

# Unit 1: Canada @ the Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (1900-1914)

1.1 Immigration

1.2 Effects of Technology

1.3 Changes in Society

1.4 Canadian Nationalism

# 1.1: Immigration

Open Door Policy, Immigration (push/pull), Racism

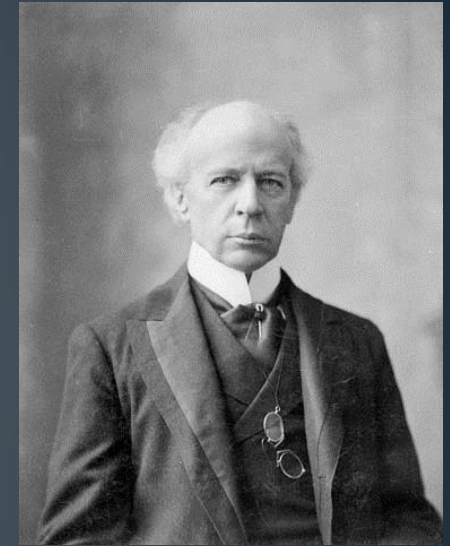
# Introduction

- As we have discovered, at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Canada was very much a young country
- Following the emergence of Wilfred Laurier as our Prime Minister in 1896, new immigration policies appeared that would transform Canada forever
- While the Laurier government began targeting select groups to encourage settlement & growth, particularly in Western Canada, simultaneously, it discouraged others from moving here

S



- Our 1<sup>st</sup> French-Canadian PM, he came to power at the end of a world-wide economic depression meaning there was room for economic recovery/ growth
- “The nineteenth century was the century of the United States. I think that we can claim that it is Canada that shall fill the twentieth century”

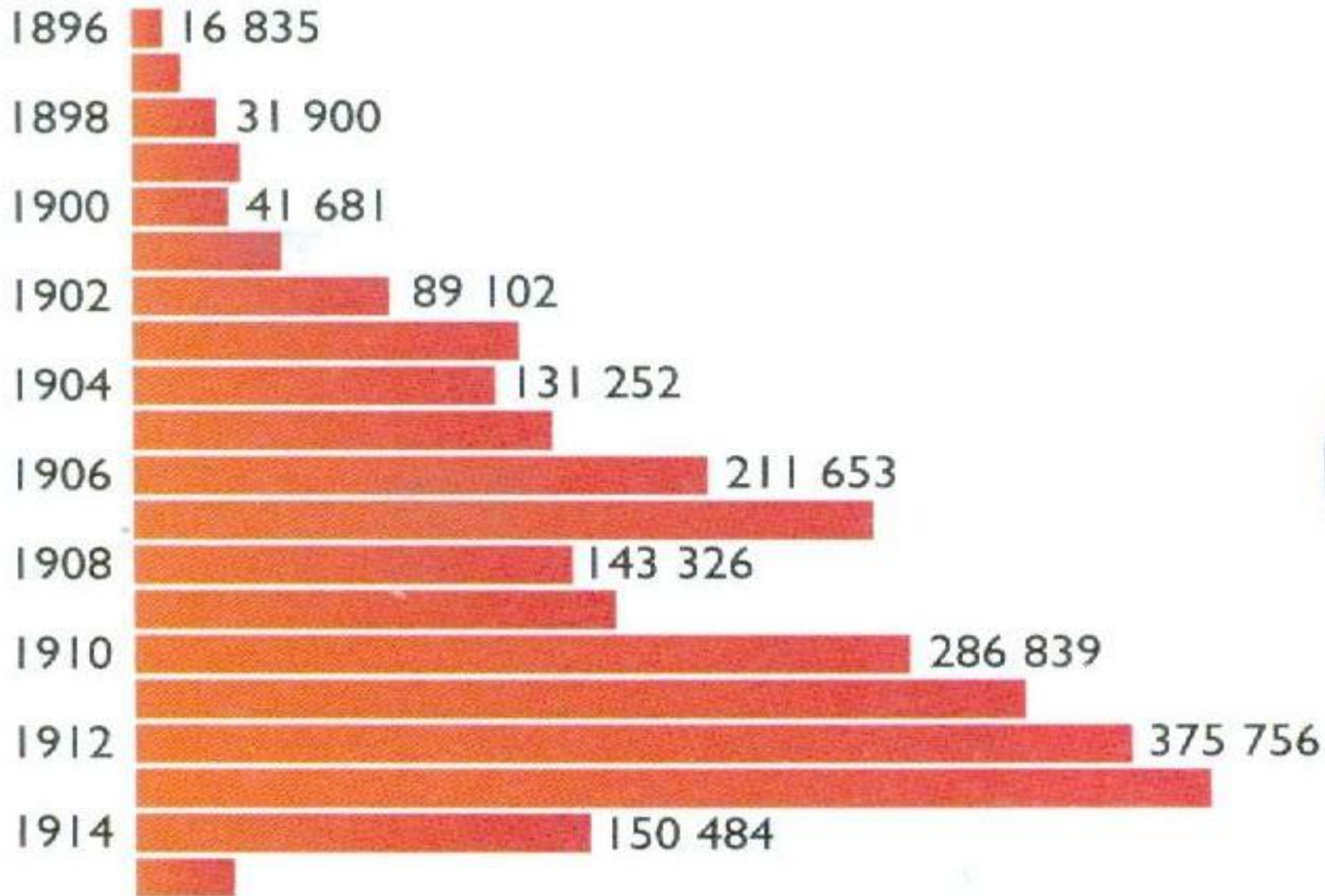


# Immigration



- One of Laurier's greatest achievement was increasing our national population mainly through immigration
- Just like today, the federal government determined our **immigration policy** – *the rules & guidelines for deciding who may enter Canada*
- Laurier's success is evident in the numbers as Canada's population jumped from 5,370,000 to 8,000,000 between 1896 – 1914
- The foundation for the cultural mosaic that we currently have was laid during Laurier's rule

# Number of Immigrants, 1896-1914





Helen Hornbeck Tanner, ed., *The Settling of North America: The Atlas of the Great Migrations into North America from the Ice Age to the Present* (New York: Macmillan, [ca. 1995]), 15.

