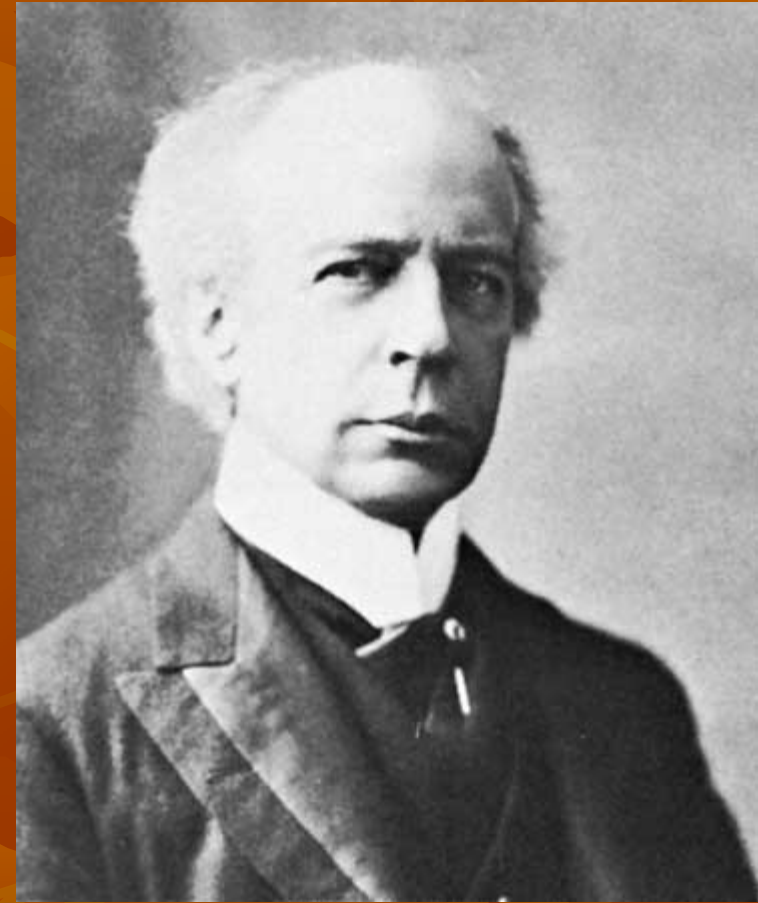


Canada to 1919:

A Different Canada – A Summary

A. Introduction

- 1896 – 1911 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Prime Minister
- Liberal
- fluently bilingual
 - Understood issues of both English and French
- 1911 – Canada pop. - 7.2 million



Sir Wilfrid Laurier

B. A Dominion is Still a British Colony



- Canada still a British colony
 - self-government
 - could not resolve international issues
- foreign affairs were controlled by Britain
 - not always with the best interests for Canada
- many Canadians were “imperialist”
 - Considered themselves British
 - wanting to see the expansion of the British Empire
- did not include French Canadians
 - they considered themselves “nationalist” as Canadians
- Laurier would exert some Canadian autonomy.

C. Canada, Britain and the USA

- Britain asked Canada to help with the Boer war in 1899 (South Africa)
- Wanted troops
- English supported Britain
- French opposed British Imperialism
- Laurier's compromise
 - Send only volunteers



- English felt he did not do enough
- French – too much
- Henri Bourassa quits cabinet

