

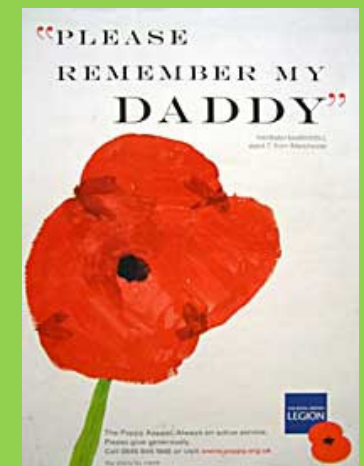


# Canada After the Great War

*From Raging Turmoil to Roaring  
Twenties*

**When the armistice was signed in November of 1918, most people were elated and rejoiced...**

**But for many others, the effects of this war would be life-changing. They had lost a loved one in this war. For many of the Canadians who were left with this void, this loss, they would never even know of the whereabouts of their loved ones remains. The western front had become a veritable graveyard of “unknown soldiers” who would never come home...**



There was, in fact, little done to commemorate soldiers in Canada before the advent of the Last Post Fund, an association created in 1909 by Arthur Hair, a South African War veteran and, at the time, an orderly at a local hospital. The plight of veterans dying without the means for a proper burial struck a deep cord; motivated by patriotism and the same sense of comradeship so often found among veterans, Hair established the LPF as a service "protecting destitute veterans from anatomy tables and ensuring their decent burial"





Watch the video clip “A Painful Peace” (CBC: Canada, A People’s History) and respond to the following in your notes:

1. List and describe some of the challenges that the returning soldiers faced upon returning home to Canada.
2. What was the fate of:
  - a) Arthur McPhee?
  - b) Frank Maheux?
  - c) Jack McClung?



Madam  
In confirmation of my telegram,  
It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has been  
received from the War Office notifying the death of:-  
(Rank) Private  
M.2/051164  
BUSBY WALTER  
Army Service Corps.  
10th General Hospital, Le Ireport.  
10th November 1918.  
Report is to the effect that he died of Influenza.

A.S.C. RECORDS  
Woolwich Dockyard  
16 Nov. 1918  
Regt. No.  
AG. 91436/CAS  
18

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= hXPA3qQy7U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXPA3qQy7U) 1:07:37

# The War is Over...

The surviving soldiers were starting to return home, but life at home wasn't all that they had hoped and dreamed of, some of the issues included...

- Spanish Influenza
- Inflation & General Challenges of Everyday life
  - Labour Unrest
  - Winnipeg General Strike
  - Prohibition
- Women and Change



# Influenza

Aka. The Spanish Flu

1918- 1919



The influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 killed more people than the Great War, known today as World War I, at somewhere between 20 and 50 million people.





