

CHC2P

THREE MAJOR ISSUES IN THE LAURIER ERA (1896 - 1911)

Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier (1896 - 1911) had to deal with many issues when he was Prime Minister. Three issues would have a major impact on Canada's future.

THE BOER WAR (1899 - 1902)

THE SITUATION: The Boer War was in South Africa between Dutch settlers (the Boers) and the British, especially after gold and diamonds were found.	
BRITAIN WANTED Canada to send troops to fight in South Africa.	
CANADIAN IMPERIALISTS WANTED Canada to send soldiers immediately to support the Empire	CANADIAN NATIONALISTS WANTED Canada to do nothing to help Britain
LAURIER'S COMPROMISE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Canada would not send an official force, but it would > pay for the equipment and passage for 1000 volunteers 	
IMPERIALISTS DISLIKED COMPROMISE BECAUSE they thought Laurier should have sent and paid for as many troops as Britain needed.	NATIONALISTS DISLIKED COMPROMISE BECAUSE they thought Laurier gave in to the English and he should have done nothing.

THE ALASKA BOUNDARY DISPUTE (1898 - 1903)

- a) By 1898, the United States had demonstrated its military strength by defeating Spain in a war, and it controlled Hawaii, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.
- b) The area of land under dispute was the "Alaskan Panhandle" but especially the control of the towns of Skagway and Haines.
- c) The Klondike Gold Rush was in Canada, but there were only two ways in
- > over land through Alberta, or
 - > by sea to Skagway then inland.

- d) By 1903, the United States and Britain agreed to finally settle the dispute by setting up a tribunal.
- e) How many officials could the British choose? 3 How many were actually Canadian? 2
 How many officials were from the United States? 3 How many officials were British? 1
- f) U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt picked 3 officials he knew would not compromise, then he threatened to invade if he did not like the decision.
- g) The British judge, Lord Alverstone moved the border so the U.S. got Skagway and Haines. Canada lost.
- h) Canadians were FURIOUS with Britain because they sold us out to keep the peace with the U.S. instead of looking after our interests.
- i) Laurier learned that Canada had to decide more of its own foreign affairs and not trust Britain so much.

THE NAVAL ISSUE (1909 - 1911)

THE SITUATION: Britain was concerned about Germany > it had the most modern and powerful army, and > its navy was growing more powerful.	
BRITAIN WANTED Canada to contribute money to the cost of building the dreadnoughts.	
CANADIAN IMPERIALISTS WANTED TO give Britain money. It's only fair.	CANADIAN NATIONALISTS SAID Do NOT give Britain money!! Not our problem!
LAURIER'S COMPROMISE: → created a Canadian navy → Canada would command it, but → Britain could use it in emergencies	
IMPERIALISTS DISLIKED COMPROMISE BECAUSE the Bill did not go far enough and Britain needed the money now!	NATIONALISTS DISLIKED COMPROMISE BECAUSE the Bill went too far. Canada would be dragged into foreign (British) conflicts that had nothing to do with us.

"the Dreadnought"