

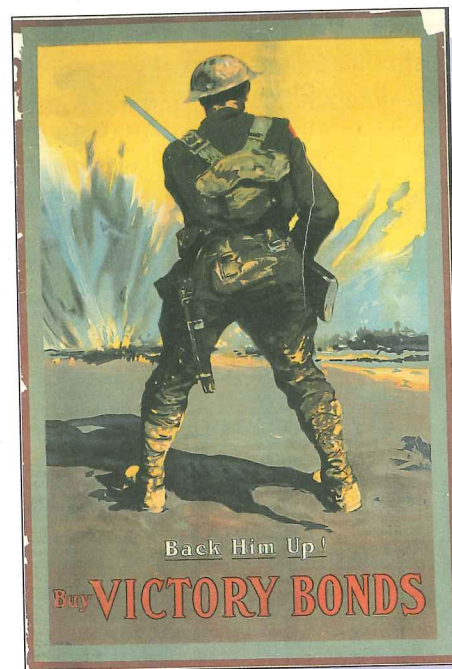
The Changing Role of Government

By 1917, Canadians were feeling the hardships of war. With so many men away fighting and industries booming at home, almost everyone who could work had a job. But the war was beginning to put a strain on the country's resources. Food and fuel became scarce and prices soared. The shortage of coal for furnaces meant many Canadians shivered through the winter of 1917. During the winter of 1918, schools and factories closed because they had no heating.

While many Canadians struggled to deal with these shortages, some business people seemed to be making huge profits during the war. There were cries of profiteering. Some people believed a few businessmen were stockpiling food and fuel until prices rose so high, the goods could be sold at a big profit.

To deal with these problems and to keep up the war effort, the government

Posters, such as this one, urged Canadians to buy Victory Bonds to help pay for the exorbitant cost of the war effort.



introduced an increasing number of controls. Many of these controls directly affected the everyday lives of Canadians. Before the war, the government in Ottawa seemed distant to most people. It had little real effect on their day-to-day lives. The war changed that. Government-appointed fuel controllers promoted "heatless days" to conserve coal. Food controllers urged Canadians to eat less and waste nothing. Government officials introduced "Meatless Mondays" and "Fuelless Sundays."

By the fall of 1918, Canadians were buying "war bread" that was made with some flour substitutes. By a system of "honour rationing," people limited themselves to a pound and a half of butter and two pounds of sugar a month. Honour rationing meant that people were expected to reduce the amount of food they ate voluntarily. Anyone caught hoarding or stockpiling food, however, could be fined or jailed. Other controls included a ban on the sale and drinking of alcohol.

Keeping up the war effort was also expensive. By 1918, the war was costing Canada over \$1 million a day! The government launched a major campaign urging people to buy **Victory Bonds**. Citizens who bought the bonds were lending money to the government for the war effort. After the war, the bonds could be cashed in at a profit. Business people also lent money to the government—in total over \$1 billion. The loans would be paid back with interest when the war was over.

Children played a part by buying Thrift Stamps. Each stamp cost 25¢ and was stuck on a card. When \$4.00 worth of stamps were bought, the child received a War Savings Stamp. A War Savings Stamp could be cashed in for \$5.00 in 1924.

In another effort to raise finances for the war, the government introduced a

business profits tax and income tax for the first time. Income tax was supposed to be a "temporary measure," but as we know, it has never been abolished! Taxes were also placed on tea, coffee, tobacco, cars, and trains. Such measures, however, were not enough. During the war, the Canadian government's debt increased phenomenally from \$463 million in 1913 to \$2.46 billion by 1918.