FIG. 2.1.i

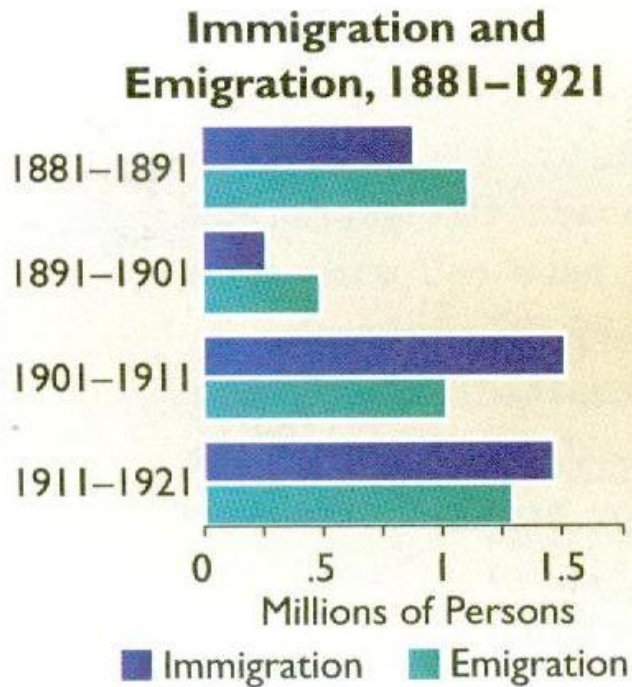
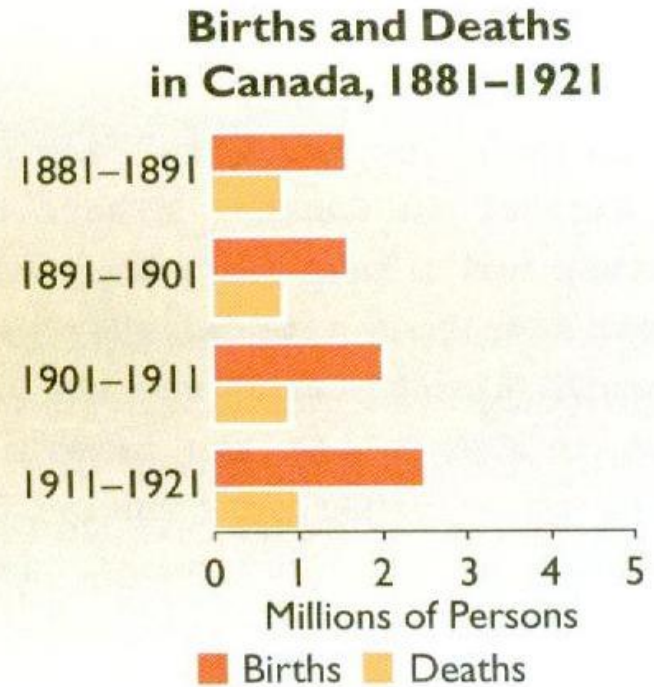


FIG. 2.1.j



- **Immigrants:** People who come into a country
- **Emigrants:** people who move within a country or leave for another



# Immigration

- Despite the overall success, Laurier 's major problem with immigration upon coming to power was the fact that numbers arriving in the past were relatively low
- Between 1881 & 1891, immigration to the Prairies had been a dismal failure as only 21,000 farms appeared in Canada's great Northwest Territories.
- If settlement was allowed to continue at such a rate, it would take more than half a century to fill the 1.25 million homesteads that surveyors had carved out of the prairie.

# Immigration

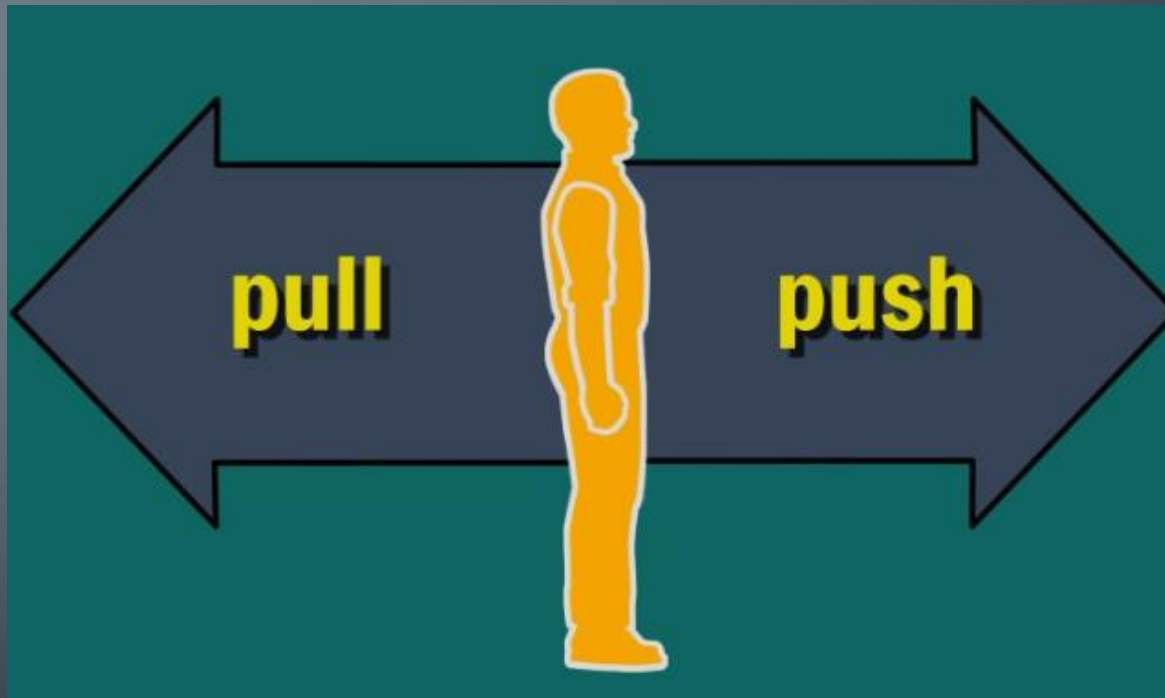
- So, what was Laurier's plan? How did his government bring about this major increase in our population during his rule?
- Before we examine this policy, lets take a look at why people decide to move to another country

# Immigration

- Why people would leave their country to move to another country?
- Why might people move within their own country?

# Immigration

- The influx of hundreds of thousands of immigrants during this time was sparked by both push factors & pull factors



