



The Big Issues on Canada's
"Homefront" during WWI

Enemy Aliens

- During the war more than 8,500 immigrants from "enemy" countries were placed in internment camps across Canada
- Many immigrants were interned for attempting to leave Canada, posing a security threat to the war effort. Others were interned for acting 'suspiciously'
 - Collectively, they became known as "Enemy Aliens"
- Borden passed the War Measures Act (1914) which enabled the govt to:
 - Detain all enemy aliens in internment camps in remote areas
 - Obtain full control of all media (censorship) forms across the country
 - Have total control of all transportation by land, air, or water
 - Assume full control over all trade, production, and manufacturing
 - Also included an agreement to pay families of soldiers \$30 / month



Total War



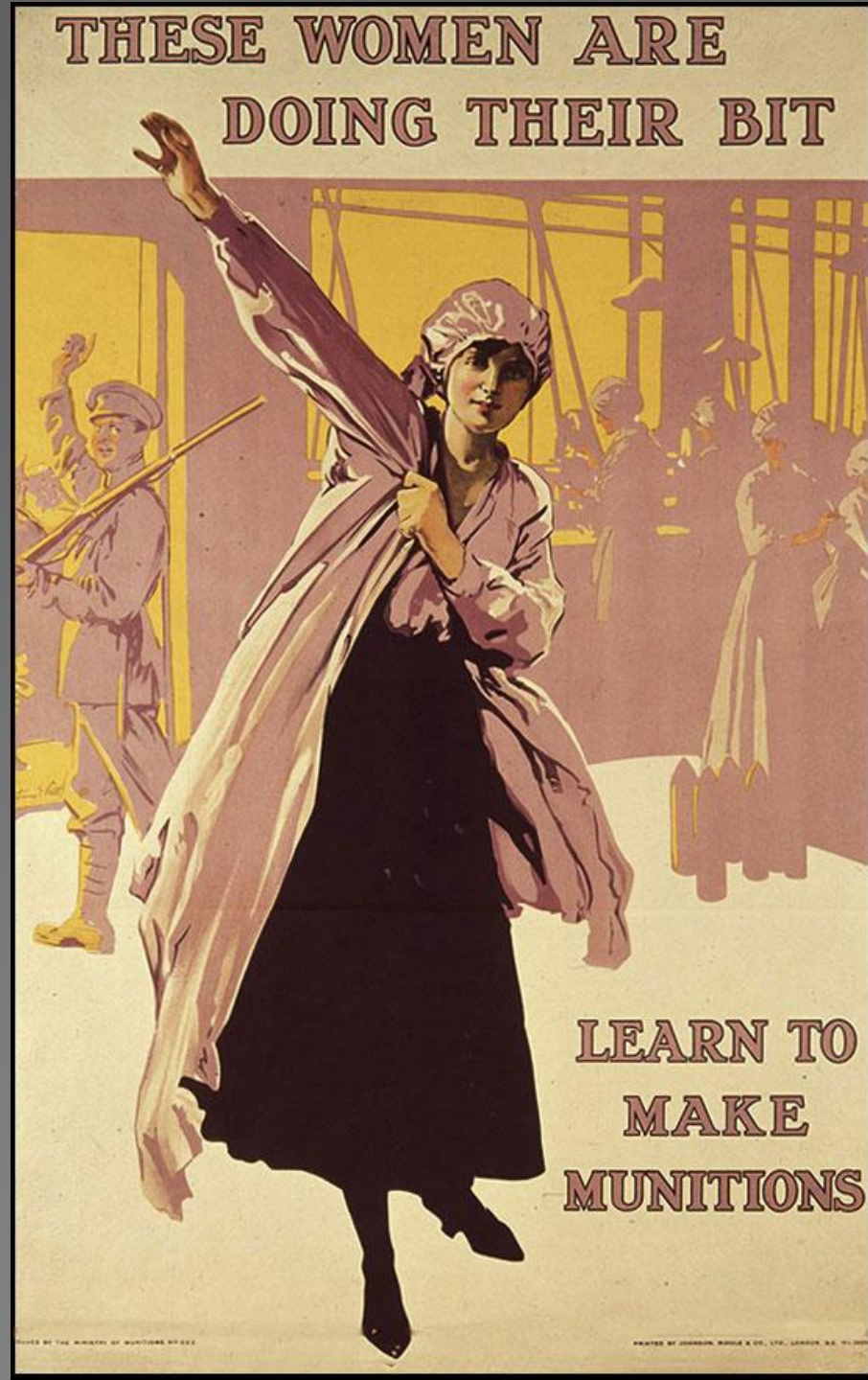
Are YOU in this?