# Why did they call it the “Spanish Flu”?



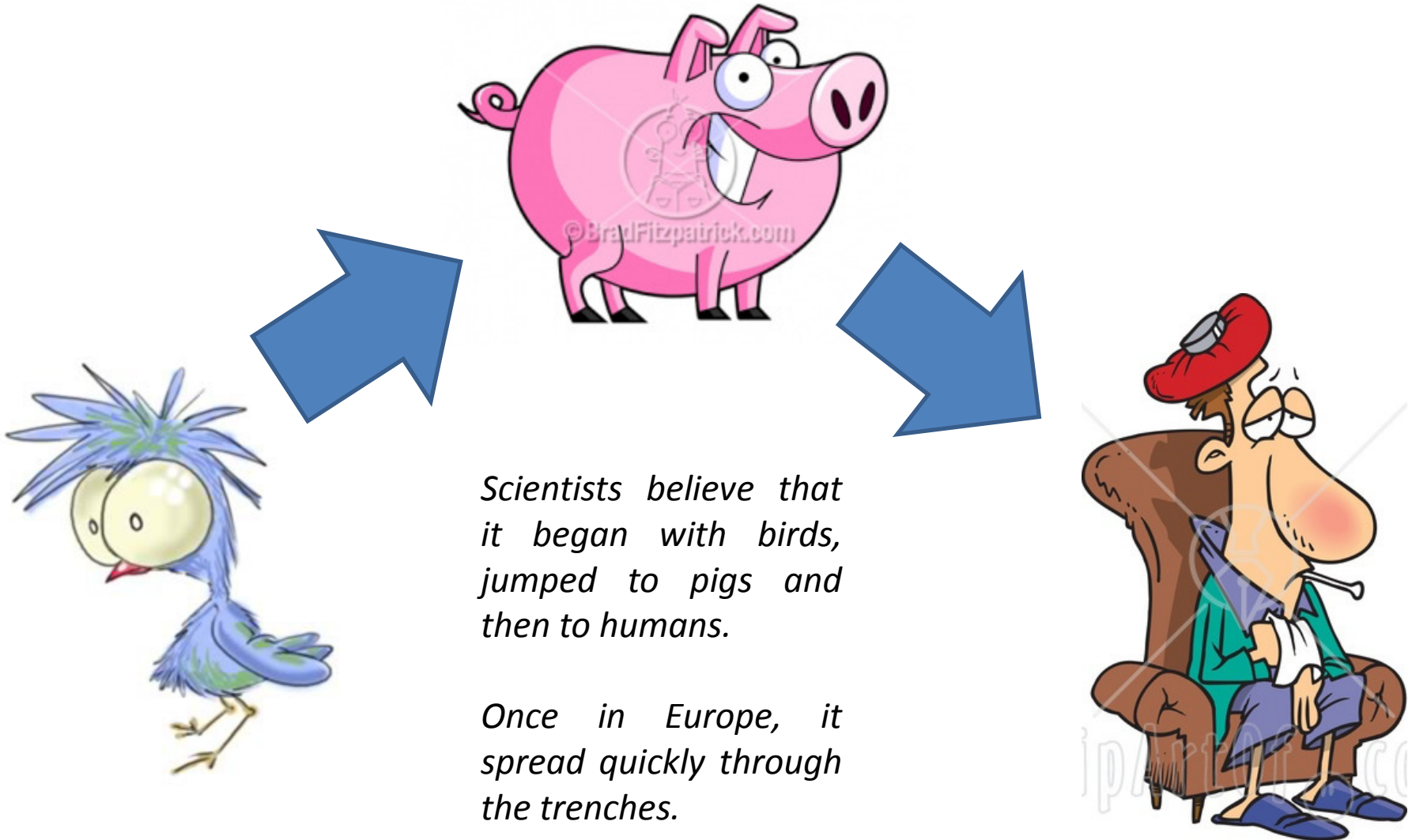
When people gathered to welcome the soldiers home, help spread the disease like wildfire.

→ Happened all over the world... became a global **pandemic**- *an epidemic that affects many people in many countries.*

→ Struck young people between ages of 20-40



# How did it begin?



# PUBLIC NOTICE

In view of the severity of the present

## Epidemic of Influenza

and in order that all efforts may be concentrated on the stamping out of the disease, the local Board of Health, after consultation with Kingston Medical Society and the Mayor, has enacted that after Oct. 16th, and until further notice,

1. Theatres and Moving Picture Houses shall be closed and remain closed
2. Churches and Chapels of all denominations shall be closed and remain closed on Sundays.
3. All Schools, Public or Private, including Sunday Schools, shall close and remain closed.
4. Hospitals shall be closed to visitors.
5. No public shall be admitted to courts except those essential to the prosecution of the cases called.
6. The Board advises the public most strongly not to crowd into street cars and to avoid as much as possible any crowded train or an assembly of any kind.

Provisions have been made by the Kingston Medical Society whereby all cases applying for assistance will receive the same either by registered practitioners or by final year medical students acting under instructions. Therefore every case of illness should send in a call to a physician.

A. R. B. WILLIAMSON,  
Medical Health Officer.

*Province of Ontario.*—So far as can be ascertained influenza appeared in this province in the fourth week of September, and in October the disease became acutely epidemic. The deaths from influenza in each of the five months, October 1918 to February 1919, were as follows :—

	Influenza deaths.
1918, October - - - - -	3,015
November - - - - -	2,608
December - - - - -	1,568
1919, January - - - - -	1,514
February - - - - -	812
Total in five months - - -	9,517

The population of the province is 2,523,000.

