

Challenges to Federal Authority and Growing Independence

Canada in the 1920s

Canadian Autonomy

- 1922 Chanak Crisis
- 1923 Halibut Treaty
- 1926 King-Byng Affair
- 1926 Balfour Declaration/Imperial Conference
- 1931 Statute of Westminster



A. Background

- Canada generally united during war
- After the war
 - Regionalism growing
 - Various regions in the country were concerned for themselves

B. Regional Protest Emerges

- Maritime provinces
 - Saw their influence in federal politics declining
 - They had fewer seats
 - Banks and companies moving to areas of larger population
 - Coal industry being replaced by oil

- Prairies

- Farmers upset with The National Policy

- High tariffs on imported goods caused higher prices for farmers
 - Their goods were sold without tariff protection

- Farmers formed own political parties

- **Progressives** (National Progressive Party)

C. 1921 Election – 2 Contenders

- **William Lyon MacKenzie King**
 - Liberal
 - A reformer



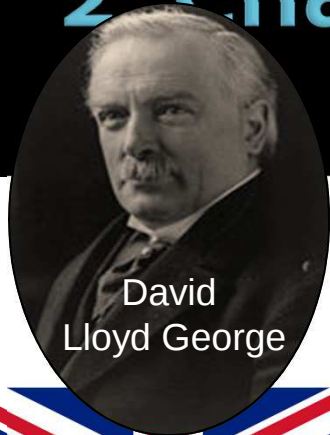
- **Arthur Meighen**
 - replaced Borden
 - Conservative
 - Prime Minister in 1920



1921 Election Results

- Liberals win minority gov't - 117 seats
 - Progressives (with west support) – 59
 - Conservatives – 49
 - Other – 10
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- Regionalism taking hold
 - Progressives – western farmers
 - Liberals – many from Quebec

2 Chanak Crisis,



David
Lloyd George



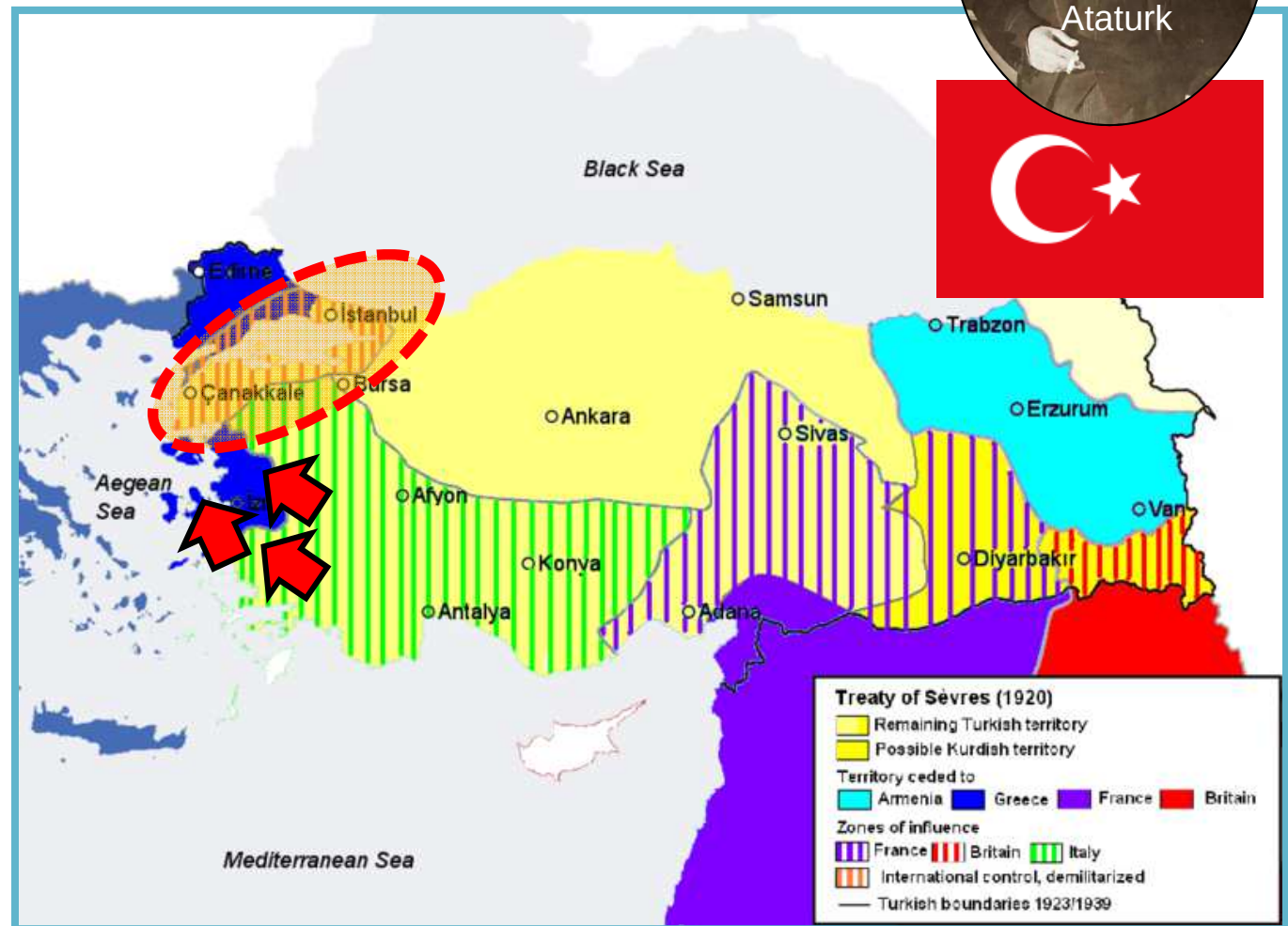
Greek defeat put
Turks near British
and French
garrison in DMZ =
call for war against
Turkey