A Booming Economy

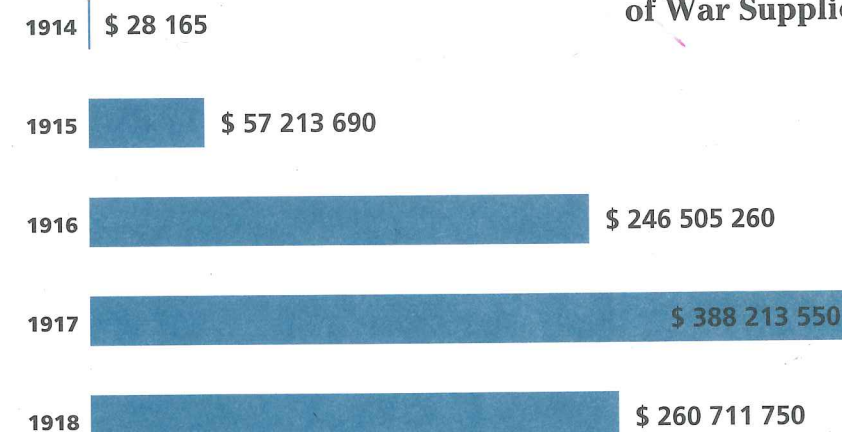
The government also took a greater role in the country's economy. Before 1914, few factories in Canada were capable of producing munitions (military weapons and equipment). After war was declared, factories were quickly reorganized to produce war supplies. The first war materials Canadian factories produced were poor quality. However, after government leaders organized an Imperial Munitions Board, factories began to turn out quality munitions at an astounding rate. Plants manufacturing airplanes, shells, and ships sprang up across the country. By 1918, 300 000 Canadians were employed in

these factories and one-third of the shells fired by the armies of the British Empire were made in Canada. Textile, pulp and paper, steel, and food factories also boomed during the war.

The government urged farmers to produce as much as they could. The wheat crop in 1915 was the largest in Canadian history. In the following years, however, crops fell off badly. In 1917, a Board of Grain Supervisors (which became the Canadian Wheat Board in 1918) took over wheat production and distribution. The government also supervised the large quantities of fish, pork, beef, and cheese that were sent overseas.

By 1917, Britain's coffers were beginning to run dry. It could not afford to buy all that Canadian factories could produce. But in that year, the United States entered the war. It quickly became a major market for Canada's munitions (including new warships and aircraft), food, and industrial products. A War Trades Board was formed to work closely with the United States and to manage imports, exports, and problems of scarcity. Canada's economy continued to boom until the end of the war.

Canada's Production of War Supplies





Developing Skills: Interpreting and Comparing Maps

When we look at a world map, we tend to think that the world has always been as it is pictured and always will be. It is difficult to imagine that the boundaries between countries could change overnight—but they have. New countries have been created and some destroyed many times in history.

In 1991, the Soviet Union was dissolved and several new countries emerged. If Quebec separates, the map of Canada could change dramatically. At the end of World War I, the map of Europe also changed dramatically. These changes had a tremendous effect on the way people lived and related to one another.

By comparing maps before and after the changes, you can begin to hypothesize (think) about the effects the changes had on people living in these countries or regions.

Try It!

Select maps of the same area from two different time periods. You can compare maps of Europe in 1914 before World War I (see page 68) and Europe in 1919 after the war, for example. But you could choose other maps, such as Canada at Confederation and Canada today.



Step I Comprehension

The first step is understanding the maps. Ask yourself these questions.

1. What does each map show? At what period of time?
2. What countries or regions are shown? What symbols are used and what do they represent?

Step II Interpretation

The next step is to gather important information from the maps. In this case, you compare two maps to determine the major changes that occurred over a period of time. Use the following points as a guide.

3. Compare the size of Germany before and after the war. Locate and name two countries that received territory in 1919, which formerly belonged to Germany.
4. What happened to Austria-Hungary in 1918? Name the newly independent nations that were created in Europe.
5. Name and locate four new countries that were created from former Russian territory. To what other countries did Russia lose territory?

Step III Hypothesizing

At this stage, you use the information you have gathered from the maps to draw some conclusions and speculate about possible effects in the future. Consider these questions.

6. Locate the Polish Corridor on the map. How might the creation of the Polish Corridor lead to problems among nations in the future?
7. How might the creation of a number of new small nations in Europe lead to future territorial disputes?