At the height of the epidemic in the City of Toronto the deaths from influenza numbered about 150 a day, the total up to the end of November being 2,000. Some medical men used a

# Public Health declared closure of:

- Schools
- Theatres
- Bowling Alleys
- Billiard Halls
- And discouraged people from shaking hands with others



# 9:00 APPOINTMENT

Discuss the following questions with your partner and then reflect on your conclusions:

- 1. Have you lived through/ experienced anything close to a global pandemic in your lifetime? Explain.**
- 2. Do you think that the government of today would handle an outbreak similar to that of the Spanish Flu better than the way it was handled in 1918? Do you think fewer or more people would be at risk if a pandemic like the Spanish Flu were to strike again?**
- 3. What is the most important lesson that we can take from learning about the Spanish Flu?**



# Challenges in Everyday Life



# Returning Veterans

- Found it difficult to return home.
- Suffered shell shock- called post- traumatic stress disorder today
- In the beginning soldiers returning home with a disability were offered support but as time went on the government cancelled the programs and by 1921 most were unemployed.

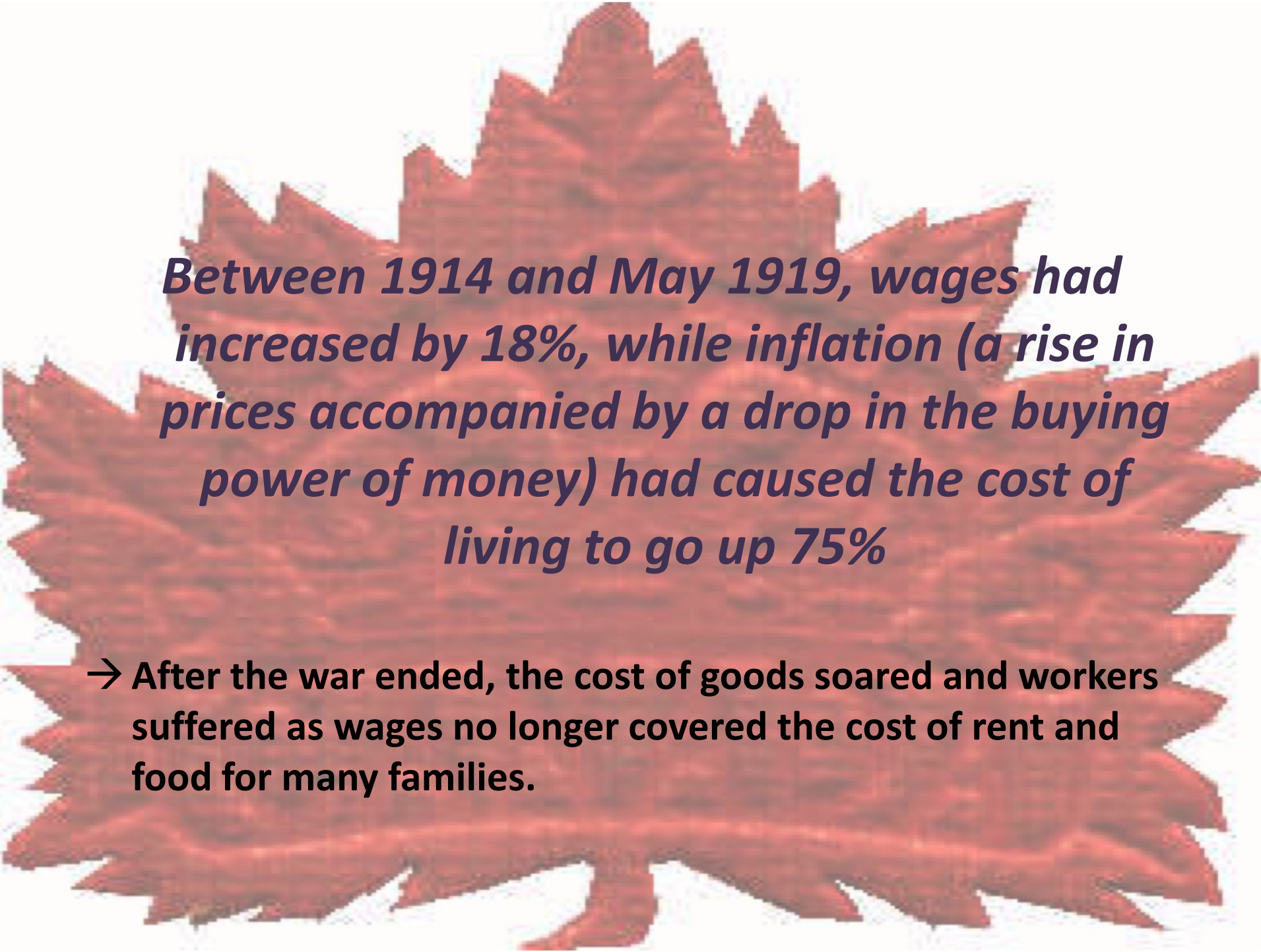


→ Unemployment increased as tens of thousands of soldiers returned home.