WE NEED
HELP...

Canada!



Mustafa Kemal
Ataturk



2. Chanak Crisis

Mackenzie King insisted that the issue be **debated** in HofC, and by the time it was, the crisis was over.



Growing **isolationism** after the war:
Did not want to get into another European war



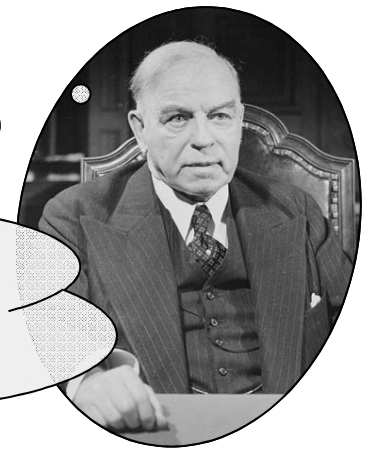


3. Halibut Treaty



- Past boundary disputes:
 - Maine/New Brunswick
 - Alaska/B.C.
 - San Juan Islands (Washington/B.C.)
- 1923 - Canada signs fishing agreement with US over North Pacific fishing
 - King insisted Canada would sign the treaty
- 1st international treaty negotiated independent of Britain (but not ratified by US Senate)
 - Canada would now sign own foreign treaties

*...I'll establish my own ambassador in Washington if the Brits continue to **meddle in our affairs!***



3. The King-Byng Affair



- 1925 election

Liberals 101
Conservatives 116
Progressives 24



Hero
of
Vimy

- **King refuses to resign as P.M.,** made deal with Byng
 - **with Progressive support,** formed a minority govt (he had even lost his seat!)
 - Progressives pull support in 1926
 - excise/liquor scandal and Tories call for vote of censure.
- King asks Byng to call election, instead.

- 
- Byng exercised royal prerogative (privilege)
 - **Refuses to call election**
 - Meighen to form gov't
 - soon loses vote in HC.
 - Meighen asks for election and one is granted.
 - King campaigns vs. **“undemocratic process”**
 - wins MAJORITY !

So What?



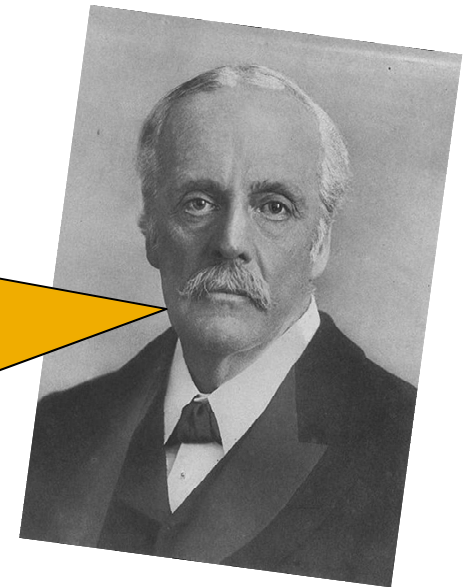
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Bungo

