**CHAPTER 7**

**Introduction**

***In 1905 the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan joined Confederation as the 8th and 9th provinces. Truly, Canada was now a nation that stretched from sea to sea. We faced many obstacles in our quest for survival. We continued to fear a takeover by the United States as we struggled for greater independence from Britain, especially when it came to negotiating deals with foreign countries. Unfortunately for Canada, establishing a new relationship with Britain that all Canadians could agree to, created a divided, rather than a united, Canada. The issue around Canada’s loyalty to Britain was the cause of much fighting between English and French Canadians. In 1896, Wilfred Laurier became Canada’s first French-Canadian prime minister. His election promised to bring together French and English-speaking citizens in a united Canada.***

**Laurier is Elected**

1. Why were most Quebec voters pleased to see a French-Canadian elected as Canada’s Prime Minister? (p250)

* Because they wanted the federal government to protect their French language and Roman Catholic rights.

2. Why did Prime Minister Laurier have to be very careful when dealing with issues of language and religion? (p250)

* As a Liberal and a French-Canadian, Laurier had to be mindful of his biases and address the ongoing distrust between French- and English-Canadians.

**Conflict and Compromise**

3. What were the two things that Laurier wanted to do as Canada’s Prime Minister? (p250)

* He wanted to promote national unity at home and protect Canada’s interests abroad.

*The Manitoba Schools Question—Laurier’s first opportunity to use his strategy of “compromise” to settle a “conflict” between the English and French in Canada.*

4. a) What Canadian crisis existed that helped Laurier get elected in 1896? Why did this help Laurier defeat John A. Macdonald? (p250)

* A crisis over French-language rights in the West (Manitoba Schools Question) helped Laurier win because Macdonald’s government refused to intervene on behalf of French-Canadians in Manitoba.

1. When Prime Minister Laurier came to power, he was faced with many issues that were dividing the nation, such as the Manitoba School’s Question. There is an excerpt from a speech Laurier gave in 1895 that explains the importance of compromise and conciliation when you’re a politician. *What did Laurier say he would do if he had the power to decide this issue?* (p251)

* He would try the “sunny way.” Laurier was not interested in forcing the premier of Manitoba (Greenway) to do something he didn’t want to do. Instead, Laurier suggested trying to get him to change his mind by appealing to his humanity through the values of peace and fairness.

5. Describe the problem which we now call the “Manitoba Schools Question.” (p250)

* In violation of the *Manitoba Act*, Manitoba created an English-only school system.

6. Laurier had his first opportunity to use his strategy of “*compromise*” to resolve a “*conflict*” that threatened to divide our country along French/English lines. What was the compromise he came up with in this crisis over French-language rights in the West? (p251)

* Instead of acknowledging French-language rights, Laurier and Premier Greenway agreed to allow some religious instruction within the public school system for Roman Catholic students.

***Laurier was determined to make English-and French- Canadians get along—not an easy task. There was, for example, the issue of Canada’s relationship with Britain-the mother country—which made the goal of unity difficult, to say the least. Most English-Canadians were loyal to Britain and were proud to belong to the worldwide British Empire, but this was not the case for most French-Canadians. When Britain requested Canada’s support during international conflicts, the French and English could not agree.***

6. a) What do we call the people who support Canada’s being a member of the British Empire? (p252)

* Imperialists

1. How did most French-Canadians feel about Canada’s position in the British Empire? (p252)

* They did not feel pride in Canada’s status as a self-governing colony of Britain and they certainly did not look to Britain as the seat of their culture.

7. a) In the half century following Confederation in 1867, Canada was not concerned with building a large army or navy. Why?

* Canada relied on the very powerful British Navy for military protection. There were also British troops stationed at Halifax, Nova Scotia and Esquimalt, British Columbia.

