial Exclusion...Head Tax

- To discourage Chinese immigrants from coming here, the government implemented a **Head Tax** which had to be paid in order for them to enter our country.

- Between 1885, the year the railway was completed, to 1903, the Chinese head tax increased from **$50 per person** to **$500**.
DOMINION OF CANADA

RECEIVED FROM

Lee Don, whose photograph is attached hereon, on the date and at the place hereunder mentioned, the sum of Five Hundred Dollars being the head tax due under the provisions of the Chinese Immigration Act. The above mentioned party who claims to be a native of Da Liok in the District of Hoy Ping of the age of 22 years arrived or landed at Victoria, B.C. on the 23rd day of July 1918 at Roshino Wharf.

The declaration in this case is C.I. No. 31920

Dated at Vancouver on 3rd August 1918

A. S. Little

CONTROLLER OF CHINESE IMMIGRATION.
Racial Exclusion

- Another example of racial exclusion occurred in 1908 when legislation was passed requiring all immigrants to come to Canada directly from their country of origin.

- This shut off immigration from India, since there was no direct steamship line connecting Canada with that country.
Racial Exclusion

- On May 23, 1914, 376 prospective East Indian immigrants arrived in Vancouver Harbour on board the Komagatu Maru.
Racial Exclusion: Komagata Maru

- Due to the 1908 government legislation, it stayed there with its human cargo for two months while the legality of an exclusion order was tested.

- The order was upheld and the vessel and passengers were sent back to sea cheered on by local residents.