# Push & Pull Factors

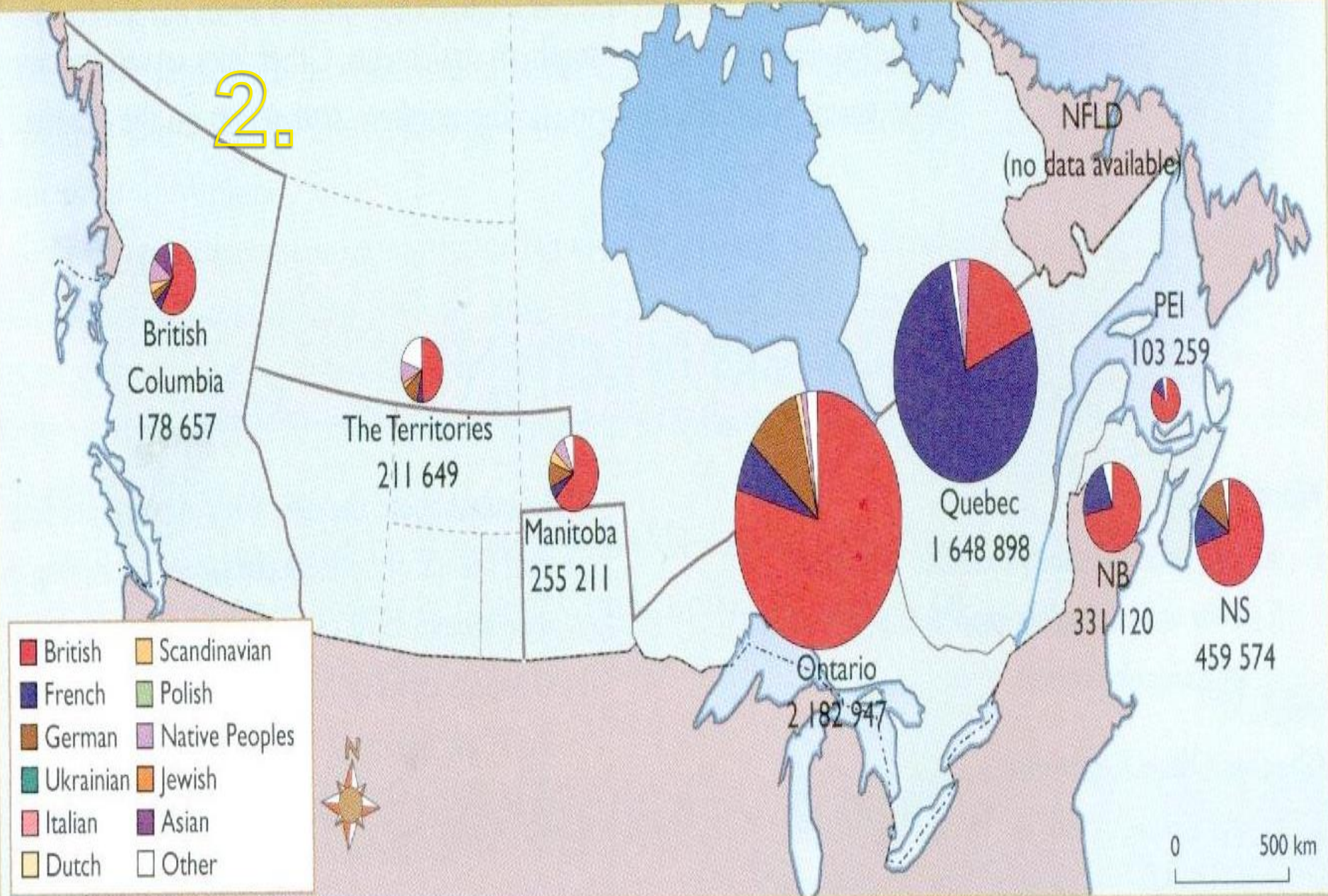
- Push factors are those factors which force people to move one area for another
- What factors would cause people to want to leave their country?
  - Examples include: Unemployment, war, political / religious persecution, natural disasters, famine, crowded cities, limited freedom

# Push & Pull Factors

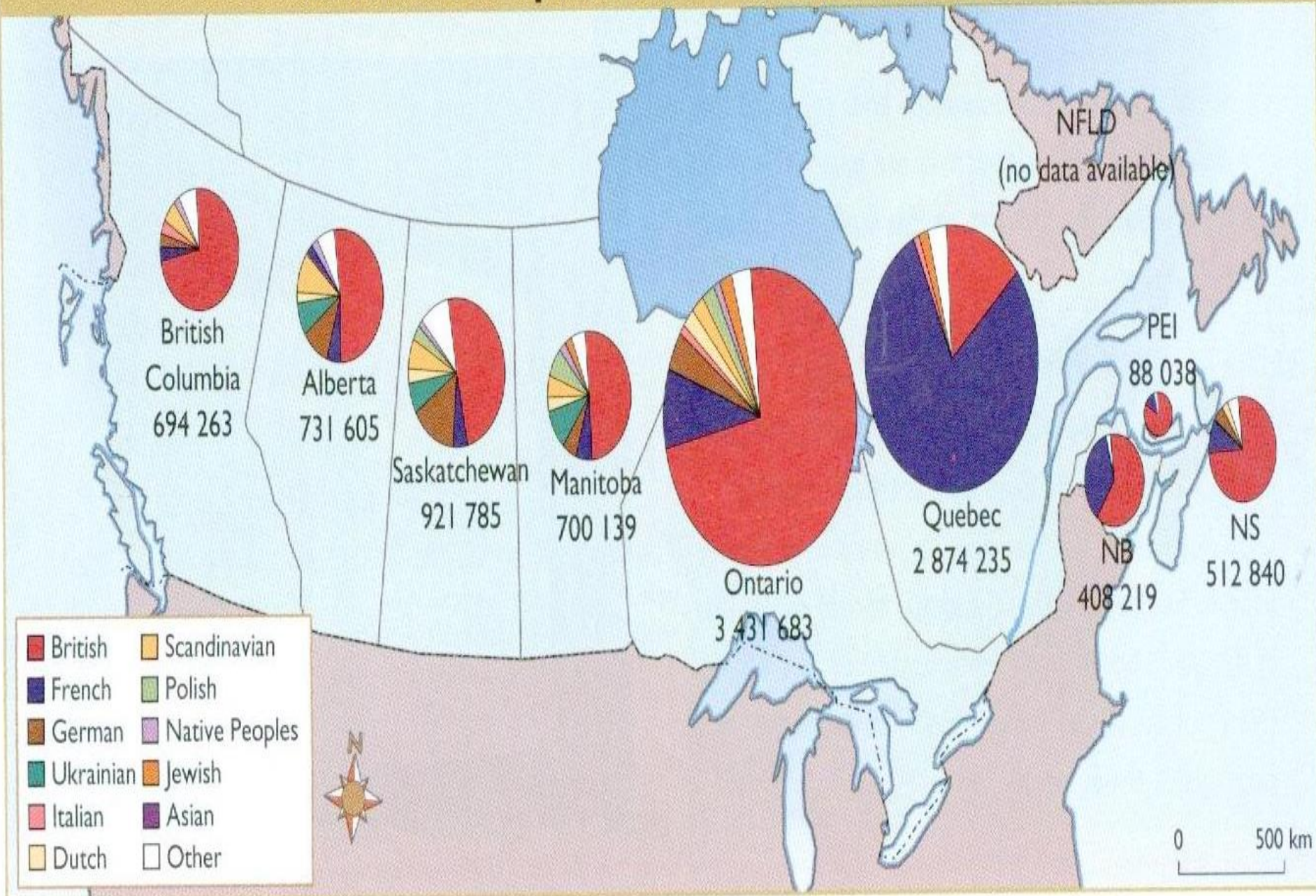
- Pull Factors are those factors which attract people or entice them to move from one region to another
- What would attract people to our country?
  - Examples include: Peace, employment, freedom, education, opportunities, available land

# Ethnic Composition of Canada, 1901

2.