TOGETHER WE WIN

Supplying the War

- As more and more men enlisted to fight, the need for a new source of labour became vital & women filled the gap
- First time in our history women were seen as a legitimate labour source ~ the slow shift away from traditional expectations in society
- Jobs ranged from the farms to the factories
- Munitions factories employed up to 30,000 women to supply the front
- Despite equality in responsibility ~ pay was never equal ~ still isn't
- Canada's economy was now booming as employment was available for all



WOMEN ARE WORKING DAY & NIGHT TO WIN THE WAR



£25,000 IMMEDIATELY NEEDED FOR THE

WOMEN'S WAR TIME FUND

TO PROVIDE REST-ROOMS
CANTEENS & HOSTELS

LORD SYDENHAM
HON. TREASURER

YOUNG WOMEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

26 GEORGE STREET
HANOVER SQUARE, W.

Supplying the War cont.

- Conditions & pay in these factories were horrendous. Safety standards didn't exist and basic labour laws were ignored.
- The focus was on production to meet the demands, not on workers rights
- Round the clock shifts took place to keep up with the demand
- Labour unions began to organize "labour slow-downs" & show Borden they were serious
- By 1918, Borden passed a law that prohibited striking, but also assured worker rights and 8 hour days
 - Thought was there, but too late - years of damage was done!



JOIN US



in a **VICTORY JOB**

APPLY AT YOUR NEAREST NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE





Supplying the War cont.

- While farm & factory production demands were high, most of the goods were being shipped to the warfront
- Items at home were becoming scarce and as a result, prices began rising dramatically
- Canada was becoming a very expensive place to live
- Canadians began to hoard food supplies as they were getting harder and harder to find
- Soon after, our govt made it illegal to stockpile food in homes & deprive the soldiers on the front