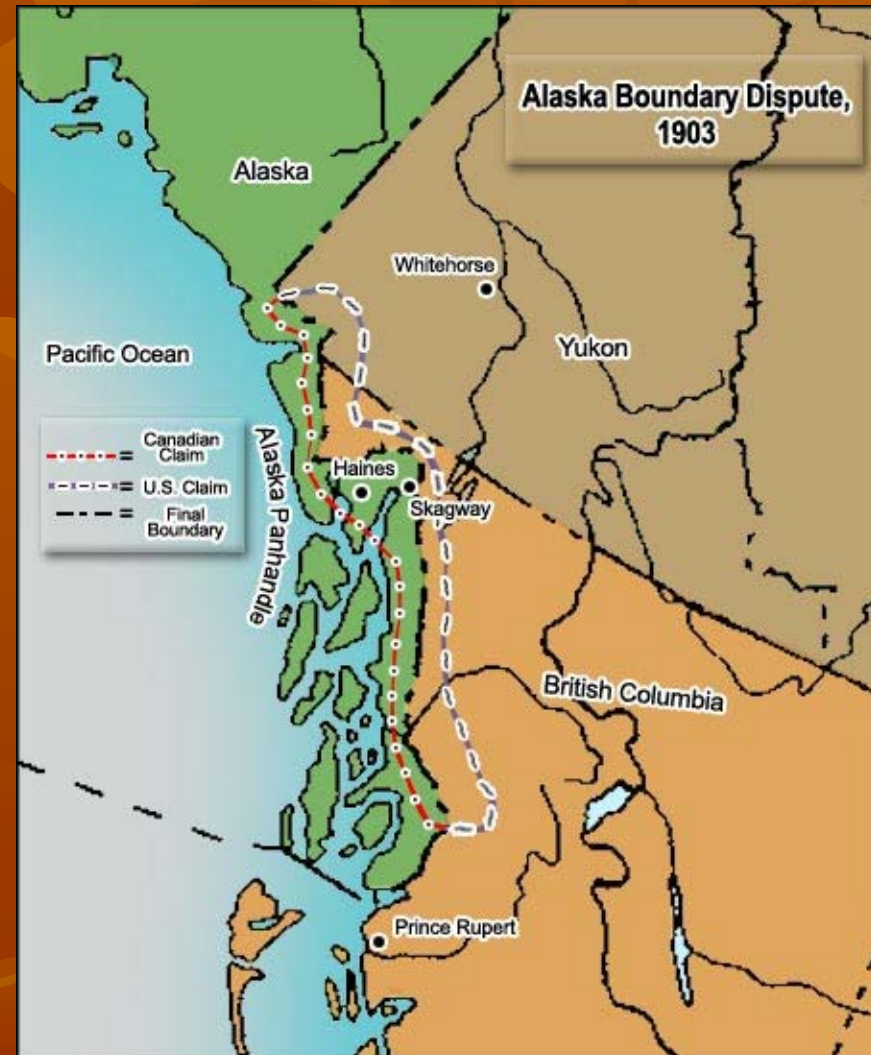


Bourassa, Henri

Founder of *Le Devoir* and opponent of Canadian involvement in foreign military adventures, Bourassa inspired the growth of a vigorous nationalism in Québec (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/C-27360/Henri Bourassa Coll).

D. Alaska Boundary Dispute

- dispute regarding the “panhandle”
- Lynn canal provided access to the Yukon during the gold rush of 1896
- the British negotiated a border that favored the US over Canada
- Why?
- Britain feared war with Germany
 - would need American help
- Britain, tired from the Boer War, wanted to avoid conflict



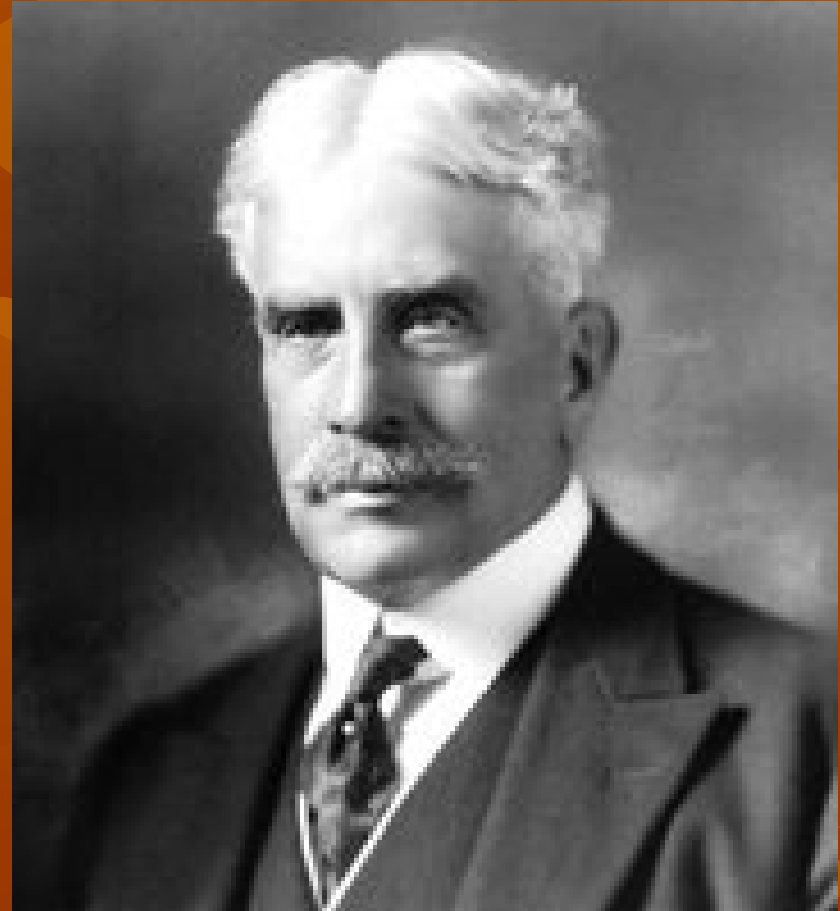
E. Naval Service Bill

- 1909 – Britain in Naval race with Germany
- wanted money to help build warships
- Laurier's Compromise
 - Canada to build it's own navy
 - Naval Service Bill - 1910
 - Could be placed under command of Britain in time of war by act of parliament



F. Reciprocity

- Western farmers complained about the high price of eastern machinery and shipping
- Laurier proposed **Reciprocity**
 - trade agreement with US to trade without tariffs (free trade)
- Eastern business men feared loss of business with reciprocity
- nationalists were against it after the Alaska issue
- Laurier lost the 1911 election on this issue - no reciprocity
- Conservative Robert Borden was elected



Prime Minister Robert Borden