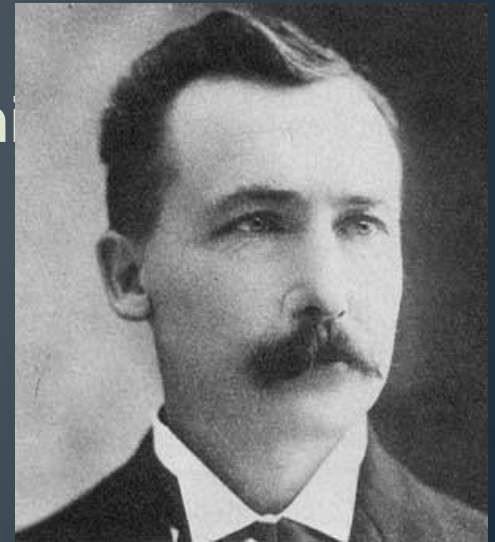
# Ethnic Composition of Canada, 1931





# Laurier & Immigration

- One of Laurier's immediate policies upon taking power was to attract immigrants to Western Canada
- He appointed Clifford Sifton as Interior Minister who would be responsible for immigration
- Sifton's job was to encourage settlers to come to Canada, particularly the West



# The Last Best West

- Sifton believed Canada needed to create a new image for itself & launched a media campaign unlike anything previously seen in order to do so
- The media campaign became known as 'The Last Best West' (given the fact that the American West was settled)
- It was a phrase used to market the Canadian Prairies to prospective immigrants