1. As the 20th century dawned, two events changed Canada’s mind about the need for a military. Name these two events and explain why Canada had to re-think the need for a military. (p252)

* The South African War and the Naval Crisis. Canada’s dependency on Britain was reversed during these events because it was Britain who needed to turn to Canada for military support.

*The South African War—Laurier’s second opportunity to use his strategy of “compromise” to settle a “conflict” between the English and French in Canada.*

8. a) For Canada, the most important military event before WWI was the South African War, sometimes called the Boer War . (p253)

1. What affect did our involvement in the war have on Canada? (p253)

* Involvement split the country along French and English lines (again).

9. a) Briefly describe the Boer War. (*Who was fighting who and why?*) (p253)

* The Boers (descendants of early Dutch colonists in South Africa) declared war on Britain in 1899. They were upset that Britain was trying to extend its control in South Africa. Britain insisted that it only wanted to ensure equal rights for British subjects in the area, but the Boers saw British expansion as a seizure of their land and a threat to their culture. The British also seemed keenly interested in South America’s newly discovered gold and diamond mines.

b) How did Canada come to be involved in the Boer War? (p253)

* The British government called on the colonies of the British Empire for support.

10. a) Laurier decided to come up with a compromise that he hoped would be acceptable to both the English- and the French Canadians. Explain. (p253)

* Laurier agreed to send only those who volunteered. Once in South Africa, Canadian soldiers would become part of the British forces.

1. In the end, what did Canada contribute to the Boer War? (p253)

* In all, Canada sent 7,300 volunteers and spent nearly $3 million on the war.

c) Did Laurier’s compromise work to unite the French/English division? (p253)

* No. French-Canadians were irritated by Laurier’s compromise. They did not think that Britain being at war should automatically result in Canada also being at war.

*The Naval Issue—Laurier’s third and last opportunity to use his strategy of “compromise” to settle a “conflict” between the English and French in Canada.*

11. a) Describe this naval crisis which caused another French/English split. (p253)

* The British navy felt pressured to remain superior to the growing German navy and asked Canada to help.

1. What was Britain asking Canada for? (p253)

* Britain asked the countries of the British Empire for money to help with the expensive task of keeping up with the German navy.

12. a) What were most English-Canadians willing to contribute in this case? (p253)

* Most English-Canadians wanted Canada to contribute ships or money directly to Britain.

1. What were most French-Canadians willing to contribute? (p253)

* Most French-Canadians wanted Canada to have a navy of its own (one that could be made available to Britain in time of war).

13. a) What was Laurier’s compromise? (p253-54)

* Laurier introduced the *Naval Services Act*. It stated that Canada would have a navy of its own, which would be turned over to the British in times of emergency. While Canada’s warships were being constructed, Britain would lend Canada two of its old cruisers.

b) Did Laurier’s compromise work to unite the French-English division this time? (p254)

* No, both groups opposed the compromise for different reasons. Imperialists ridiculed the weakness of the proposed “tin-pot” navy and Quebecers opposed how closely the *Naval Services Act* tied Canada to British imperial policies.

***International Negotiations—Canada and the United States***

*Reciprocity*

14. a) During the election of 1911, English-Canadians were preoccupied with the issue of ***free trade*** (*a policy that reduces or eliminates border taxes and regulations between countries*) with the United States. What was the reason for this preoccupation with free trade? (p254)

* Western farmers were tired of being a captive market for Ontario and Quebec manufacturers who could not make farm machinery as cheaply as the Americans.

1. How would a reciprocity treaty with the U.S. help the farmers in Western Canada? (p254)

* A reciprocity agreement would reduce tariffs on cheaper goods being imported from the US, making them more accessible to Canadian farmers.

15. Why did Laurier lose the 1911 federal election? (p254-55)

* Laurier lost the support of Canadian business leaders and nationalists who thought that reciprocity would jeopardize Canadian resources and business if the existing east-west flow of trade shifted to north-south. They were worried that Canadian businesses wouldn’t be able to compete with cheaper US goods flooding the market.