→ Food and Fuel were in short supply and therefore became more expensive.







*Between 1914 and May 1919, wages had increased by 18%, while inflation (a rise in prices accompanied by a drop in the buying power of money) had caused the cost of living to go up 75%*

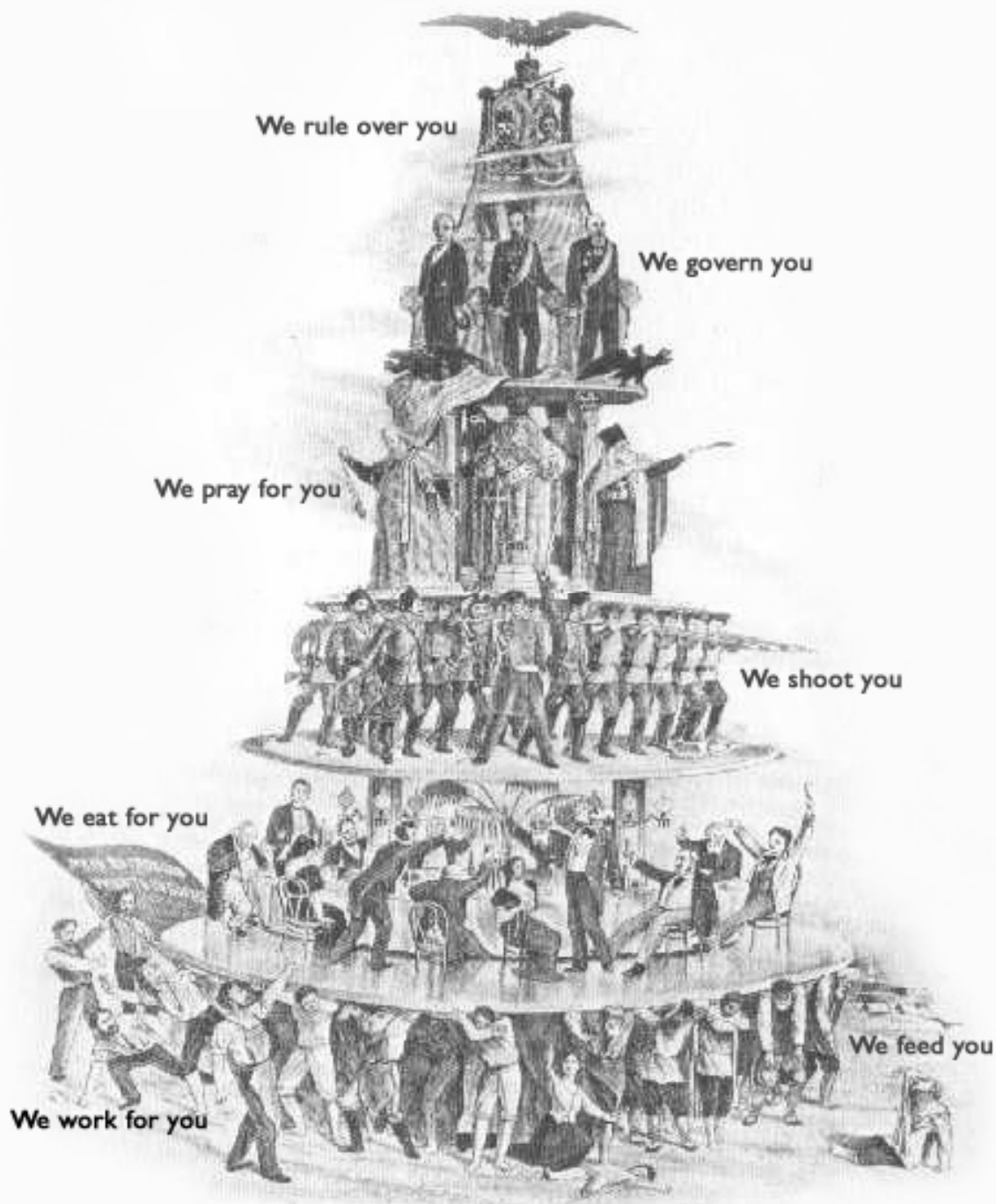
→ After the war ended, the cost of goods soared and workers suffered as wages no longer covered the cost of rent and food for many families.