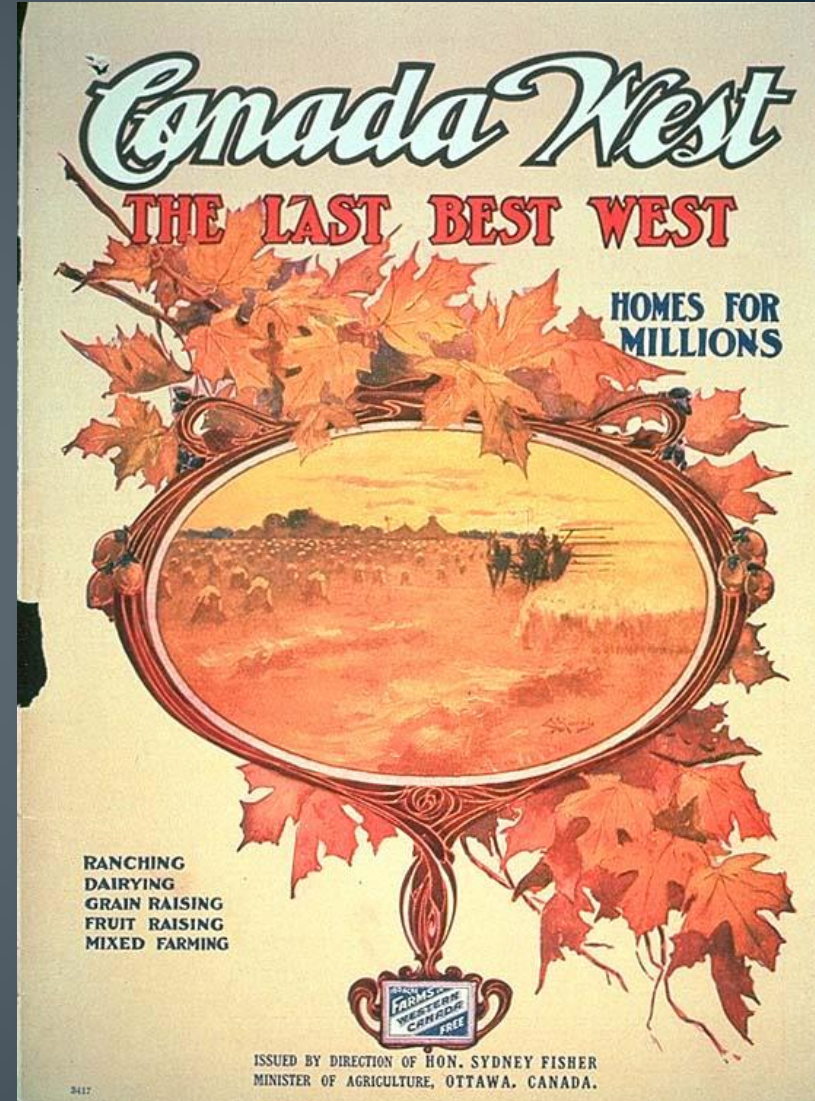


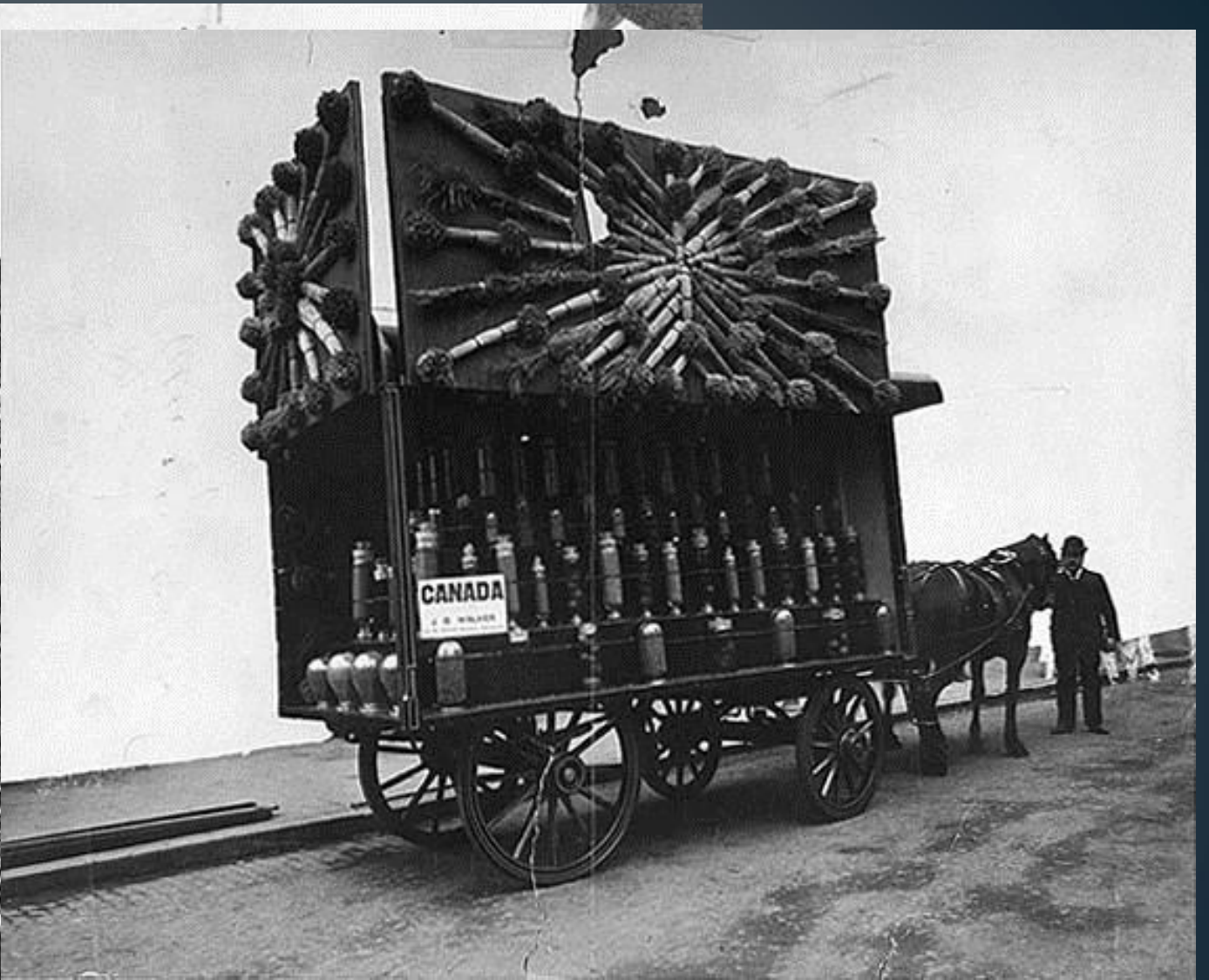
# The Last Best West

- What forms of media do our current government use to inform people about its policies?
- Any suggestions/idea about the media that was used by Laurier & Sifton?

# Last Best West

- Back during Laurier's rule, media was much different
- It consisted of flooding the 'desirable countries' with pamphlets, posters, maps, exhibition wagons, silent films, & advertisements promising free land in the "Last, Best West"





# CANADA

**Healthy Climate! Free Schools!**  
160-ACRE FARMS IN WESTERN CANADA—FREE!

To enable every would-be Settler to receive direct Official and Reliable Information regarding **CANADA**,

## MR. J. BRUCE WALKER

(CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE),

Will deliver his Popular and Instructive

# LECTURE

ILLUSTRATED BY A SERIES OF NEW MAGNIFICENT

Cinematograph and Stereoptican Views descriptive of Canadian Life,  
AND ENTITLED:

## "CANADA *and* ITS RESOURCES:

A FIELD FOR BRITISH SETTLERS," in the

### CITY HALL,

CANDLERIRIGGS, GLASGOW,

## On MONDAY, 16th JAN., 1905

At 8-0 p.m. Doors Open at 7-15 p.m.

Sir SAMUEL CHISHOLM, Bart., LL.D., will preside.

ADMISSION TO AREA FREE (BY TICKET). BALCONY 3d.

THOS. COOK & SON, 83 Buchanan Street, Glasgow

THOS. COOK & SON are officially appointed Agents for all the Principal Lines of Passenger Steamers sailing between England and Canada, and every other part of the World.

# CANADA

HIGH  
WAGES  
GOOD  
HOMES  
HEALTHY  
CLIMATE

WANTS  
DOMESTIC  
SERVANTS

TRANS-ATLANTIC CABLEGRAM.

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Check \_\_\_\_\_

Route Via \_\_\_\_\_

Send the following Cablegram "Via Commercial Cables," subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back hereof, which are agreed to

To *J. Ched. Smith*  
*Assistant Superintendent of Emigration*  
*London, England.*

*Canadian Government Employment Agents in Ontario alone, have situation for thirteen hundred domestics at once.*

*b. d. Scott*  
*Superintendent of Immigration*

Please read the conditions on back and sign your name and address thereon for reference

Issued by the Authority of the  
Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada.

1908

- These three cards advertise "100 acres of free land in Canada" in Croatian, Ukrainian and Czech, respectively. Thousands of these cards in many European languages, were circulated by mail in eastern and central Europe between 1900 and 1905.



*Swedish* *in hand* *abering*

# CANADA



**160 Acres  
fritt land  
till hvarje Nybyg**

# Kanada

Das Land der  
Gelegenheit



Veröffentlicht kraft der Befugnisse  
Des Ministers des Inneren  
Ottawa, Kanada

1910

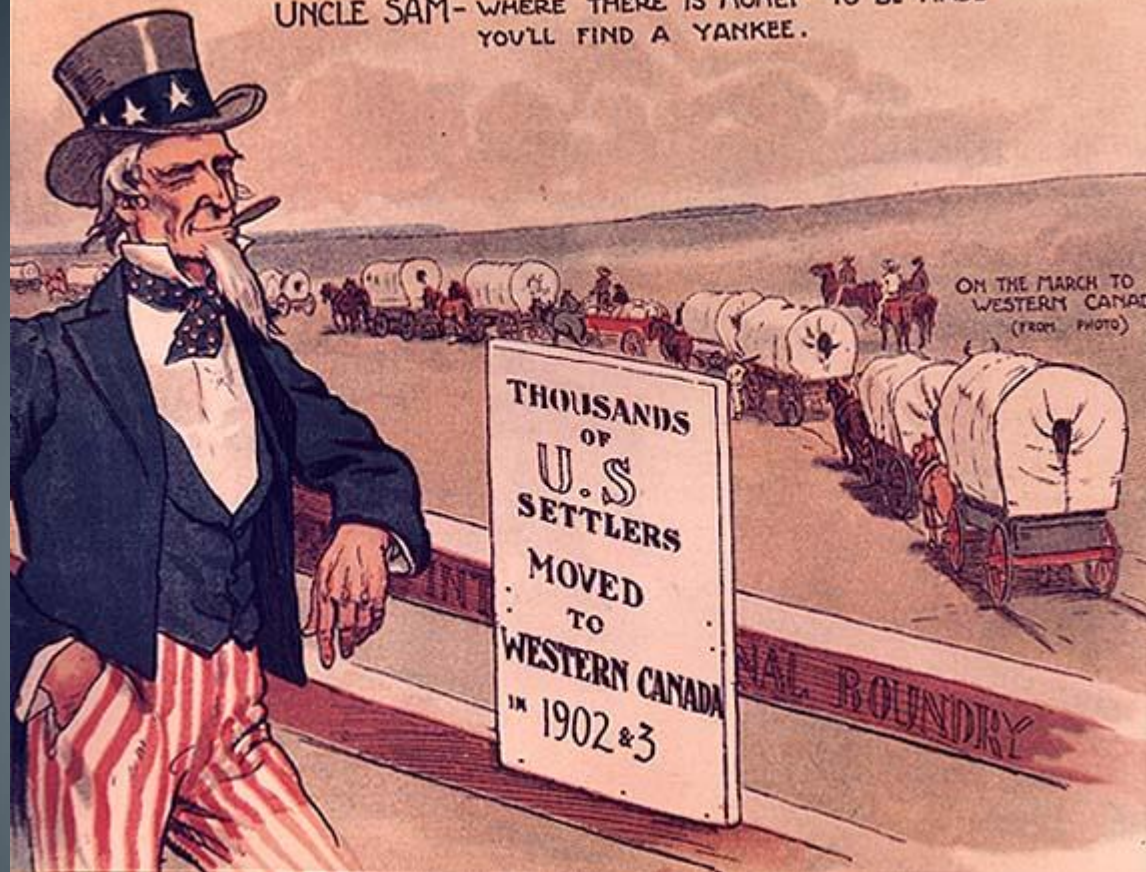
# las ver nada

ver  
runswid,  
s D,  
a, Ontario,  
n, Alberta  
bia,  
anada.