*The Alaska Boundary Dispute*

15. a) Canadians did agree on some things. Laurier led a united country when dealing with the Americans in the Alaska boundary dispute in 1903. Why was there no boundary dispute in 1867 when the Americans purchased Alaska from the Russians? (p255)

* At the time, the exact boundary between the remote northwest of British Columbia and Alaska was unclear and considered unimportant.

b) What happened in 1898 that suddenly made boundary negotiations very important? (p255)

* The discovery of gold led to a surge of miners into the Yukon. Access to the goldfields by the easy sea route was only possible by travelling through American territory. This was a serious problem for Canada.

c) What was the disputed territory in these border negotiations called? “The Alaska Panhandle”

e) Laurier was anxious to settle the boundary dispute so he agreed to an international tribunal (*a tribunal is a court of board appointed to judge a particular matter*). Who made up this tribunal? (p255-56)

* Six judges sat on the tribunal: three from the US, one from Britain, and two from Canada.

16. a) What was the decision of this tribunal? Describe how each of the 6 members voted. (p256)

* Not surprisingly, the three American judges voted for the boundary line proposed by the US and the two Canadian judges voted for the boundary favoured by Canada. Despite Canadian protests, however, the British judge voted in favour of the American boundary line. As a result, half of British Columbia’s coast would continue to be cut off from access to the Pacific.

1. How did international politics affect the tribunal’s decision? How did the decision in this border negotiation affect Canada’s relationship with Britain? (p256)

* At the time, Britain and the US were involved in negotiations over a border dispute in South America. Not wanting to anger the Americans, the British judge chose to side with the US.
* Canadians were outraged by Britain’s sacrifice of Canadian interests. This spurred calls for greater Canadian independence in foreign affairs.

**The Last Best West**

***Fortunately for Laurier, the worldwide depression that had begun in the 1870s eased during his term of office. The great prosperity of these years resulted from rising world prices and more people around the world buying Canadian products. It started when gold from South African mines (****Remember the Boer War?****) flowed into London, where it was used by wealthy industrialists to develop industries in the British territories—like Canada. Yukon gold also provided money to expand factories and to buy equipment in North America. The rise in North American industrial production in turn created a demand for raw materials—which Canada had in abundance. Finally, better shipping technology and lower freight rates helped bulky Canadian resources and agricultural exports to compete in world markets.*** “More money” and “more people” became the hallmarks of the Laurier era.

17. a) Why were more and more immigrants coming to Canada while Laurier was Prime Minister? (p258)

* The flourishing economy attracted immigrants, who in turn stimulated economic growth, which then encouraged more immigration – the two trends worked together.

1. Remembers John A. Macdonald’s NATIONAL POLICY in the 1870s? John A. tried to encourage people to settle on Canadian Prairies but the large numbers of people he wanted just weren’t coming. But by the end of the worldwide depression in the 1890s, the Canadian West became a more appealing place for immigrants to move to? *Why was the West more attractive now than it had been when John A. was Canada’s Prime Minister*? (p258)

* By the end of the depression, a growing world demand for wheat, and the end of free homestead lands in the US, made the Canadian West more appealing to Europeans and Americans.

1. Why didn’t the Canadian West attract immigrants between 1867 and the early 1890s? (p258-59)

* It was hard to attract settlers to a barren, sparsely populated country like Canada. Many who made the trip during this time eventually emigrated south to the US because of the harsh climate or lack of work.

18. a) Between 1896 and 1914, the Canadian prairie lands swelled with settlers. Who did Prime Minister Laurier put in charge of immigration? Clifford Sifton (259)

1. What kind of program did Clifford Sifton launch to lure newcomers to the Canadian prairies? (p259)

* Sifton launched a vigorous recruitment program to lure new-comers to prairie homesteads and away from cities. Immigrants who would make good farmers were targeted.

