



# Immigration and Nativism

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# The Boom and the Pull Factors

- Massive Immigration boom 1896-1921
- Population 5.4M 1900 → 10.4M 1920
- Closing of the American frontier
- Yukon Gold Rush
- Wheat Boom: Prairie → Last, Best West
- Government Promotion of Immigration



# Please Come to Canada!



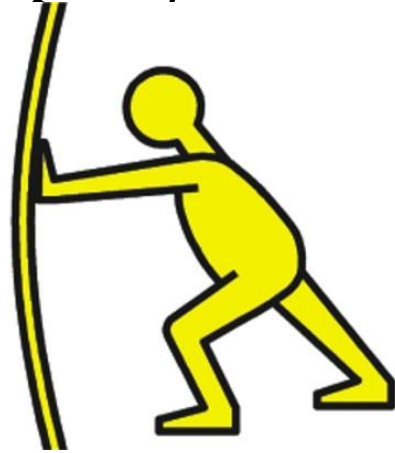
- American Pull factors → Canada nearly depopulated →
- Laurier's Liberal government, Sifton promotes immigration
- \$1M advertising Canada: pamphlets, tours, subsidies
- Sifton's slogan: "only farmers need apply"

# Cartoon #1



# Push Factors in Europe

- Canada versus Austro-Hungarian Empire/  
Ukraine
  - Lower land taxes
  - Less crowded
  - Less political harassment
- Religious minorities: Jew, Mennonit  
Doukhobors
  - Lower proportion than in US



# Integration and Nativism

- Anglo-Conformity expected
- Ralph Connor: Melting Pot + Anglo-Conformity
- Quebecois view mixed:
  - Most Quebecois support pro-immigration Liberals
  - Others fear French-Canadians being outnumbered
- Hierarchy: British, American, Western European, Other

# Open versus Selective

- Open immigration supported by industrialists
  - Wheat Boom+Industrialization → Unskilled Labor needed
  - Eastern Europeans diligent, obedient, unskilled, cheap
- **Frank Oliver: Greatness incompatible with openness**
  - Stricter Immigration Act; Jews, blacks excluded
  - However, small impact on immigration overall

# Arriving in



- Arrivals processed by Immigration Branch
  - Sifton, Minister of the Interior: **“responsibility of the state ended when the new arrivals reached their destination”**
  - Winnipeg = major immigration dispersion point
- Immigrants had to fend for themselves
  - Many U. S. immigrants **“quit the Canadian West and return[ed] to their homeland”**



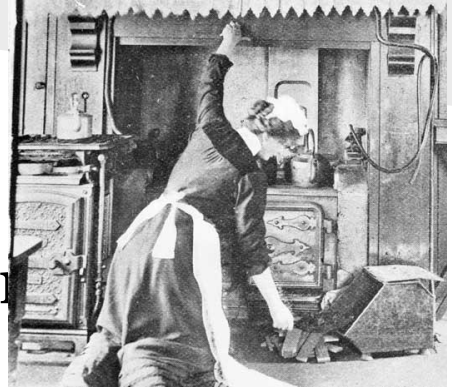
# Urban Immigrant Experience

- Most lived in ethnic ghettos
  - Overcrowded, poor, unsanitary
  - Viewed as **“breeding grounds for disease and crime”**
    - In U.S., blamed for urban crisis (Blum)
  - But, **“for the urban immigrant, [...] eased the trauma of [...] a dramatically different way of life”**



# Immigrant Women

- 1870s-on: Need domestic services (solve the “servant problem”)
  - Exacerbated in 1900s: Canadian-born women moved to non-domestic work
- Immigrants usually British single women, some Asian
  - Unaccustomed to working in rural environment
  - Migrated N and W



# Treatment of Ukrainians

- Subject to stereotypes
- Alarm over smallpox
- Resisted adopting Anglo-Canadian ways



# Treatment of Doukhobors

- Doukhobors = Russian pacifist religious sect members
- Trouble w/ Doukhobors
  - Refused to give up communal land ownership
  - Refused to swear allegiance to the Crown
- >50% Saskatchewan lands confiscated
  - 1912 Peter Verigrin leads to Kootenay region (BC)



# Anti-Asian Sentiment

- **“Central and E. European immigrants aroused nativist anxiety largely because of their numbers, but Asians suffered blatant discrimination for other reasons”**
  - e.g. they weren't white



# Anti-Asian Sentiment

- For Europeans
  - “How to assimilate?”
- For Asians
  - “Should they be allowed in?”
  - “Should they have same rights?”
- Similar hostility in U.S.