Verantwortlicher Druck Ollert.  
New York.



UNCLE SAM- WHERE THERE IS MONEY TO BE MADE  
YOU'LL FIND A YANKEE.



ON THE MARCH TO  
WESTERN CANADA  
(FROM PHOTO)

THOUSANDS  
OF  
U.S.  
SETTLERS  
MOVED  
TO  
WESTERN CANADA  
IN 1902 & 3

CUSTOMS BOUNDARY

# Last Best West

- Settlers were enticed to come here with the promise of free land

308528

PARTS 1, 2, and 3  
"JAPAN'S FIGHT FOR FREEDOM"  
6d. each Part.  
At all Bookstalls.

# Daily Mail.

Daily Circulation Five Times as Large as That of Any Penny London Morning Journal.

NO. 2486. TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1904. ONE HALFPENNY.

Cut out this form and send it to your newspaper dealer.  
Please refer to the Parts 1, 2, and 3 of "Japan's Fight for Freedom," and the remaining Parts as they are issued.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO SECURE A HOME ON THE FREE GRANT LANDS OF WESTERN CANADA.**

**FREE FARMS**  
OF  
**160 ACRES**

Of Fertile Prairie Land to every Settler over 18 Years of Age.

Farm Labourers, experienced and inexperienced, in great demand. Employment assured at remunerative wages, with assistance of Government Officials.



**FREE FARMS**  
OF  
**160 ACRES**

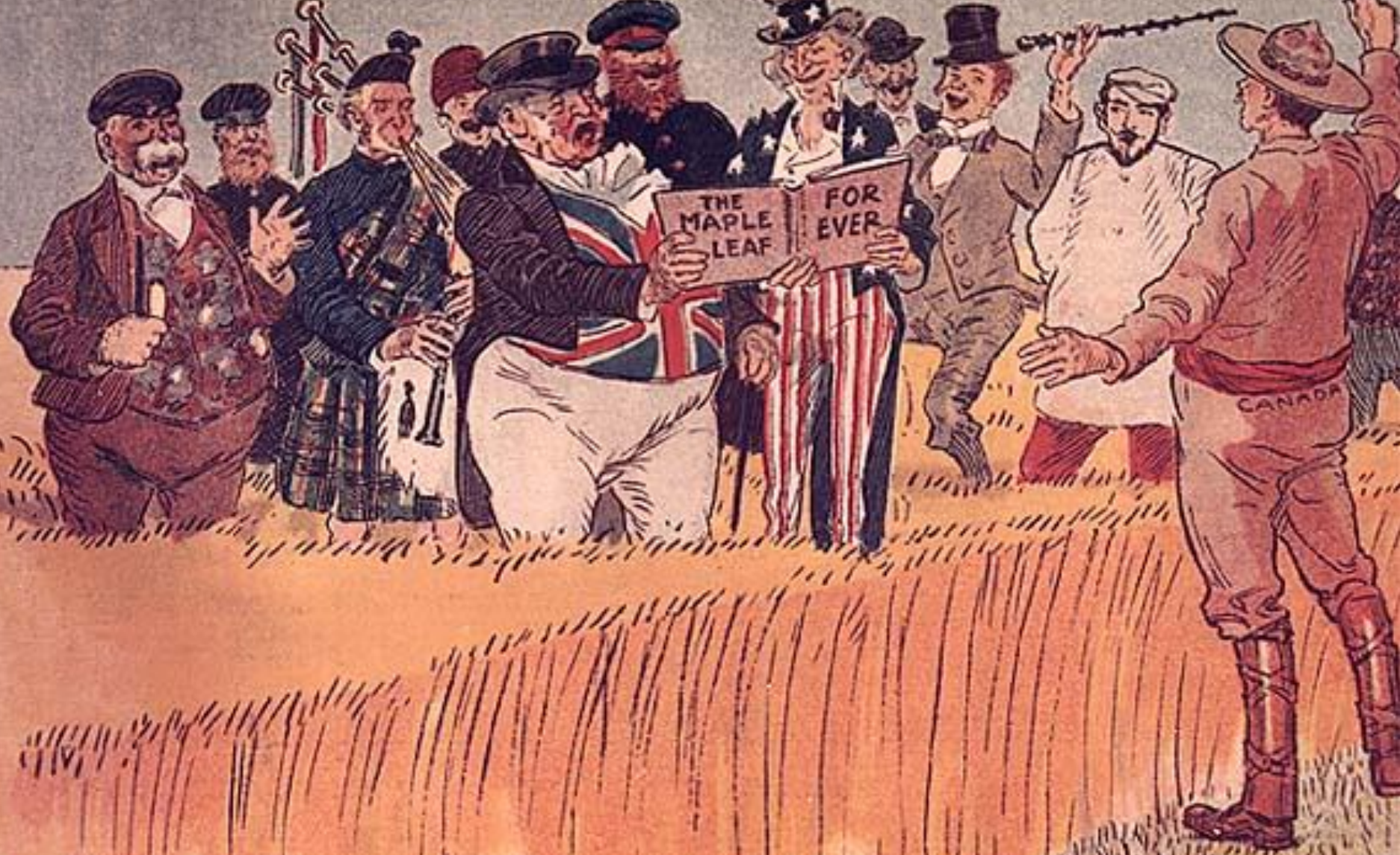
Of Fertile Prairie Land to every Settler over 18 Years of Age.

No Rent, Government Markets, Churches, and all Social Conditions.

For Latest Official Maps, Pamphlets, and Full Particulars FREE, apply to MR. W. F. S. FRESTON, COMMISSIONER OF EMIGRATION, 22-23, GEARING CROSS, LONDON, S.W., or to Mr. A. R. JURY, Old Castle Buildings, Liverpool; Mr. G. H. MITCHELL, 41, Cannon Street, Birmingham; Mr. H. H. MURRAY, Western Hall Buildings, Cardiff.

- British, Dutch, Icelanders, Norwegians, Russians, & others

GERMANS ICELANDERS SCOTCHMEN ENGLISHMEN AMERICANS FRENCHMEN SCANDINAVIANS  
BELGIANS RUSSIANS AUSTRIANS IRISHMEN



"NOW THEN, ALL TOGETHER!"

