

THREE MAJOR ISSUES CANADA FACED IN THE LAURIER YEARS

In 1867, Canada as a nation was born. Canada grew up under the protection of its Mother Country, named Britain. Canada generally looked after its own behaviour when there was a concern inside Canada, such as building the Canadian Pacific Railway. However, Canada's protection from other countries, especially the United States, was looked after by Mother Britain. In fact, Mother Britain looked after most of Canada's international concerns.

By 1899, Canada was more mature and confident as a country, but it still wanted (and needed) Mother Britain's help. Parts of Canada (nationalists) thought Canada should leave home and look after itself. Other parts of Canada (imperialists) thought Canada should be loyal to Mother Britain, and worried about looking after itself in the big, scary world, especially with the U.S. next door. Other parts of Canada (continentalists) thought the U.S. could protect Canada better than Britain. Sir Wilfrid Laurier tried to be a therapist and please all these parts of Canada, but found it impossible. As Prime Minister from 1896 to 1911, Laurier was constantly trying to deal with these divisions inside Canada.

Issue #1 - The Boer War, 1899 to 1902

- a) The Boer War _____

- b) Britain wanted Canada to _____
- c) Canadian imperialists wanted Canada to _____

- d) Canadian nationalists thought Canada should _____
- e) Laurier and his Cabinet compromised:
 - > _____
 - > _____
- f) Imperialists disliked the compromise because _____

- g) The nationalists (mostly French) disliked the compromise because _____

- h) In Montreal in 1900, tensions between the English and the French were so intense over the Boer War that _____

- i) Do you think Laurier and his government made the right decision? _____ Explain your answer.

Issue #2 - The Alaska Boundary Dispute, 1898 to 1903

- a) By 1898, the United States had demonstrated its military strength by _____

- b) The area of land under dispute was _____

- c) The Klondike Gold Rush was in Canada, but _____
 - > _____
 - > _____
- d) By 1903, the United States and Britain agreed to finally settle the dispute by _____

e) How many officials could the British choose? _____ How many were actually Canadian? _____
How many officials were from the United States? _____ How many officials were British? _____

f) U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt _____

g) The British judge, Lord Alverstone _____

h) Canadians were _____

i) Laurier learned that _____

Issue #3 - The Naval Issue, 1909 to 1911

a) Britain was concerned about Germany because (2 things)
> _____
> _____

b) In 1906, Britain began building _____

c) By 1909, Britain wanted the dominions (including Canada) to _____

d) Laurier compromised with the Naval Service Bill. Describe it.
> _____
> _____
> _____

e) After the bill was passed
> _____
> _____

f) Canadian imperialists thought _____

g) Canadian nationalists thought _____

h) Laurier's "middle way" did not unite the country as he had hoped.
To French-Canadian nationalists: _____

To English-Canadian imperialists: _____

i) In 1911, Laurier _____