WASTE NOT—WANT NOT



PREPARE FOR WINTER



Save
Perishable Foods
by
Preserving Now

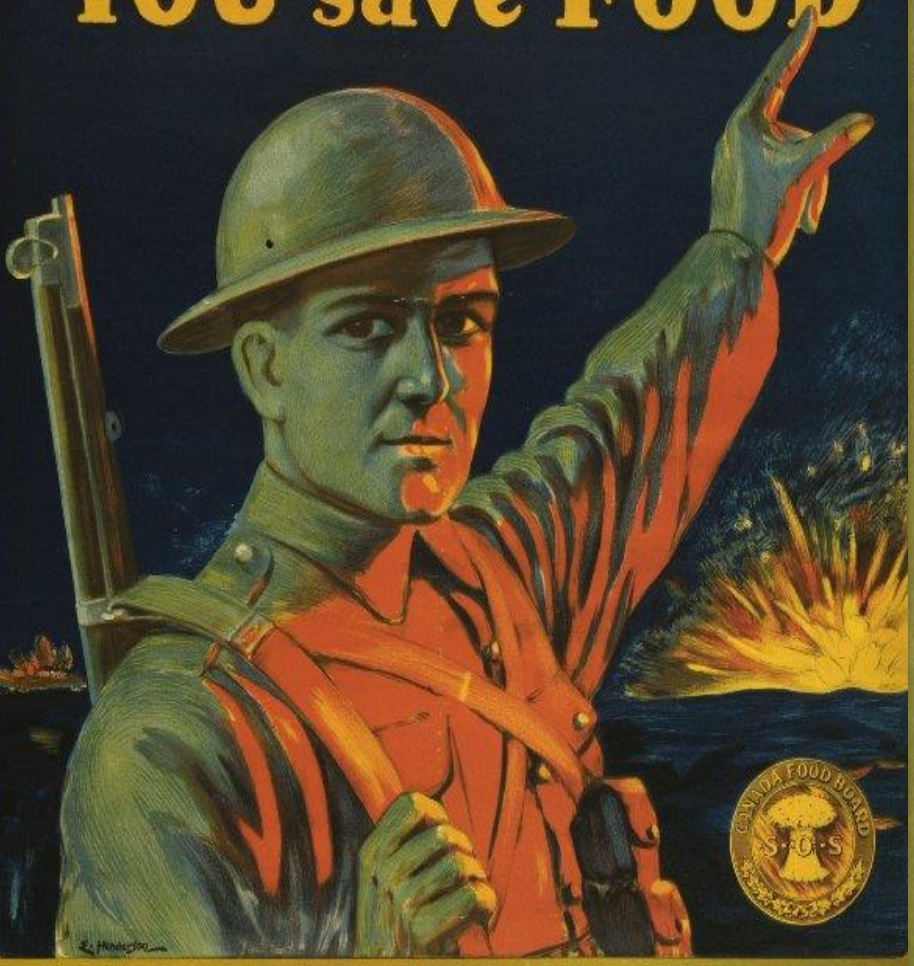
www.WW1propaganda.com

Are YOU breaking the Law?



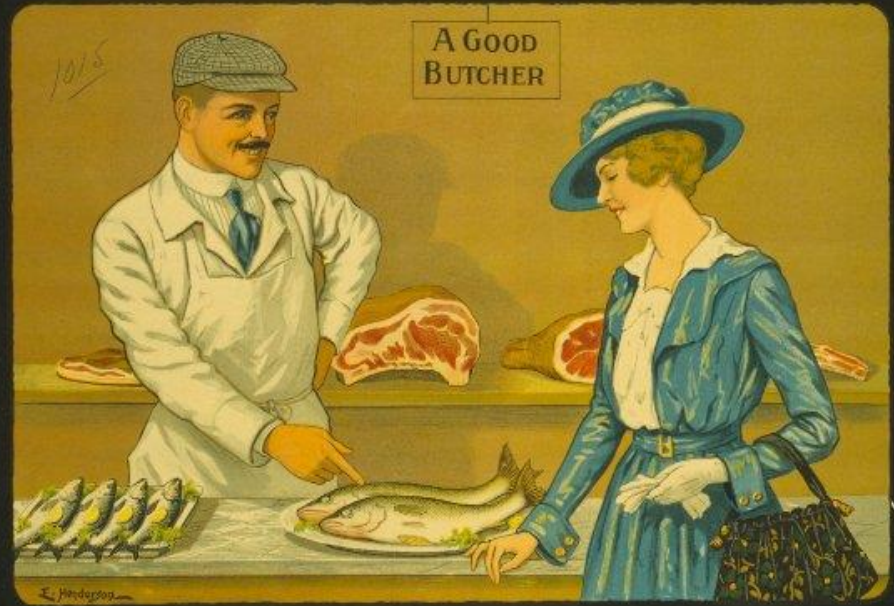
PATRIOTIC CANADIANS WILL NOT HOARD FOOD

We are saving you,
YOU save **FOOD**



Well fed Soldiers
WILL WIN the **WAR**

BOY
FRESH FISH



SAVE the **MEAT**
for
our **Soldiers**
and **Allies**



Financing the War

- Wars are expensive and Canada needed to raise capital to pay for all the demands.
- The gov't. encouraged Cdns. to buy Victory Bonds as a way of raising money to put toward the war effort – when the war ended the bonds could be cashed in with a small profit
- Other measures included the introduction of our “temporary” *income tax*
 - world's longest tax!

