World War I

Activity # 6: “Paying for a War”

1. **Your Prediction:** Between 1914 - 1918, I think it would have cost the Canadian Government $__________________ just to outfit (give basic supplies to) all its soldiers.

   **Fact # 1:** “It cost $155.00 to outfit a soldier to serve in France.” *

The chart below shows how many men were sent by Canada to serve in World War I. Answer the following questions with the aid of the chart and the information from fact # 1. (You may need to use a calculator!)

**Troop Movements to Europe**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Troops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>30,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>84,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>165,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>63,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>73,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>418,052</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. What were the actual costs to outfit Canada’s soldiers to serve in Europe during World War I?

   In 1914? ____________________ **HINT:** 30,999 X $155.00

   In 1915? ____________________

   In 1916? ____________________

   In 1917? ____________________

   In 1918? ____________________

   The total cost just to outfit Canadian soldiers during World War I was ______________.

2. Was your prediction higher or lower than the actual costs? ______________

3. What is the difference in amounts between your prediction and the actual cost?
II. **Your Prediction**: I think the five most important supplies of a WWI Canadian soldier pack would be:

1. __________________________ 2. __________________________

3. __________________________ 4. __________________________

5. __________________________

**Fact # 2**: “The total weight of a soldier’s pack including clothing, ammunition, tools, toilet articles, rations and water is approximately 60 pounds.” The list below shows the basic supplies needed. * Using the list, answer the questions on the following page.

What **500,000 soldiers** need

400,000 rifles and bayonets
4,000 machine guns
1,100 field guns
80,000,000 cartridges for each battle
1,250,000 shells and shrapnel per hour
100,000 horses
65,000 mules
4,000 wagons and trucks
500,000 first-aid packets
500,000 canteens
1,000,000 uniforms - coats, breeches, puttees, underwear, belts
500,000 caps
500,000 steel helmets
500,000 gas masks
1,000,000 pairs of leather boots
500,000 pairs of rubber boots
500,000 haversacks
500,000 rubber ground-sheets, to keep them dry
1,000,000 blankets
2,000,000 pairs of socks
500,000 lbs. of meat per day
500,000 lbs. of bread per day
250,000 lbs. of vegetables per day
1,000,000 pints of tea or coffee per day
500,000 cups
500,000 plates
500,000 knives
500,000 forks
500,000 spoons

PAC 1918 4696 The Canadian War Thrift Book
1. How would the need for supplies affect production in Canada’s factories and on its farms?

2. How do you think the supplies were transported to the Western Front?

3. What problems may have been encountered with the transportation of these supplies?

4. The following statements are all directed to the people of Canada who were not serving overseas. Analyze these statements by telling how each would affect the people on the homefront in Canada as well as the Canadian soldiers serving overseas.

   a) “We must produce all we can, waste nothing and shift our consumption as much as practicable from wheat, flour, beef and bacon to other foods. The other foods are just as wholesome for us but are not as suitable for shipment overseas in wartime.”

      Effect on people on the homefront: __________________________________________
      ________________________________________________________________________
      Effect on the soldiers and the war effort: ______________________________________
      ________________________________________________________________________

   b) “... the outcome of the war must be decided in the kitchens of Canada.”

      Effect on people on the homefront: __________________________________________
      ________________________________________________________________________
      Effect on the soldiers and the war effort: ______________________________________
      ________________________________________________________________________

   c) “A ton of coal is needed to produce three big shells.”

      Effect on people on the homefront: __________________________________________
      ________________________________________________________________________
      Effect on the soldiers and the war effort: ______________________________________
      ________________________________________________________________________
III. Fact # 3: “During 1918 the war cost Canada over one million dollars per day.” *

Fact # 4: Canadians paid for the costs of World War I through savings bonds, taxes, and donations.

Using the chart below, answer the following questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Debt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>$350,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>350,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>475,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>625,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>900,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>1,175,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. What was Canada’s total debt for World War I? ____________________________________

2. Why is there no change in Canada’s debt for the years 1911 and 1914?

3. What can be said about Canada’s debt between the years 1914 - 1918?

4a) In which year is Canada’s debt the highest during WWI? _______________

b) A reason for the high debt that year could be ____________________________

______________________________

5. The following statement concerns the Canadian government’s need to pay for WWI.
   “Every man and woman in Canada can help win this war by practising self-denial...”
   What does this mean?

6. If Canada were involved in a war now, what could you do to help pay for it?

* from Canadiana Scrapbook: Canadians at war 1914 - 1918 by Donald M. Santor