**The Rise of Unions**

19. a) The prosperity of the Laurier era did not extend equally to all. Explain. (p269)

* Canadian industry and finance were controlled by a few large corporations. These were prosperous times, but the wealth was concentrated in the hands of relatively few entrepreneurs and investors.

1. As the gap between rich and poor widened, workers wanted a greater share of the wealth created by their labour. How did the workers go about getting a share of the wealth? (p269)

* Workers began to organize unions.

20. a) Why did early unions face an uphill struggle? (p269)

* Unskilled workers could easily be replaced if they went on strike, and the government and legal system tended to favour employers rather than organized labour.

1. What did companies do if their workers went on strike? (p269)

* They hired private police and called in the militia.

1. How did many of the strikes between 1910 and 1914 (World War 1) end up? (p269)

* Labour disputes usually erupted into violent confrontations.

21. a) Labour unrest was particularly bad in British Columbia. Workers and employers had some of the most bitter clashes in Canada’s history—particularly between the Dunsmuir Coal mines on Vancouver Island. What was working in a Dunsmuir Coal Mine like for the working miners? (p270)

* Workers had to crawl on their hands and knees in dark, wet tunnels with only the light of a miner’s lamp for guidance. They toiled long hours for meagre wages and the conditions were very dangerous. Hundreds of workers were maimed or killed in frequent explosions.

**Closing the Door to Immigration**

22. a) Many groups of Canadians began to resent Clifford Sifton’s ***open-door immigration policy***. The most notable groups were: 1) labour organizations, 2) British-Canadians, and 3) French-Canadians. Explain what each of these groups had against the open-door immigration policy. (p273)

* Labour organizations saw unskilled immigrant workers as a threat to their members’ livelihoods.
* British-Canadians feared that non-British immigrants would alter the British character of the country.
* French-Canadians also feared that the influence of their culture would decline with an increasing number of non-French immigrants.

British Columbia: The “Golden Mountain”

23. a) Witch ethnic group comprised the largest single group of immigrants in B.C.? (p273) Asian immigrants

* *Note: “Asian immigrants” in BC could mean Japanese or East Indian, but the overwhelming majority were Chinese.*

1. How many Asian immigrants were living in B.C. by 1891? Where did most of these people live? (p273)

* 9,400 Chinese immigrants were living in BC by 1891. Most of them were men living in isolated “Chinatowns” in Victoria, Nanaimo, Vancouver, and New Westminster.

1. Where did most of the Asian immigrants work? Why did employers prefer to hire them over anyone else? (p273)

* Most of these workers were employed in the salmon canneries and in the coal mines of Vancouver Island. Profit-hungry employers preferred to hire Asian immigrants because they worked hard for low pay.

24. a) Who led the fight to have the federal government of Canada ***close the immigration door*** to Asian immigrants? (p274)

* Labour organizations lead the demand for exclusionary legislation that would restrict Asian immigration.

1. What group did the people who wanted Asians out of B.C. form? (p274) The Asiatic Exclusion League
2. When did anti-Asian feelings come to a head in B.C.? Why?

* Early in 1907, anti-Asian feelings erupted into a riot when Lieutenant-Governor James Dunsmuir refused to sign a bill to exclude Japanese immigrants from entering Canada.

25. a) Why was the Anti-Asian riot an embarrassment to Laurier’s federal government? (p274)

* Japan was an ally of Great Britain and Laurier was forced to apologize to the Japanese government.

By “Continuous Passage” Only

26. a) Why was it harder for the Canadian government to limit East Indians into Canada than it was to limit the Chinese or Japanese immigrants? (p274)

* It was difficult to restrict East-Indian immigration because as British subjects they could not be denied entry into Canada.