Rationing

- To stretch supplies, ‘Honour Rationing’ became a general expectation
 - Meatless Mondays, Fuel less Sundays, reduced butter, sugar, flour, etc
- Guilt for not falling in line with these expectations was everywhere as the general public worked to ensure everyone ‘did their bit’

**TO MAINTAIN THE PROSPERITY
OF CANADA**



BUY
Victory
Bonds
5 1/2% INTEREST TAX FREE



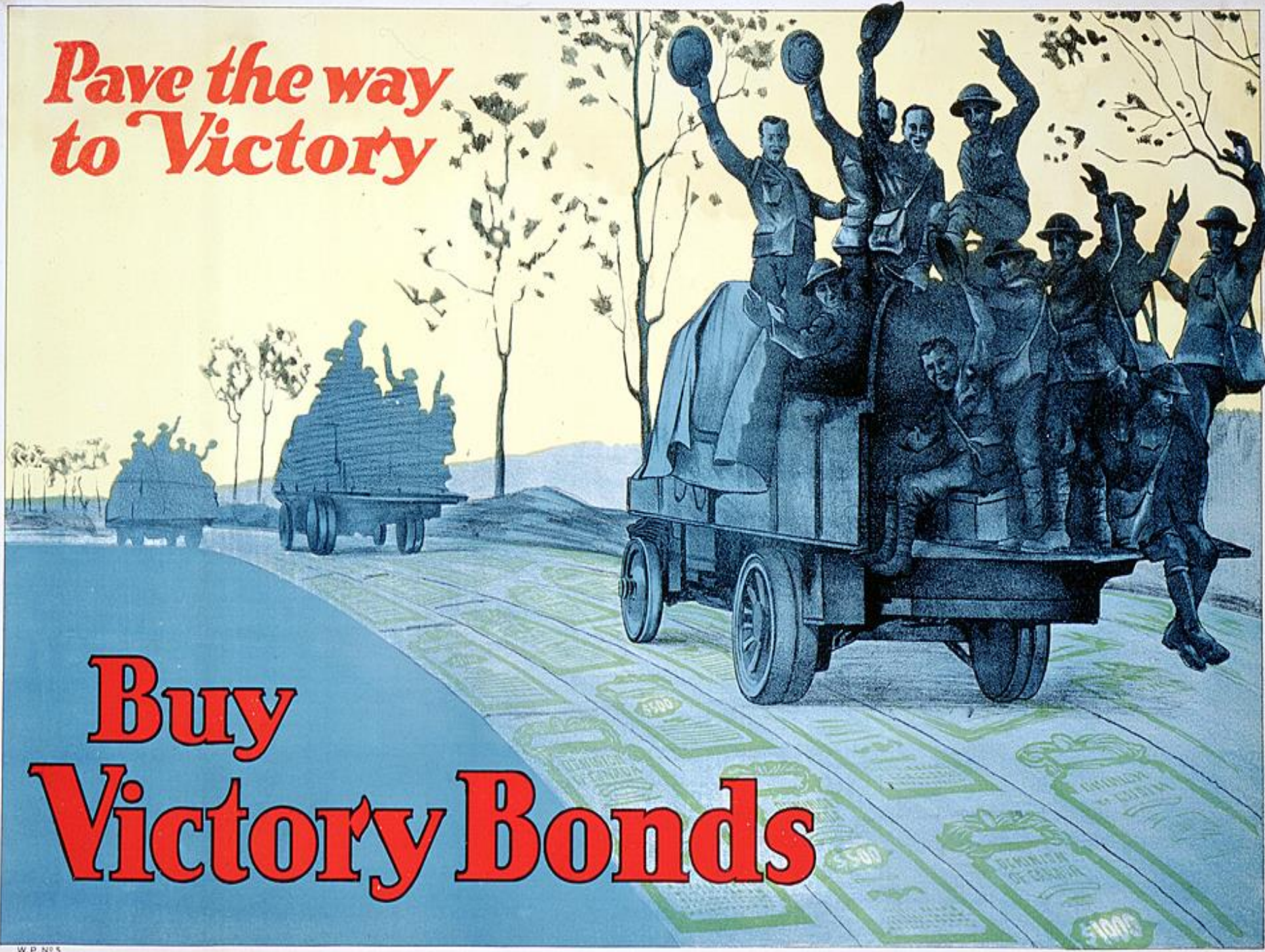
GIVE US THE TOOLS AND WE WILL FINISH THE JOB