# Last Best West

- On the following slides are images associated with the Last Best West immigration advertising campaign that was launched by Clifford Sifton & the Laurier government
- As we view, make note of the various pull factors contained within them that was intended to showcase Canada as an attract place to live for the prospective immigrants

Short Sea Passage

Average Ten Days



**ASSISTED PASSAGES**

ARE GRANTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF

**CANADA**

TO FARM LABOURERS, FEMALE DOMESTIC SERVANTS & OTHERS  
BY THE MAGNIFICENT STEAM-SHIPS OF THE

**ALLAN ROYAL MAIL LINE**

**FREE GRANTS OF LAND**  
GOOD WAGES, CHEAP PROVISIONS,  
LIGHT TAXES, FREE SCHOOLS.

**THE COUNTRY FOR AGRICULTURISTS**

**TENANT FARMERS**—IMPROVED FARMS can now be purchased at from £4 to £10 per acre.

CANADA is now supplying the HOME MARKET with LIVE CATTLE,  
MEAT and FARM PRODUCE with excellent PROFITS to the CANADIAN PRODUCER.  
PAMPHLETS AND MAPS GRATIS.

For full information apply to the Canadian Government Agent,  
W. ANNAND, 31, Queen Victoria Street LONDON, E.C.

For Passage  
Apply to

Agents  
Allan Line

# FREE FARMS FOR THE MILLION

## DOMINION OF CANADA

**RED RIVER VALLEY**  
 Excellent farming  
**THE GREAT FERTILE PLAINS**  
 and **BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
 LARGEST AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN THE WORLD  
**VAST MINERAL RICHES**  
 GOLD, SILVER, IRON, COPPER, AND  
 PETROLEUM, ETC., ETC.  
**Immense Coal Fields**  
 UNLIMITED SUPPLY OF STEAM FUEL  
 Railway from West to West



SEE REPORTS OF  
**BRITISH TENNESSEEPARTNERS**  
 WHO VISITED CANADA IN 1906  
**CLIMATE THE HEALTHIEST  
 IN THE WORLD.**  
 CANADA HAS  
**5 Experimental Farms**  
 representative of the whole within  
 one of the Dominion, suitable for  
 trial agricultural of Agriculture



# FREE FARMS OF 160 ACRES

Given to every Male Adult of 21 years and over, in the great Fertile Belt of  
**MANITOBA, CANADIAN NORTH-WEST AND BRITISH COLUMBIA**

They are well watered, wooded, and situated in the world's most healthy and richly manured wheat-averaging 35 bushels to the acre, with fair farming.  
**VAST COAL FIELDS AT CONVENIENT DISTANCES.**  
 GRANTS FROM 100 TO 200 ACRES ARE OFFERED IN OTHER PARTS OF CANADA.

Further and full information, in languages and maps, given free on application by letter to the Dominion, your local agent  
**HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.**

**The Canadian Pacific RAILWAY**

IS THE ONLY LINE IN CANADA BY WHICH THE  
**Great Wheat Fields**  
 OF MANITOBA, WESTERN CANADA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA CAN BE REACHED.  
 The Lines run in all directions, and all who visit Canada should get their Toronto tour there.  
**ANCHER BAKER, European Traffic Agent.**

Shortest Sea Passage  
to America.



Average  
About Eight Days.

# THE NEAREST BRITISH COLONY



# CANADA

TENANT FARMERS and others with moderate means, who wish to engage in profitable agriculture, AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS, and FEMALE DOMESTIC SERVANTS are, at the present time, the classes mostly required in Canada.

Improved Farms, with comfortable Dwellings and Out-buildings, can be purchased in ONTARIO, QUEBEC, NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, and BRITISH COLUMBIA for from 500 Pounds to Twelve Pounds per acre, and these lands are within from eight to twelve days of Great Britain.

## FREE GRANTS of 160 ACRES

GIVEN TO SETTLERS IN THE FERTILE, ARABLE AND GRAZING PRAIRIE LANDS OF

# MANITOBA

AND THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,

## ASSINIBOIA, ALBERTA, SASKATCHEWAN, AND ATHABASCA.

GRANTS OF 100 TO 200 ACRES ARE ALSO OFFERED  
IN OTHER PARTS OF CANADA.

BEFORE seeking homes in any part of America, or elsewhere, parties are advised to obtain a copy of the Reports of Professors SHELDON and FREAN, of the College of Agriculture, Durham, and of Professor TANNER, Director of Education under the Institute of Agriculture, South Kensington, London, who recently visited Canada (including Manitoba and the North-West). These, with newly issued Pamphlets and Maps, published under the authority of the Imperial and Dominion Governments, and full information respecting Canada, its resources, trade, demand for labour, &c., may be obtained FREE on application to the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada (Mr. J. G. COLLIER, Secretary; Mr. C. C. CHIPMAN, Assistant-Secretary and Accountant), 9, Victoria Chambers, London, S.W.; or to the Canadian Government Agents—Mr. JOHN DIXIE, 15, Water Street, Liverpool; Mr. THOMAS GRAHAME, 40, St. Enoch Square, Glasgow; Mr. H. MERRICK, 35, Victoria Place, Belfast; Mr. T. CONNOLLY, Northumberland House, Dublin.

# WESTERN CANADA

## THE NEW ELDORADO

HOMES FOR EVERYBODY  
EASY TO REACH  
NOTHING TO FEAR  
PROTECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

WHEAT LAND  
RICH VIRGIN SOIL  
LAND FOR MIXED FARMING  
LAND FOR CATTLE RAISING

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY  
IN THE  
WESTERN WEST

PROGRESSIVE AND GREAT IN WESTERN CANADA

THE OLD AND THE NEW WEST

WESTWARD THE STAR OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY  
WHY NOT EMBRACE IT?

FREE 160 ACRES  
WESTERN CANADA  
FARM LANDS

INFORMATION AND ADVICE  
CAN BE OBTAINED FROM  
**W.D. SCOTT**  
Superintendent of CANADA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OT TAWNEY SMITH  
and other Government Agents  
112 CHARING CROSS  
LONDON, ENGL.

3/19/94

119-120

Printed by Rand McHally, Chicago



# The Last Best West

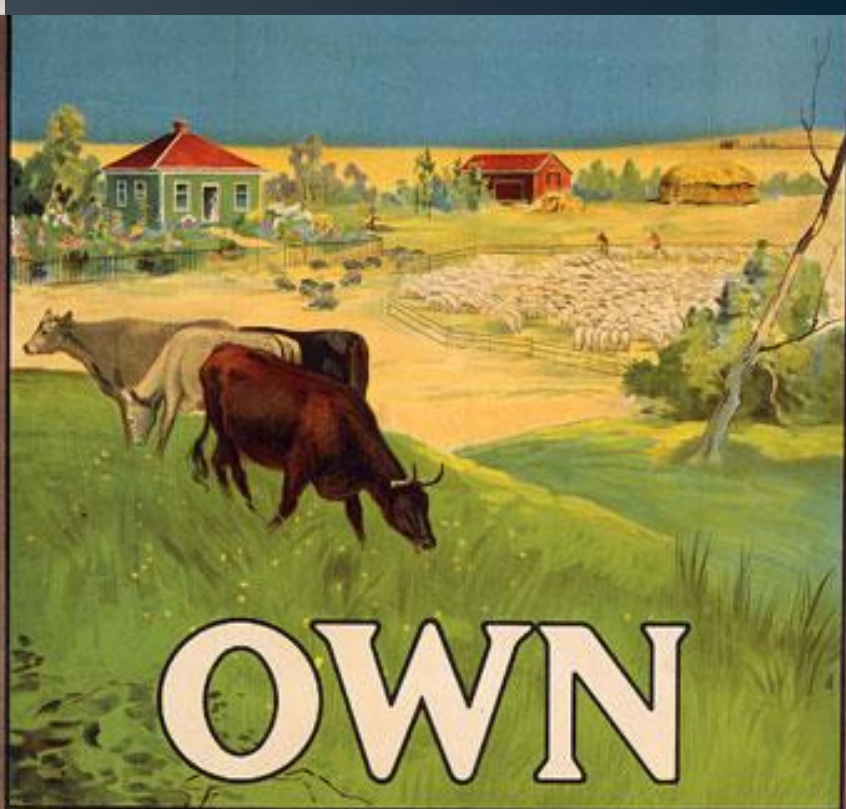
**Canada**  
 in the  
*Twentieth  
 Century*  
**WESTERN  
 CANADA**  
 vast  
*Agricultural  
 Resources*  
**HOMES FOR MILLIONS**

