

The War at Home

Ch. 5 (p. 153-159)

Total War

- All of Canadian industry focused on the war effort
- Shortage of workers so women enter the labour force
 - Work in “male” jobs (welders, machinists, etc.)
 - Single women worked most, longer hours, moved from country to cities, lived in company dorms, room and board subsidized by government
 - Women with children provided day care by gov.
- Canada the “arsenal of democracy”
 - Supplied Allies with munitions, military vehicles, airplanes

Rosie the Riveter



Ronnie, the Bren Gun Girl



Canadian Production 1939-1945

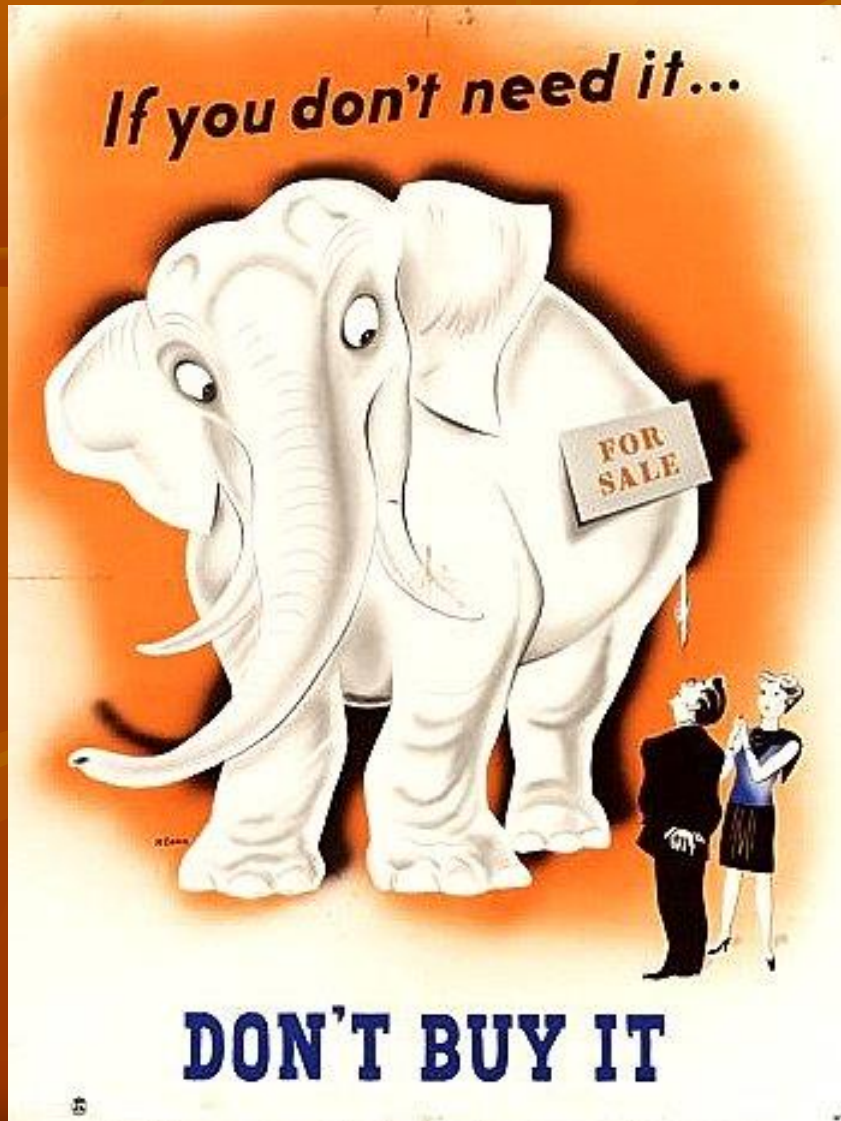
Aircraft	16,400
Artillery Pieces	43,000
Tanks/Armoured Vehicles	50,000
Transport Vehicles	800,000
Small Arms	1.7 million
Rounds of Ammunition	4.6 billion (!)
Helmets	1 million +



Canada's Wartime Economy

- Canadians had more money to spend, but less stuff to buy because of the war
 - Leads to inflation
 - Government encouraged Canadians to buy Victory Bonds, save money, prevent inflation
 - 1941 – Government freezes all wages and prices
- Food rationing begins in 1942 (coffee, tea, sugar, butter, etc.)
 - Rations large compared to other Allied countries