HELP FINISH THE JOB

Buy **VICTORY
BONDS**

*Pave the way
to Victory*



**Buy
Victory Bonds**

*They
serve
France*

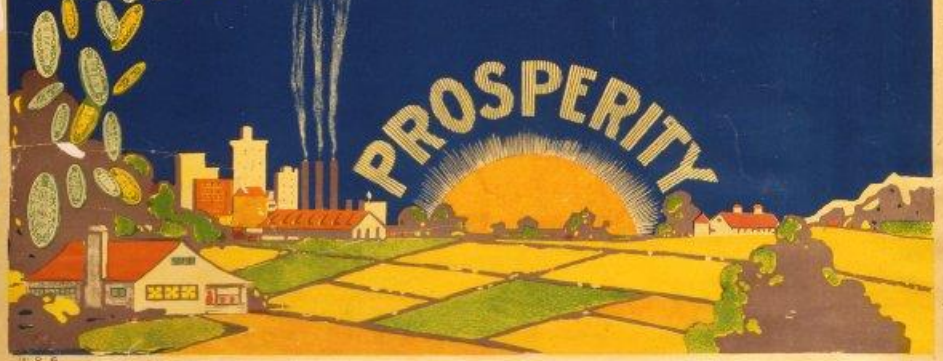


How can I serve Canada?