GRAIN RAISING.  
RANCHING.

50 ACRE  
**FARMS IN  
WESTERN  
CANADA  
FREE**

MIXED FARMING.  
DAIRYING.

ISSUED BY DIRECTION OF HON. FRANK OLIVER, MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR,  
OTTAWA, CANADA.



# OWN

## YOUR OWN

### HOME IN CANADA

*and apply for a*

## READY-MADE FARM

*to the nearest*

CANADIAN PACIFIC AGENT

# CANADIAN PACIFIC



# THE LAST BEST WEST

ILLIMITABLE OPPORTUNITIES  
IN THE PROVINCES OF  
**MANITOBA**  
**SASKATCHEWAN**  
**ALBERTA**  
AND BRITISH COLUMBIA



## HEALTHY, HAPPY HOMES

FOR HUNDREDS IN THE LAND OF SUNSHINE AND CONTENTED PEOPLE.

### Rapid Increase in Population

The population of the prairie provinces increased from 418,012 in 1901 to 854,503 in 1906, since which date thousands have poured in monthly, settling up the vacant lands.

## COMING FROM ALL QUARTERS OF THE GLOBE

The United States, Great Britain and continental countries all supply their quota of landless farmers seeking fertile fields in the last country where such can be obtained.

## FIRST COMERS HAVE FIRST CHOICE

In 1897 there were entered for 2,004 homesteads, which increased to 42,012 in 1906. Large areas are still open on the same terms as during the past, but the earlier the arrival of a settler the more land there is from which to make a selection.



## INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Can be obtained from  
**W. D. SCOTT,**  
Representative of Immigration  
OTTAWA, CANADA.  
**J. BRUCE WALKER,**  
Assistant Inspector-General of  
Immigration,  
1115 CHARING CROSS,  
LONDON, ENGL.

# 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY CANADA

AGRICULTURE  
MINERALS  
FORESTRY



# Last Best West

- To conclude this section
- [Assignment Time](#)

# Last Best West

- We have examined the campaign to promote Canada which enticed immigrants with nothing but positive characteristics
- In actuality, life in the Canadian West was much different for the new immigrants than what the posters and the media set it out to be

# Hardships in the West

- While Sifton advertised that settlers could claim up to 160 acres of free land in Canada, this claim wasn't entirely true.
- Settlers still had to pay a land registration fee of \$10 - or roughly \$150 in modern-day currency under the Dominion Lands Act.

# Hardships in the west

- This also didn't cover the cost of equipment and animals for the land, not to mention the cost of building shelter.
- Many settlers during their first year would build sod houses (soddies), as they simply couldn't afford to build their own homes out of lumber.
- Refer to your 'Life in Canada' handout and complete the question at the end

# Question

- Why were some groups encouraged to immigrate?
- Why were some groups discouraged to immigrate?

# 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

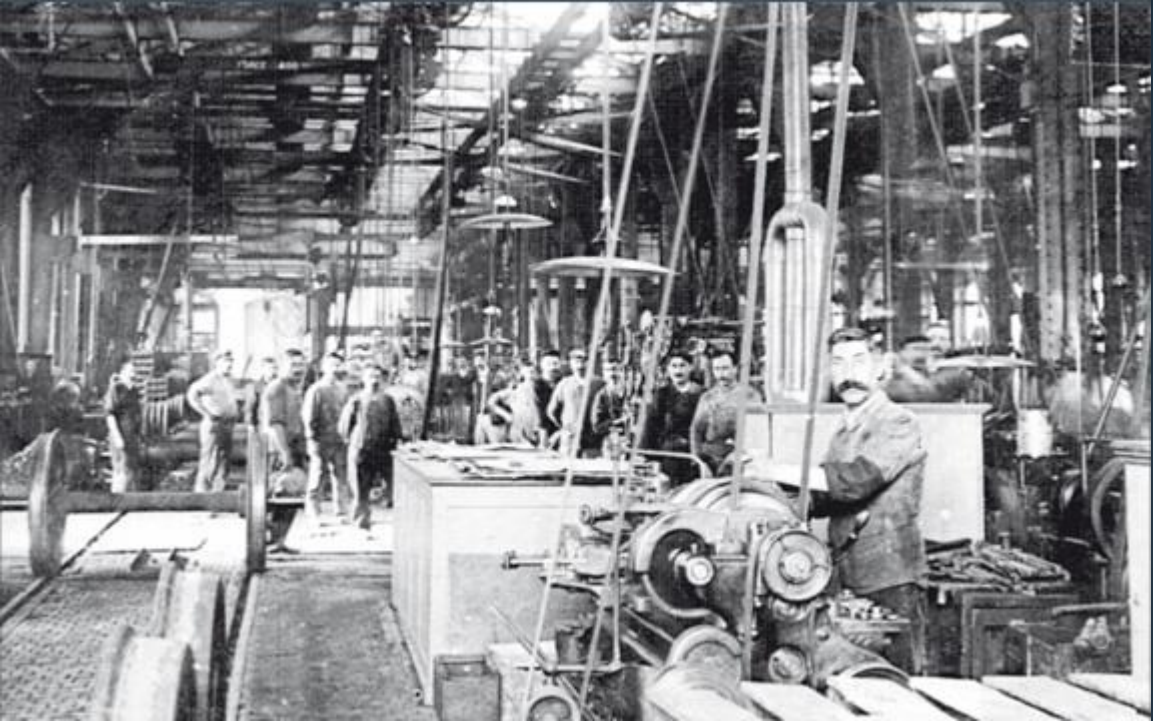


# Clifford Sifton & Govt Policy

- The federal government approved of the entry of many groups because they were adept at farming
  - Mennonites from Europe
  - Doukhobors from Russia
  - Mormons from the United States
- Sifton believed that "a stalwart peasant in a sheepskin coat" made the most desirable immigrant, and set out to attract people suited for farming.



A



Maritimes