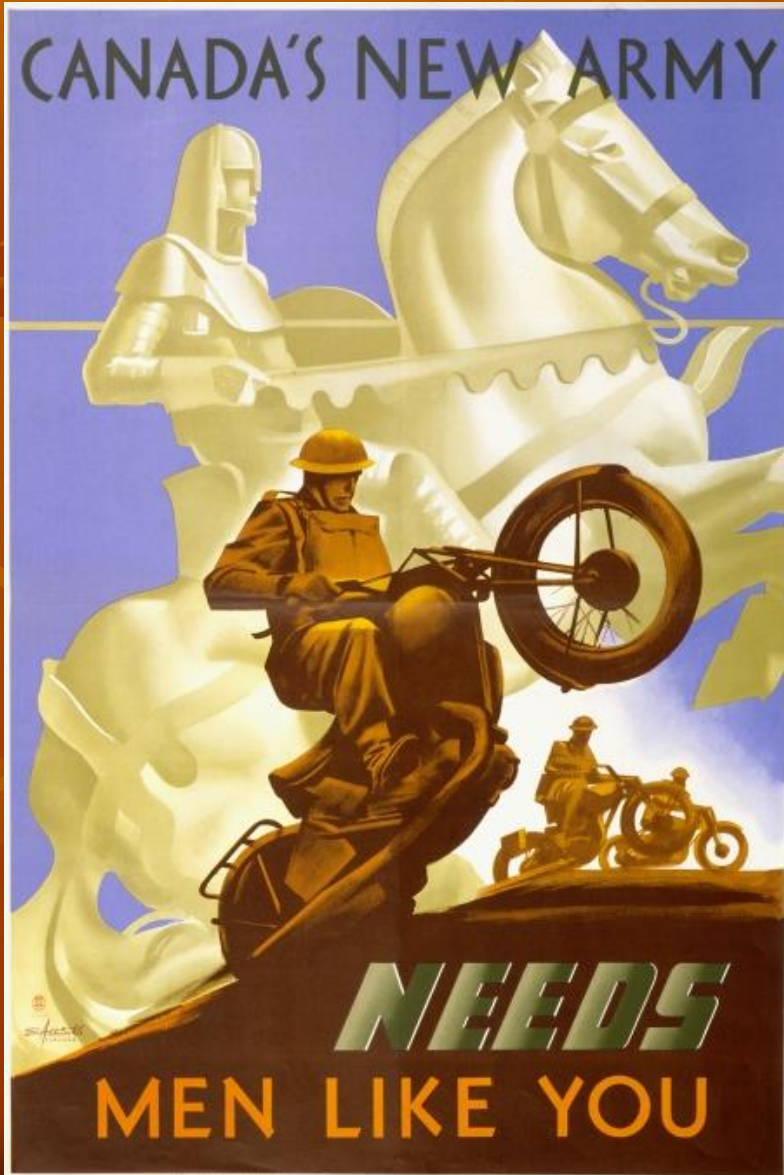
Wartime Propaganda



Wartime Propaganda



Wartime Propaganda



Wartime Propaganda



Wartime Propaganda



Wartime Propaganda



Social Change

- Government tries to limit power of unions
 - Strikes restricted, wage and prices controlled
 - C.D. Howe strongly anti-union
- Labour shortage gives unions leverage
 - Demand higher wages, collective bargaining rights
 - 1944: government makes union membership a right, forces employers to negotiate with unions
- CCF and social assistance programs popular
 - PM King introduces unemployment insurance (1940), Family Allowance program (1945)
 - Canada's social safety net (aka welfare state) increases

Enough for today...



Conscription Crisis: The Sequel

- PM King had promised no conscription
 - National Resources Mobilization Act (NRMA) allowed conscription, but not for overseas service
 - Pressure from Conservatives to conscript
- 1942: PM King holds plebiscite (vote on specific issue) on overseas conscription
 - All provinces, except Quebec, vote in favour
 - PM King holds off on sending conscripts to Europe
 - “Not necessarily conscription, but conscription if necessary.”

Conscription Crisis: The Sequel



Conscription Crisis: The Sequel

- 1944: Canadian troops in Europe dwindling, Minister of Defence Ralston demands conscripts
 - PM King replaces Ralston with Gen. McNaughton
 - Push for more volunteers to enlist, but fail
 - Finally 12,908 conscripts sent to Europe
 - Minor riots in Montreal
 - Terrace Mutiny – soldiers stationed in Terrace (many from Quebec) refuse to go to Europe, seize weapons, refuse orders
 - After five days, mutiny quelled, brigade split up, many sent east
 - 2463 conscripts reach the front, 79 killed

Effect on Canada

■ People

- Still a split between English and French Canadians
- Returning veterans given aid to prevent post-war recession and labour strife, like after WWI
 - Help transitioning to civilian life, finding work, job training, receiving business loans/mortgages, university/college tuition
- Many veterans brought back “war brides”
 - Foreign women married by Canadian troops while overseas
 - 41,000 European women, 20,000 children
 - Transportation to Canada paid for by government
- Casualties: 35,000 Canadians killed, 54,000 wounded

Effect on Canada



Effect on Canada

■ Economy

- Ended the Great Depression in Canada
- Economy booming (inc. aluminum, paper, oil)
- Manufacturing replaces agriculture as most important sector of the economy
 - Would attract wave of immigrants to Canadian cities

■ Identity

- Canada a significant middle power
- A strong military force
 - 3rd largest navy, 4th largest air force by end of war
- Independent identity from Great Britain