Effects of the War on Canada

By 1918, most Canadians were weary of the war. The heady enthusiasm of 1914 was long played out. Rising death tolls, food and fuel shortages, and nervous suspicions had left Canadians exhausted. The war had exacted a heavy cost. A total of 60 661 Canadians had lost their lives. Another 173 000 were wounded or gassed. Many thousands of the injured lived on for years in veterans' hospitals. For these people, the suffering of war never ended. They were victims who had lost limbs, whose lungs had been destroyed by gas attacks, or who had experienced severe emotional trauma. One veteran described the scars of the war:

I was gassed for a few seconds at Valenciennes in 1918 and became very ill. After a week in the hospital I was able to return to the front. When the war was over, I got a job in an office but by the summer of 1925 I fainted at work several times. My doctor said it was because of the poison in my system caused by my "bad" bottom teeth and that I would have to have them pulled. This did not help me at all. In 1930 I was finally sent

to a doctor in Toronto who asked me if I had been in the Great War. He questioned me further and discovered that I had been gassed in '18. He recommended a partial disability pension, but by 1935 the fainting spells became so frequent that I was put on full pension and have not worked since.

I never could marry and have been living alone for over 40 years.

Another disastrous effect of the war was the deepening resentment between French and English Canadians over conscription. The gulf between Quebec and the rest of the country steadily widened. The hurt, pain, and distrust lingered after the war.

People labelled as "enemy aliens" also suffered serious effects after the war. These people had had their civil rights taken away. Many had lost their jobs or had their homes and businesses vandalized. They had to build new lives for themselves. The Canadian government has never apologized or offered compensation to people interned during World War I.

On the positive side, women had gained the right to vote during the war. World War I had also produced a great boom in Canadian industries. Steel and



The war took a heavy toll in lives and left many mothers, wives, and families suffering from the loss of loved ones.



Netsurfer

To find out about Canada's war veterans and war memorials, visit Veterans Affairs Canada at www.vac-acc.gc.ca.

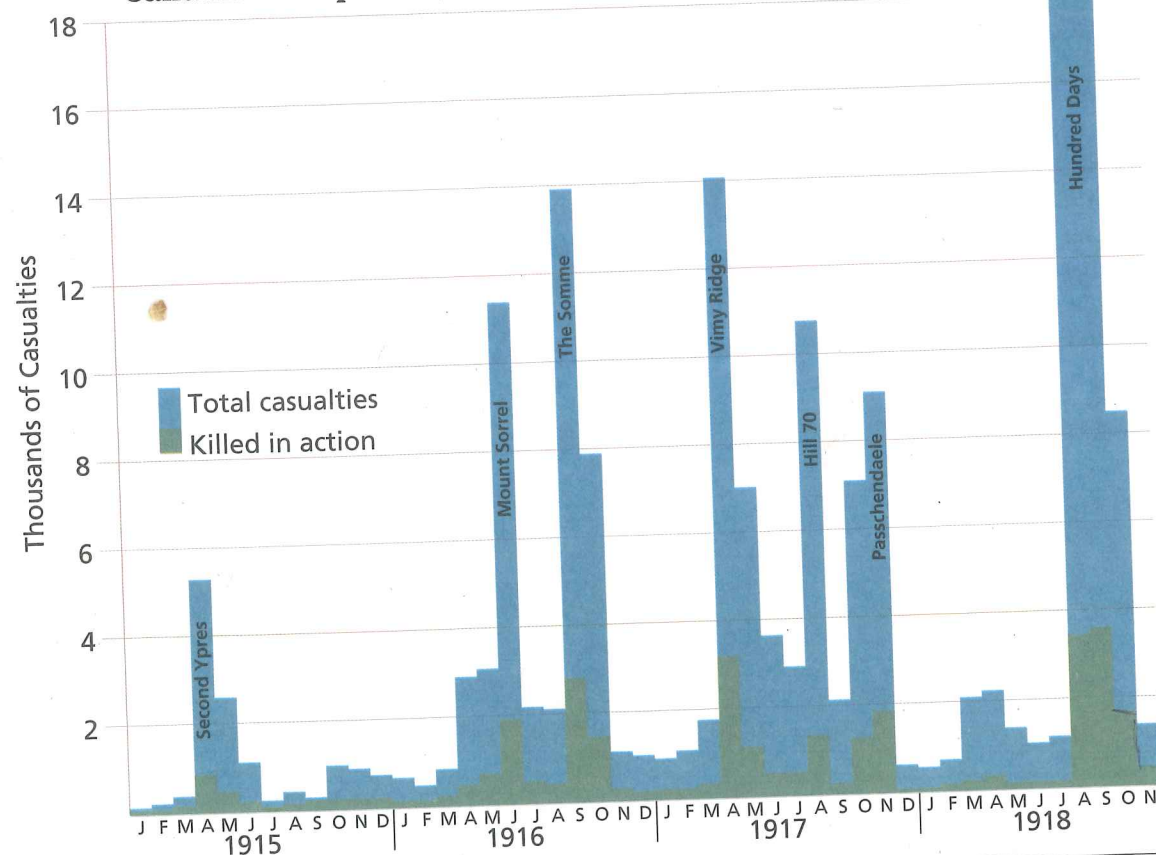
munitions production and manufacturing had grown fantastically. During the war, almost everyone who could work had a job.