# 12:00 APPOINTMENT

Discuss the following questions with your partner and then reflect on your conclusions:

- 1. How do you think the soldiers would feel upon returning home to discover that many of them were unable to afford an adequate standard of living? Explain.**
- 2. Do you think that the government of the time treated the veterans with adequate respect upon their return? Explain. What could the government have done differently?**
- 3. Why would many of the returning soldiers be interested in the concept of the union movement? Why do you think this might concern the government and businesses of the time?**



→ Warnings of strikes, economic unrest, and cycles of rising wages and prices, Canadians feared the communist revolution which is what happened to Russia not long before.

# Labour Unrest

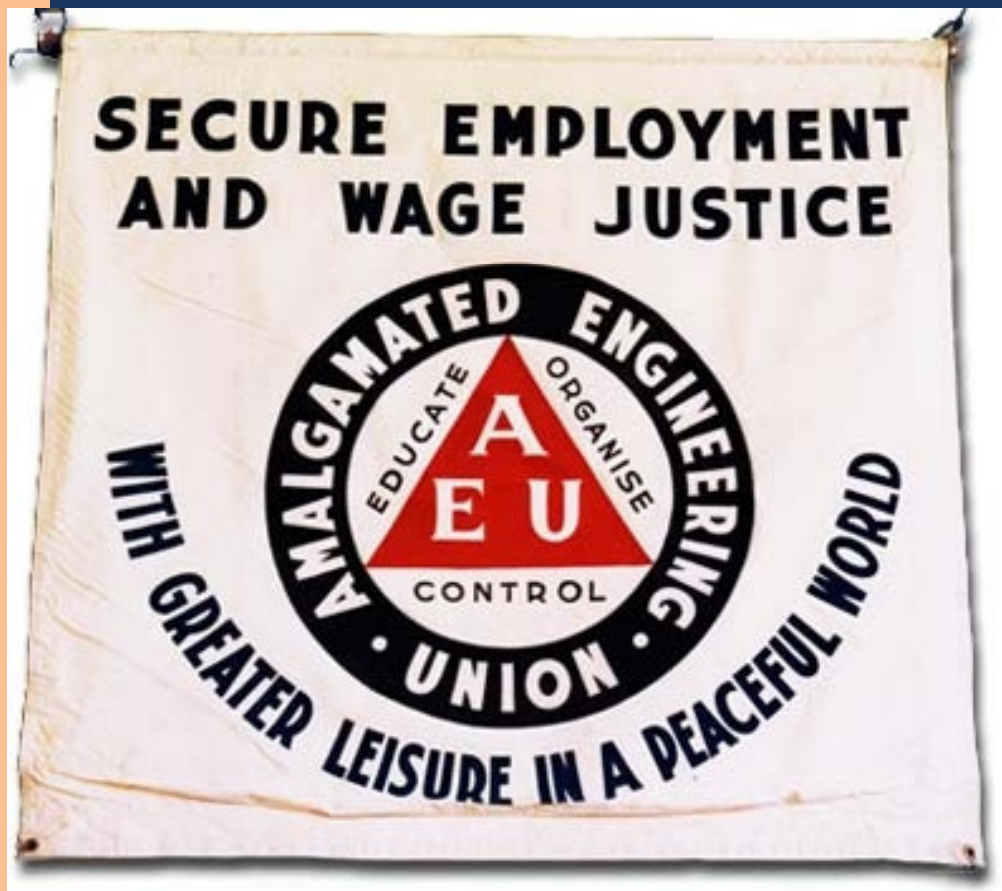


- Borden's government had passed legislation denying workers the right to strike for better pay and working conditions, while only gently asking employers to pay fair wages
- Canadians employed during the war were resentful as labour unions had reluctantly agreed to reduced pay as their patriotic contribution to the war effort.