1. What solution did the federal government come up with to limit the number of East Indians coming into British Columbia? (p274-75)

* The government amended the *Immigration Act* to require immigrants to come to Canada via a non-stop, direct route from their country of origin – a “continuous passage” from India was impossible.

c) Describe the ***Komagata Maru*** incident. (p275)

* The *Komagata Maru* was a steamer carrying 354 Sikh immigrants to Vancouver in 1914. Upon its arrival, Canadian authorities put the ship in quarantine so its passengers could not land. Supporters of the Sikhs argued that they should be granted entry, but the government stood firm. After spending two very uncomfortable months in Vancouver harbour, the *Komagata Maru* was escorted away by a naval cruiser.

**Those Less Equal: The Struggle for Human Rights**

The Rights of Women:

27. a) By the time Laurier was elected in 1896, the practice of voting by secret ballot had been the law for more than twenty years. However, only male property owners were entitled to the franchise (*franchise means: to vote*) Who was still denied the right to vote in Canada? (p276)

* Women, Indigenous Canadians, immigrants of Asian ancestry, and many other newcomers to Canada were denied the right to vote.

1. Did these groups accept the federal government’s decision to deny them the right to vote? Explain. (p276)

* No, people belonging to these excluded groups began organized efforts to win social and political equality.

28. a) Define the following terms: (p276)

Suffrage: The right to vote in political elections.

Women’s suffrage: The right of women to vote.

1. Who were the suffragists? (p276) Mainly middle-class women devoted to social reform.
2. What did the suffragists blame Canada’s social problems on? (*social problems are things like alcoholism, child abuse, homelessness etc.*)

* They blamed most of the societal problems on the evil effects of alcoholism – a growing problem.

1. What law did women want to see passed if they ever received the right to vote? Why? (p276)

* Many wanted to see prohibition passed because they thought that banning the sale and consumption of alcohol would help solve a variety of social problems and have an overall positive effect on the lives of women and children.

The Rights of Native People:

29. a) At the turn of the century—*1900*—the survival of Native lands and culture was threatened by government policies. Explain. (p278)

* The federal government was signing treaties with Aboriginal groups which would remove them from their traditional territory in order to free up land for European settlement. Additionally, many government policies were created with the specific purpose of assimilating Indigenous people into Euro-Canadian culture.

1. What did the Native peoples of Canada want at this time?

* They wanted to retain their traditional territory and cultural identity.

30. a) What historical document did the Native peoples base their claim to keep their land on? What did the document recognize was their right? (p278)

* *The Royal Proclamation 1763* recognized their right to own the land they had used and occupied.

1. What does the Royal Proclamation of 1763 say about ‘Indian’ land that was never surrendered in a treaty? (p278)

* Indigenous people living on unceded territory should not be interfered with or disturbed.

31. a) What other policy of the federal government further encouraged assimilation? (p279)

* The policy of removing Indigenous children from the influence of their families and putting them into residential schools.

1. Describe what types of activities were encouraged and which types of activities were discouraged at the Native residential schools. (p279)

* Encouraged: Manual, vocational, and religious instruction on the Christian faith.
* Discouraged: Students were not allowed to practice their traditional customs or speak their native languages to each other.

32. a) The Native peoples of B.C. were in a unique situation with regard to treaties. Explain. (p279)

* Due to the remoteness of the province and the delay in large-scale settlement, Indigenous people were able to retain their lands longer than those who were living in central or eastern Canada.

1. How many treaties were concluded with B.C.’s Native people by 1900? How much of B.C.’s land did the Native peoples surrender in treaties?

* Only 15 treaties were signed and they covered only a small area of BC.

33. What did the Native peoples get in this first treaty signed in modern day?

* On August 4, 1998, representatives of the federal and provincial governments, and the Nisga’a First Nation signed the first treaty in modern BC. This treaty allocates $200 million in settlement funds, along with 1930 square kilometers of land in Lower Nass Valley, as well as ownership of 18 reserves outside the area. The treaty also states that the Nisga’a are entitled to all resources on Nisga’a owned lands, have the right to timber outside settlement area, and have a guaranteed share of about 20 percent of the allowable catch of Nass River Salmon.