**Buy
Victory
Bonds**

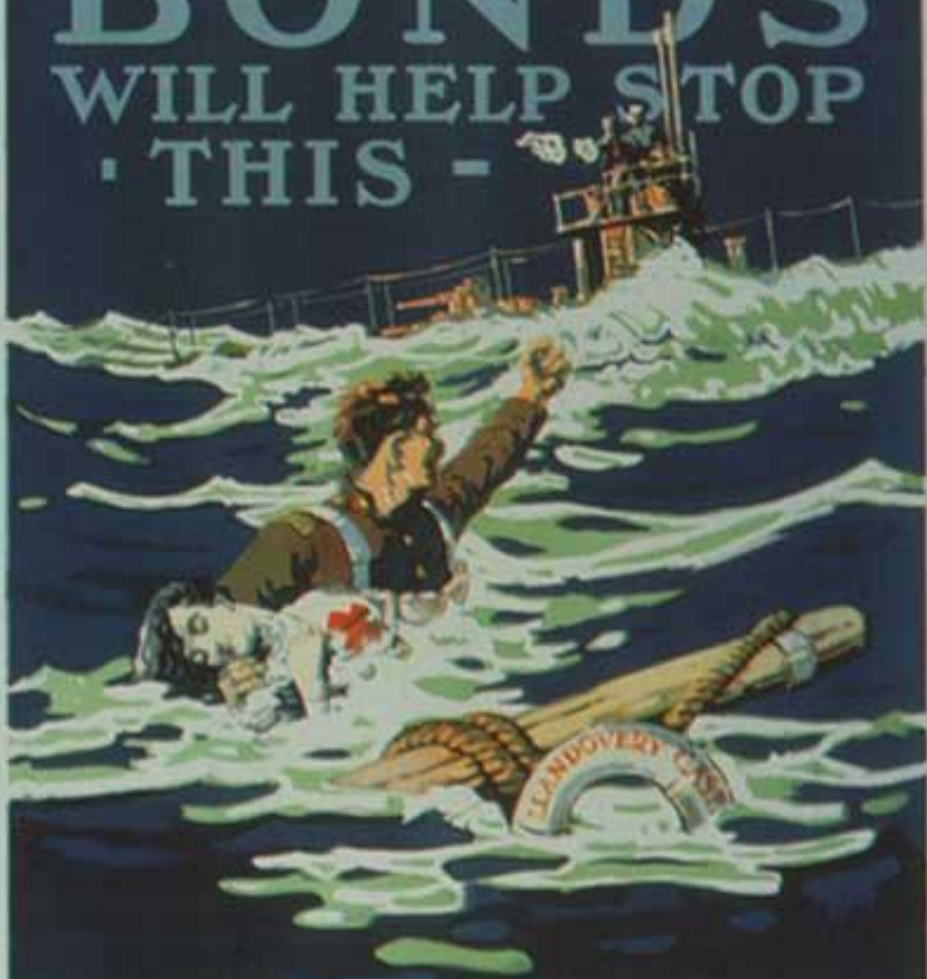
**EVERY
DOLLAR
SPENT IN
CANADA**

VICTORY LOAN



PROSPERITY

VICTORY
BONDS
WILL HELP STOP
THIS -



KULTUR VS. HUMANITY.



NOTHING
DOING -

without

VICTORY BONDS

Halifax Munitions Explosion (December 6, 1917)

- French munitions ship carrying nearly 3000 t of dynamite accidentally collided with another ship causing a massive explosion
- The blast levelled large sections of the city, fires followed – more than 2000 killed and 10,000+ were injured or left homeless
 - Blast was so strong it broke windows in buildings 100 km away
 - Largest non-nuclear explosion in history
- Aid from all parts of Canada and New England states came in











Prohibition in Canada

- During WWI the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) had successfully convinced the Cdn. gov't to ban the sales of alcohol.
 - Had been lobbying for 20+ years to make this happen, but no gov't wanted this – very unpopular move in a time when only men could vote
 - Prohibition in Canada became law in 1917
- Argued that our precious prairie grains were vital in feeding the warfront **NOT** for fermenting into alcohol
- Canada banned the sale of alcohol, but took a half-hazard approach where production was concerned & tolerated some consumption if prescribed by a doctor
 - Crime rates decreased. Calgary laid-off ½ the police force
- Medical practitioners could prescribe whiskey as a tonic for health
 - Before long lines of men formed outside pharmacies
 - One doctor signed 5,800 prescriptions in one month



"WET" OR "DRY"

"VOTE WET FOR MY SAKE!"



"VOTE DRY FOR MINE!"



Shall the Mothers and Children be Sacrificed to the Financial Greed of the Liquor Traffic?

IT IS UP TO YOU, VOTER, TO DECIDE

VOTE DRY

HELP ME to keep Him PURE

PLEASE VOTE AGAINST THE SALE OF LIQUORS

The Conscription Crisis



Here's YOUR chance
IT'S MEN WE WANT

No. 2. General Recruiting Committee, No. 12 Military Division, London.

Controversial Politics

- As the war dragged on, fewer and fewer volunteers came forward, yet replacement troops were desperately needed

- By 1916, Borden had lifted Canada's commitment to the war effort to 500,000 men

- Originally he had promised there would be no conscription – no compulsory enlistment for military service

- After the Battle of Vimy Ridge, Borden is convinced that the war needs to be won at all costs and victory would require more troops

- Canada feeling very good following their victory

- Borden introduces the Military Service Bill (1917) – making enlistment compulsory for all males between 20 – 35. Hugely controversial!

- Excluded men vital in wartime production jobs; sick & disabled; conscientious objectors / pacifists (those who couldn't fight because of religious beliefs)

Enlistment / Casualty Rates for 1917		
Month	Enlistments	Casualties
January	9 194	4 396
February	6 809	1 250
March	6 640	6 161
April	5 530	13 477
May	6 407	13 457
June	6 348	7 931
July	3 882	7 906
August	3 117	13 232
September	3 588	10 990
October	4 884	5 929
November	4 019	30 741
December	3 921	7 476

