

Two very important arbitrations in which Canada was much interested have taken place since 1890, the first relating to the rights possessed by British subjects in the seal fisheries of Behring sea, and the second as to the boundary between Alaska (purchased by the United States from Russia in 1867) and Canada. In the first case the claims advanced, mainly on behalf of Canada by Great Britain, were fully upheld (September, 1893). In the second there was some disappointment in Canada over the award (October, 1903), which did not, however, in any serious degree affect Canadian interests.

Canada's Part in the South African War.—In the year 1899, the difficulties which had arisen between the British government and the Transvaal, on the subject of the legal disabilities under which British subjects in that country were labouring, resulted in a declaration of war by the Republic. Sympathy with the Mother Country became so acute in Canada—as also in New Zealand and Australia—that the Government felt impelled to take a share in the struggle by sending Canadian troops to the scene of action. A first contingent of the Royal Canadian Regiment left Quebec on the steamer *Sardinian* on October 30, 1899. Others of this force followed, numbering in all 1,150 officers and men, while Mounted Rifles, Royal Canadian Dragoons and an artillery corps were also despatched to the front. In addition, Lord Strathcona sent out, at his own expense, a special mounted force of 597 officers and men. A total of 3,092 officers and men were despatched to South Africa in the years 1899 and 1900. The Canadian troops distinguished themselves by their bravery, particularly in the battle of Paardeberg (February 27, 1900) in which the Boer general, Cronje, was forced to surrender. In 1901 there was a further enlistment in Canada of Mounted Rifles to the number of 900, at the expense of the Imperial Government, and also of 1,200 men for service in the South African constabulary.

Conclusion.—Politically, during the greater part of the pre-war period, Canada remained under the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, which, however, was defeated in 1911 on the issue of freer trade relations with the United States. The succeeding Conservative Government, under Sir Robert L. Borden, held office during the earlier part of the Great War, but toward its close broadened out to include Liberals who believed in the application of a measure of conscription to reinforce the Canadians at the front. The Union Government, still under Sir Robert Borden, was sustained at the election of December, 1917, and remained in office throughout the remainder of the war and demobilization period, but the Liberals who had consented in a great emergency to support it, one by one retraced their steps. Finally, the increasing weakness of the Government led its new leader, Mr. Arthur Meighen, to appeal to the country, which, in December, 1921, returned to power the Liberals under Mr. Mackenzie King, who had succeeded Sir Wilfrid Laurier as Liberal leader on the death of the latter in 1919. A notable feature of the election was the return to the House of Commons of 65 Progressive members, mainly agriculturists from Ontario and the Prairie provinces, their number considerably exceeding that of the Conservatives in the new Parliament.

Economically, the period between 1900 and the outbreak of the war was one of rapid expansion, owing largely to the great influx of immigrant labour (see subsection "Immigration"), and of capital, the total outside capital invested in Canada in 1914 being estimated at \$3,500,000,000, nearly 80 p.c. of which was British. This capital was largely invested in the construction of the new trans-continental railways, which had been enabled to secure it partly through the guaranteeing of their bonds by Dominion and Provincial Governments. The