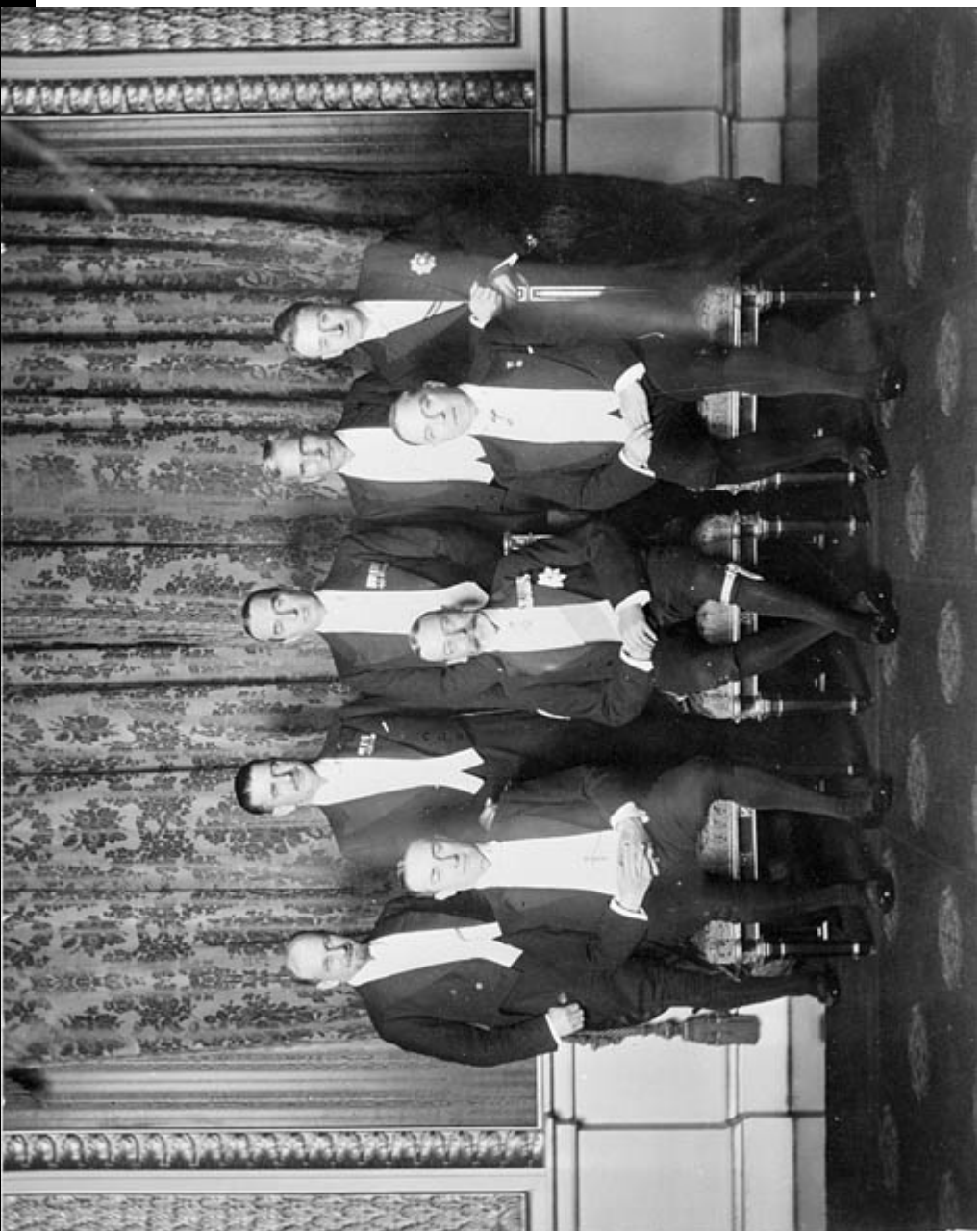
- Byng was following precedent in fulfilling role as **both** rep of British + Cdn govt
- First time a GG had refused the PM
- By winning, King showed the will of the nation and this became a **landmark** event
- **Precedent changed** to give primacy to the PM = de facto head of Cda

4. 1926 Balfour Declaration/Report

- 1926 Imperial Conference, London
- Former British P.M. recommends: give the Dominions their independence.
 - Voluntary allegiance to monarchy
 - Gov. Gen. Represents monarch (limits power)
 - Gov'ts communicate direct with Britain

The UK and the dominions “are **autonomous** Communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to the other in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.”





6. Statute of Westminster

- 1931 British act of parliament – enacts Balfour
- = *de facto* and immediate independence of Canada
- Canada now part of British Commonwealth

“No Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom passed after the commencement of this Act shall extend or be deemed to extend, to a Dominion as part of the law of that Dominion, unless it is expressly declared in that Act that that Dominion has requested, and consented to, the enactment thereof.”



- Except!

- Supreme court could be overruled in London – until 1949
- Amendment to the Constitution had to be done through British