**THERE'S ROOM
FOR YOU**



**ENLIST
TO-DAY**

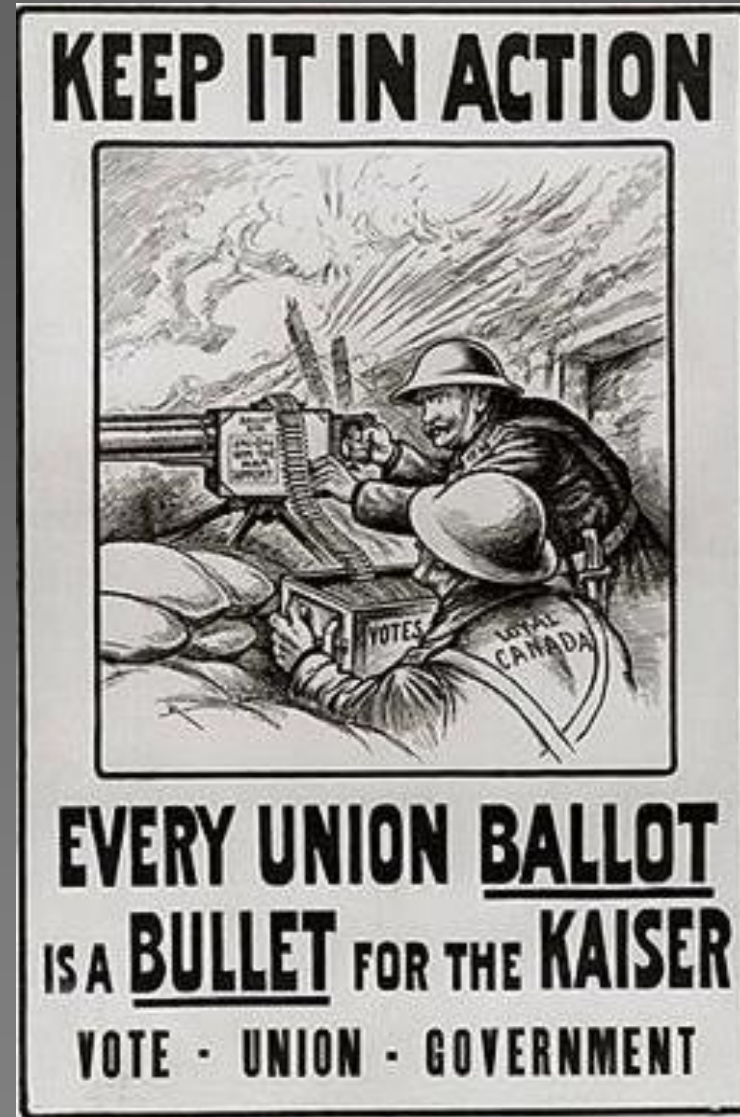


**"BE HONEST WITH
YOURSELF. BE CERTAIN
THAT YOUR SO-CALLED
REASON IS NOT A
SELFISH EXCUSE"**

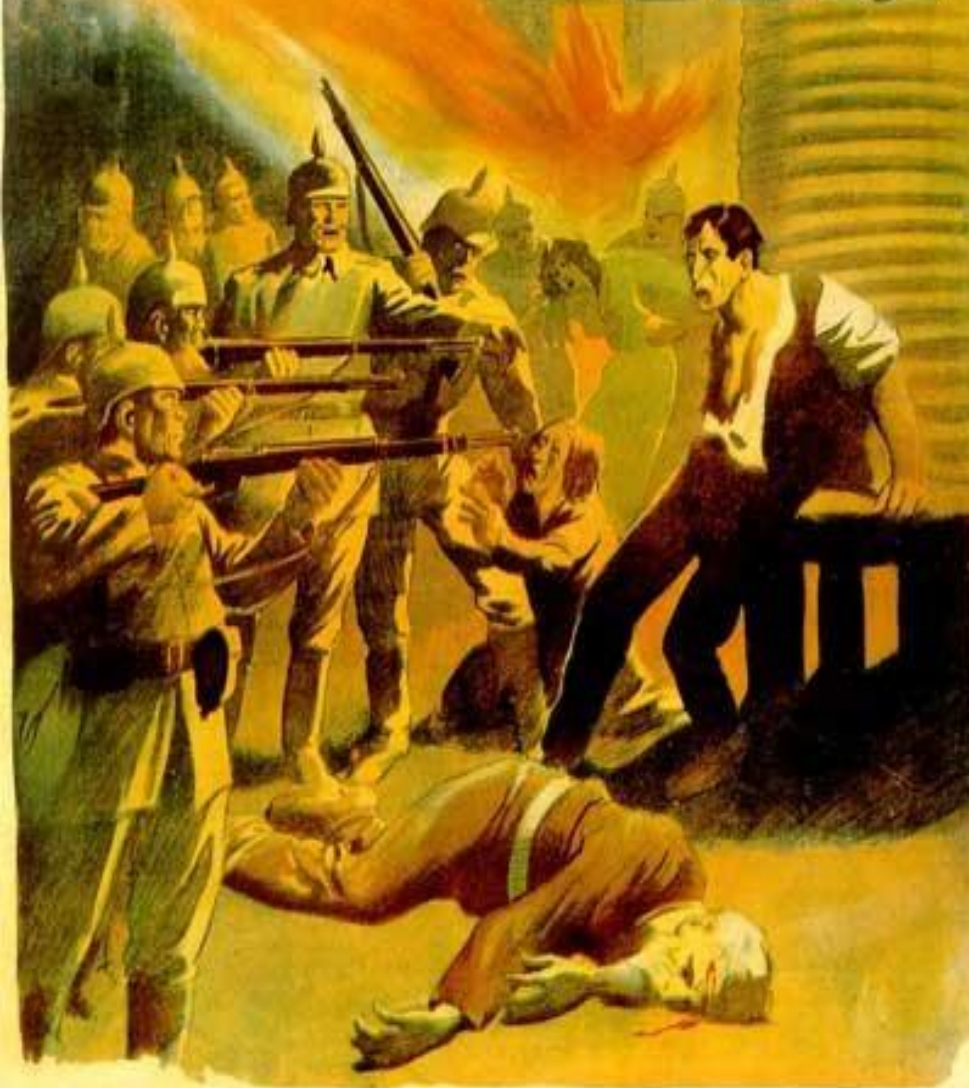
LORD KITCHENER

ENLIST TO-DAY

- Conscription heavily criticized in Quebec (French felt no loyalty to Britain's war) and across the prairies where families need their children in the fields for production
- To show solidarity to the people of Canada, he invited Laurier and the Liberals to unite and create Canada's first coalition gov't
 - Would demonstrate our commitment to victory
 - Laurier refuses because he deeply opposes the idea and knows it will be divisive in Quebec
 - Other members of the Laurier's Liberals will 'cross the floor' to unite with Borden & conscription
 - Formed the Union Party – Canada's first coalition gov't.



Will you fight now
or wait for **This**



God bless dear Daddy
who is fighting the Hun
and send him **Help**



The Politics of Conscription

- Borden had to call an election over this heated issue and knows he risks losing, so he 'rigs' the election by imposing the Wartime Elections Act
 - Canada's worst case of election tampering
 - Removed the vote from conscientious objectors, immigrants who have been in Canada less than 15 years, and enemy aliens
 - Gave the vote to underage soldiers (voting age is 21 at the time); non-Canadians fighting with the Canadian Corps; and to widows, mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of Cdn soldiers
 - First time some women can vote – in a 'corrupt' election
- Borden wins (with only 43% of popular vote) but takes 153 of 235 seats – a sound majority
 - Conscription would soon be law

'SEND MORE MEN'



WON'T YOU ANSWER THE CALL

Your Chums are Fighting



Why aren't YOU?

The Conscription Fallout

- Riots broke out in Quebec showing the frustration ~ 4 dead
- Farmers across the prairies are furious ~ labour is being forced to leave
- Of the 404,000 men across Canada who were called up, 380,500 applied for exemptions (94% asked to be pardoned)
- Borden responds by cancelling all exemption requests
- In the end 130,000 were enlisted, but about 25,000 conscripted soldiers reached France before the end of the war

