GET READY FOR THE QUIZ!
WW1 & Interwar: Quiz for Lesson #3

1. Who was Canada’s Minister of Militia?
2. More people working and fewer consumer goods led to?
3. What was the temporary tax the gov’t implemented?
4. What is it called when a manufacturer uses inferior goods to maximize profits on a government contract?
5. What persuasive tool was used by the gov’t to encourage people to enlist or buy bonds?
6. Name the two ships that collided in Halifax harbour.
7. Name the illness that claimed nearly as many lives as the war.
8. In what city did the conscription crisis lead to a riot and 4 dead?
9. What was the major issue in the 1917 election?
Lesson #4: End of the War & Discontent

LESSON OUTLINE & OBJECTIVES (don’t copy)

• In today’s lesson we will look at the events that contributed to the end of the war, and the peace treaty that came out of it.

• you will learn:
  – How Canada got involved in Russia
  – How Canada grew in stature on the world stage
  – The immediate impact of peace on the economy
  – The various forms of discontent across Canada
Lesson #4: End of the War & Discontent

The Russian Revolution

• In 1917, communists in Russia overthrew the Czar.
• Russia withdrew from the war, signing a peace treaty with the Germans, betraying former allies.
• In 1918, Canada sent about 6,000 soldiers to help anti-communist, counter-revolutionary forces (as did the British, US, French, Romanians, Serbs, Poles, Italians, Chinese & Japanese)
• The effort failed, the communists kept control of Russia
• Most Canadians never saw combat, casualties were minimal.
Lesson #4: End of the War & Discontent

End of the War

• Borden was a strong advocate of Canadian involvement as the war ended; Canadians played a major role in the final offensive.
• Germany sought an armistice; the war ended Nov. 11, 1918
• Canadian Pte. George Price died at 10:58, the last Commonwealth soldier to die.
• The war cost ~10,000,000 lives
• Canada lost >68,000 men
• Canada’s debt had quadrupled
Lesson #4: End of the War & Discontent

The Peace Treaty

• The peace treaty was negotiated in Paris in 1919
• At the treaty negotiations, PM Borden insisted on being given a seat and recognition for Canada as a nation, not just a colony of Britain.
• Borden was successful, largely because of the reputation Canada earned on the battlefield.
• The Treaty of Versailles was signed at the Palace of Versailles
• Borden signed for the nation of Canada, rather than having Britain sign for us.
The Canadian National Vimy Memorial

In 1922, use of the land, for the battlefield park which contains the Vimy Memorial was granted for all time by the French nation to the people of Canada. Designed by Canadian sculptor and architect Walter Seymour Allward, the Vimy Memorial stands on Hill 145, overlooking the Canadian battlefield of 1917, at one of the points of the fiercest fighting. It took eleven years and $1.5 million to build and was unveiled on July 26, 1936 by King Edward VIII. Inscribed on the ramparts of the Memorial are the names of 11,285 Canadian soldiers who were posted "missing, presumed dead" in France. The grounds are still honeycombed with wartime tunnels.
Lesson #4: End of the War & Discontent

Post War Recession

- Munitions plants shut down after the war
- 250,000 people out of work & 350,000 veterans returned
- Few consumer goods + many consumers = inflation
- Banks raised interest rates to fight inflation
- Many small businesses went bankrupt & jobs disappeared
- Canada entered a recession: high inflation, interest rates & unemployment
- This recession was experienced world-wide.
Lesson #4: End of the War & Discontent

The Rise Of Unions

• Work conditions declined; pay didn’t match the cost of living.
• Many workers joined unions to improve conditions.
• The Russian Rev’n encouraged unionists, and a wave of radical socialism swept across Canada.
• BUT- profits down, employers didn’t listen to union demands
• March 1919- Calgary- Union representatives met, talked about General Strikes & support for Bolshevism in the USSR
• They decided to create “One Big Union” (OBU) for all workers.
• Despite being a nearly impossible goal, it had initial appeal.
Lesson #4: End of the War & Discontent

The Winnipeg General Strike 1919

- May 1- Winnipeg Metal Workers on strike
- May 2- Building trades went on strike.
- May 15- a General Strike Begins.
  - 30,000 workers walked off the job, including public sector (mail, water, police & fire) and private sector, unionized and non union workers.
- Strike demands included the right to collective bargaining, a living wage, and an 8 hour day.
- The strike made front page news around the world.
Lesson #4: End of the War & Discontent

The Winnipeg General Strike (continued)

- The OBU tried to organize strikes across Canada, alarming employers & gov’t
- Civic leaders & employers formed “The Citizens Committee of 1000” to organize opposition to the strike.
- May 22- Ministers of Justice & Labour met with the Citizens Committee, but not strikers.
- The federal gov’t altered laws, giving authorities more power to respond, (it became a crime to talk about revolution)
Lesson #4: End of the War & Discontent

The Winnipeg General Strike (continued)

• May 30- police refused to sign a no strike pledge.
• June 1- the entire police force is fired and 1800 “Specials” were hired to replace them.
• June 1- 10,000 soldiers returned from the front gathered at the Provincial legislature to declare solidarity with the strike.
• June 17- Strike leaders were arrested in late night raids.
• Union members began to protest in large groups.
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June 21- Bloody Saturday

- The protest grows in size & intensity; becomes a mob.
- The Winnipeg mayor reads the Riot Act.
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- Mounties fire into crowd, killing 1, mortally wounding another, ending the General Strike.
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Significance:

• The Winnipeg General Strike was the birth of the modern labour movement in Canada, even though this set the movement back significantly.

• Out of this came the CCF (later to become the NDP)

• The brutal and strong arm methods used to put down the strike have been a subject of debate ever since.
Lesson #4: End of the War & Discontent

Veteran Discontent

- Veterans demanded a $2000 bonus from Gov’t
- Despite popular support for the idea, the Gov’t declined

Regional Discontent: The West

- After the Wheat board (price control) was dissolved in 1920, prices plummeted, bankrupting many farmers

Regional Discontent: The Maritimes

- CNR (gov’t rail) raised rates in the Maritimes, killing steel & coal industries, 15,000 people left the region.
Lesson #4: End of the War & Discontent

Political Discontent: Birth of “The Progressives”

- This rural based protest party grew out of post war discontent.
- Many farmers ran as independents, then became organized.
- They ran in Provincial elections as “United Farmers”
- Federally, they were known as “Progressives”
- Voters had a choice of three parties.
- They would be an important force in federal politics as minority gov’ts needed their support.
- They campaigned in 1921 on issues such as Free Trade, lower taxes, cheaper freight rates and more federal referendums.
- Discontent would lead to the fall of the conservatives in 1921.
Lesson #4: End of the War & Discontent

POSSIBLE QUIZ QUESTIONS NEXT CLASS
1. Near the end of the war, where did Canada send troops?
2. Who did Canadian troops fight?
3. When did the war end?
4. How many lives did the war cost in total? For Canada?
5. Give evidence of our growing independence at the treaty negotiations.
6. After the war, what happened to the world economy?
7. What union was created in Calgary in March 1919?
8. What type of strike gripped Winnipeg in May & June of 1919?
9. How many people died in that conflict?
10. One result of discontent was the birth of what new federal party?