- Workers looked to the union movement, joining labour unions, to help them demand a fair share.



Read pp.156-157 in your text and make notes on the following:

1. Examine the stats in Fig 6-9. In which years was union membership the highest? In which years were the hourly wages the highest? What happens to union membership and wages after they hit a peak? What do you suppose happened?
2. What was the OBU and what goals did it hope to achieve? How?

# **The Winnipeg General Strike?**

**You can work with a partner to complete the organizer distributed in class using the information found on pp. 157-158 in your text.**

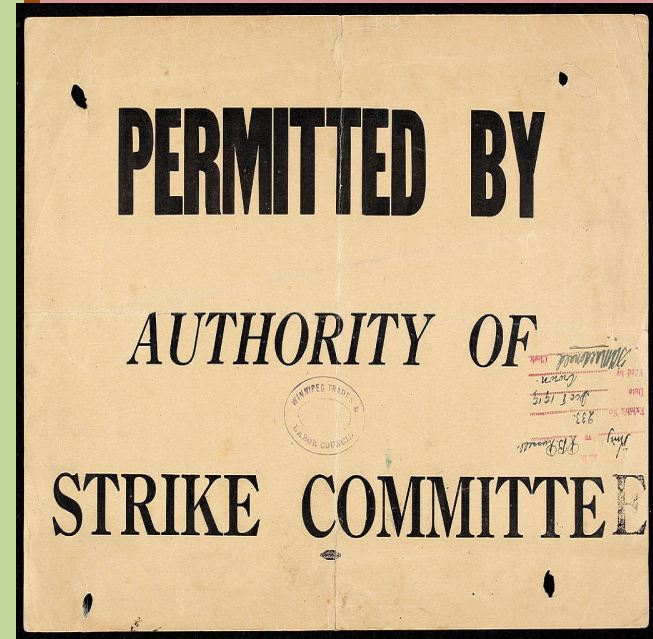


# Winnipeg General Strike

→ After three months of unproductive negotiations between the employers of the Winnipeg Builder's Exchange and the unions, grouped together under the Building Trades Council, a strike was launched on May 1, 1919.