Canada also emerged from the war a more independent country. Canada's war effort had earned the country international respect. The outstanding contribution of Canada's soldiers won a separate seat for Canada at the peace conference following the war. Previously, Britain would have signed the peace treaty on behalf of all the British Empire. Now Canada signed the treaty as a separate nation. Canada had achieved a degree of national sovereignty—the right to control its own affairs without interference. Canada was still part

of the British Empire, but Britain had agreed to grant the colonies "autonomy (the right to self-government) within the Empire."

As the decade drew to a close, three of the most important Canadian leaders were also leaving the spotlight of politics. On 19 February 1919, Sir Wilfrid Laurier died of a stroke. With his main opponent gone, Henry Bourassa became less involved in the political scene. Sir Robert Borden, exhausted from leadership during wartime, resigned as leader of the Conservative party in 1920. Three new leaders in Canada were about to emerge—William Lyon Mackenzie King, Arthur Meighen, and J.S. Woodsworth.

Canadian Corps Casualties

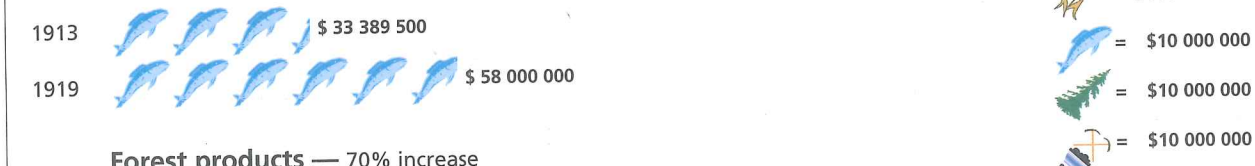


Canada's Economic Growth, 1913-1919

Field crops — 163% increase



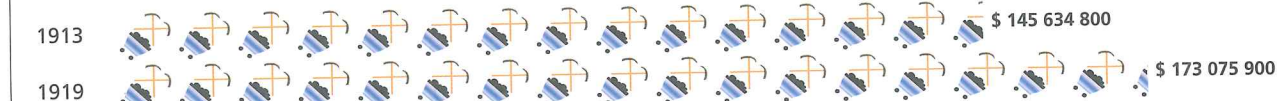
Fisheries — 74% increase



Forest products — 70% increase



Minerals — 19% increase



Trade — Exports 223% increase Imports 37% increase

Activities

Understand Facts and Concepts

1. Add these new terms to your *Factfile*.

"enemy aliens"	Dominion Elections Act 1920
War Measures Act	conscription
Victory Bonds	Military Service Bill 1917
propaganda	Union Government 1917
suffragists	pacifists
Military Voters Act 1917	Treaty of Versailles
Wartime Elections Act 1917	League of Nations

2. Describe how each of the following contributed to the war effort at home.

- women
- workers
- children
- families in their homes
- Aboriginal, Black, Asian, and other ethnocultural communities