# West Coast Immigration: Asians

- Settled mostly in British Columbia (BC)
- Women usually married to non-Asians or brought over by BC businessmen
  - Employed as domestics, waitresses, or prostitutes
- Mostly adult males
  - ~11% population, higher percent of workforce
  - Made “**significant contribution**” to BC economic development

# West Coast Immigration: Asians

- Growing nativity against Asians
  - 1903 Head tax (\$500) for every Chinese immigrant
  - Numbers continue to grow
  - Regarded as “**economic and cultural threat**”
    - Different skin color = harder integration
    - Were taking Canadian jobs



# Anti-Asian Sentiment

- Restricted Chinese; Japanese and E. Indians came instead
  - Japanese disliked more b/c **“more aggressive in pursuing skilled jobs”**
- 1907 Asiatic Exclusion League led demonstrations
  - Result: Laurier gov’t **“bowed to public pressure for immigration restrictions in 1908”**



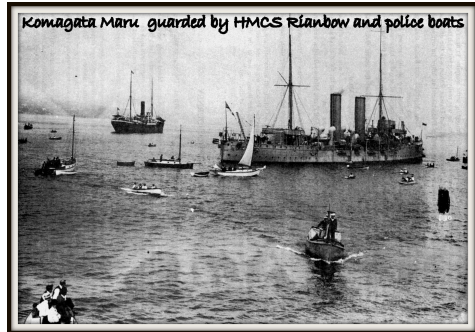
# *Komagata Maru*, Japanese Immigrant Ship



- May 1914

- Was refused admittance into Canada for 2 months
- Nativist sentiment: **H. H. Stevens says Canada must “keep [itself] pure and free from the taint of other peoples”**

- Borden sends *Rainbow*, Navy ship, to lead *Komagata Maru* away



# Wartime Nativism: “Enemy Aliens”

- Reactions “**ranged from grudging acceptance to outright prejudice**”
- Germans disliked
- Enemy Country = “Enemy Aliens”
- 500-1500 civilians and soldiers = rampage → 2 days in Feb. 1916
- New Rule! → register with magistrate, no firearms, report every month
- **Wartime Elections Act of 1917**



# Restrictions on Pacifists

- Doukhobors, Mennonites, and Hutterites
- No military service = Doukhobors and Mennonites farmers
- Order-in-council, 1919 = no more in Dominion



# Anti-Radical Sentiment

- Wartime inflation = problem with wages
- Post-war → anti-radical nativism
- Slavic immigrant = dangerous revolution
- **Labor Crisis of 1919**
  - Winnipeg General Strike of June 1919
- “Red Scare” caused by 1919 strikes
- Laws for no radicals and strengthening government’s of deportation



# Canadianization in the 1920s

- Canada is different from U.S during early 1920s
  - **“Between 1920 and 1924 there was an upsurge of nativist ferment across America, best exemplified by the rise of the Klu Klux Klan”**
- “Melting pot” = failure
- more British immigration = more British civilization
  - **“The test by which all other civilized nations are measured”**
- assimilation of minorities

# Responses to Assimilationist Pressures

- Canadianization = failure
- Mennonites and Doukhobors = old customs and traditions
- old vs. new generations





# Boosterism and Renewed Immigration

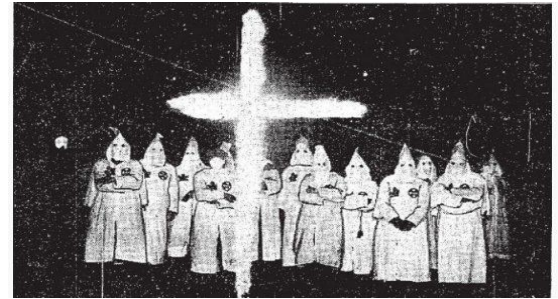
- Promoting new immigration
- **Railways Agreement of 1925 = more immigrants yay!**





# The Revival of Nativism

- new wave of European immigration in mid-1920s
- Nativist sentiment stronger in Saskatchewan
- KKK branched
  - into Toronto and Montreal in 1921
  - into Ontario, B.C, Manitoba
- Success with western Canadians
- Growth of KKK seems to express American cultural attitudes, but more anti-Catholic



# The Challenge of Ethnic Diversity

- 1920s = ethnic and cultural differences
- “melting pot” = favored
- John W. Dafoe, editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press* and John S. Ewart
- 1880 to mid-1920s → major waves of European and Asian immigration
- pieced by different ethnicities



## Cartoon #2

**IN WHICH**  
*Canada attempts the  
melling pot!*