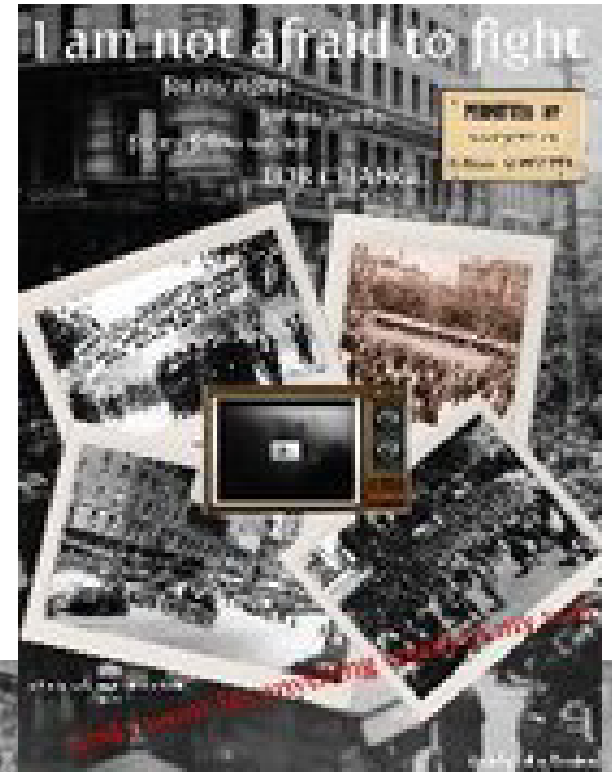
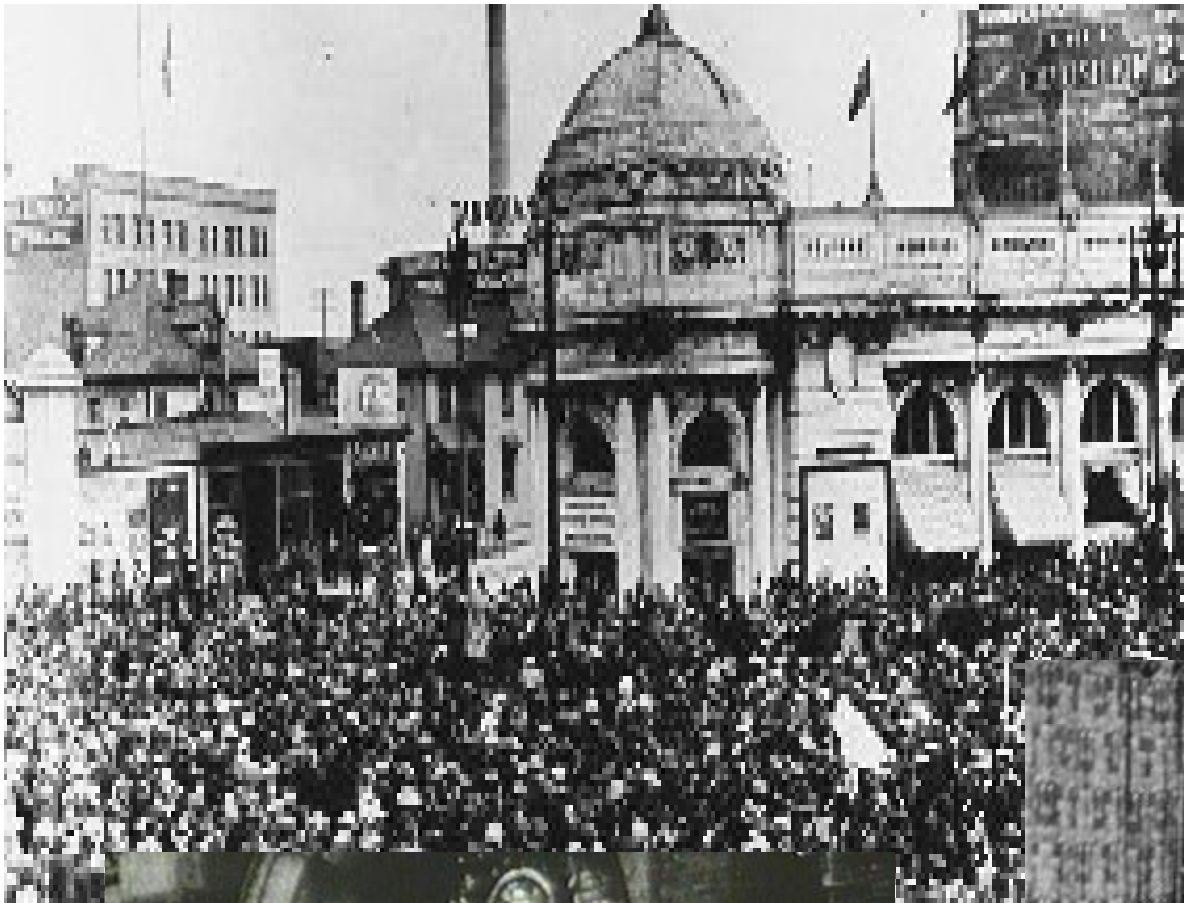
→ The next day city metal workers joined the strike

- 14 days later, May 15<sup>th</sup>, the strike was still not over- so the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council called for a city wide strike to support the striking workers
- An hour later 20 000 workers from 94 unions were on strike.
- Days later over 30 000 workers were on strike
- Closed factories, stores, stopped public transportation



*Permission card  
used during the  
Winnipeg General  
Strike 1919*





- Original strikers were now joined by postal workers, firefighters and police officers
- A central group was organized to carry out negotiations with the employers (Citizen's Committee of 1000)
- Essential services were allowed such as delivery of food and dairy products
- Riots broke out in the streets, 100 people were injured and one person was killed (another died later of his injuries)



- The Federal Government added amendments to the Law on Immigration in order to be able to deport anyone born outside of Canada accused of *insurrection- planned uprising to overthrow the government in power.*
- It is believed that the strike was a pretext for the advancement of the communist movement.
- Many arrests were made in order to start deporting strikers under the cover of the new amendments.



→ The general strike ended on June 26 at 11 o'clock after the strike committee told its supporters that the next battle would be waged on a political level; this would begin with the dispatch of several labour representatives to all levels of government.

### **General Strike 1919: Discussion Questions –**

- 1. Do you think the use of a General Strike is appropriate? Explain.**
- 2. Describe the opposition to the strike. What was the government and the business community most afraid of? Why?**
- 3. How do you think this strike has influenced the union movement of today?**



**It's Over.**

**Read the handout on  
“Differing Viewpoints on  
the Winnipeg General  
Strike” and complete the  
chart on the back of the  
handout.**

# **To add insult to injury...**

**Arthur Meighen (Minister of Justice)**



**Section 98: Outlawed any organization whose stated purpose was to bring about “governmental, industrial or economic change” by force**

**Section 48: Set penalties for belonging to such an organization , including a maximum 20 year jail sentence**

# **3:00 APPOINTMENT**

**1. What do you think of these two pieces of legislation?**

**2. Do you, or anyone you know, belong to a union? Explain.**

**3. Overall, what do you think about unions? Do you think they are a positive force in Canada or a negative one? Explain.**



**HELP ME** to keep Him  
**PURE**

**Prohibition**



**PLEASE  
VOTE  
AGAINST THE SALE  
OF LIQUORS**

# Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century People Believed:



**Read p. 159 in your text and respond to the following in your notes:**

- 1. Why did many people support the temperance movement in the early twentieth century?**
- 2. What is “prohibition”? When and how did prohibition become law in Canada?**
- 3. Why was prohibition repealed? When did this happen?**
- 4. How did prohibition in the United States effect Canada?**
- 5. Who were “rum-runners” and how do you think their activities might have effected Canada’s political relationship with the United States?**

→ Throughout the war, the buying and selling of alcohol became illegal

→ Under the War Measures Act in 1918, Government enacted Prohibition- laws against making and selling intoxicating liquor

→ The ban lasted until a year after the war ended- 1919.





→ Criminals became rich selling expensive, illegal alcohol



→ Government repealed the ban in 1921, due to the lost income generated by the alcohol taxes.

→ Replaced prohibition laws with government- controlled liquor sales.



## **Small Groups: Meet in a group of four...**

### **Discuss:**

→ Do you agree with Prohibition? Why or Why not?

### **Answer the following questions:**

- 1. Do you think it would be a good idea to bring back Prohibition? Why or why not?**
- 2. Do you think it would be a good idea to ban the sale of cigarettes? What about fatty foods?**
- 3. What do you think causes more health problems, fatty foods, cigarettes or alcohol?**



# Women and Change

Reforming society



# Women Knew What They Wanted:

Topics of Interest:

- Vote
- Better Education
- Job Opportunities
- Improved Labour Laws
- Health Care
- Run for Public Office
- Appointed to Senate
- Serve as Judges



**Read: “Canadian Women in the 1920s” and answer the questions on the reverse of this handout.**



# The Workforce

- Most women were offered low paying jobs and expected to end their careers once they were married.
- World War 1 changed things but not greatly.
- Professional jobs such as medicine, law and engineering were not an option for women.



# Achievements



→ By 1919, only 11 women had managed to overcome obstacles to become lawyers

→ Canada's 1<sup>st</sup> women engineer, Elsie Mac Gill did not graduate until 1927



→ Earliest women's movements: began in 1893 and remained active until 2009. Called: National Council of Women of Canada.

- Ontario was the 1<sup>st</sup> province to allow women who owned property to vote in municipal elections.
- During WW1 some women were able to vote in provincial elections in the provinces of Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, BC, Ontario and Nova Scotia.
- 1918 was a big year: Borden's government extended suffrage to most women
- 1919: Women could run for Parliament
- 1921: Agnes MacPhail, became Canada's 1<sup>st</sup> woman member of Parliament : had to face many inequalities for many years.

Read pp. 152-154 in your text and answer the following in your notes:

1. Name Canada's first female M.P. (Member of Parliament). Who were some of the other notable women in Canadian politics in the early 1900s?
2. What does the cartoon and charts (Fig 6-5 & Fig 6-6) suggest about the success of Canadian women's struggle for equality & representation in politics?
3. Why did the "Persons Case" come about? What was the legal issue?
4. Who were the "Famous Five" and what role did they play in the "Persons Case"?
5. What happened in the "Persons Case" and what was the end result?

