

# History Lecture #14 The New World

Wednesday, November 2, 2016 2:28 PM

## Recap

- The old Canada was white, British, protestant, watered down
- Things started to change a couple years before the war with technology like the railroad
- Things happened slowly in Canada overtime
- It was prosperous and productive but slow in an old fashioned way
- Canada did have urban centers in the community
- No city had more than 50 000 people
  - The largest cities were Montreal with 150 000 and Toronto with 100 000 people



Audio 1

## Two Montreal's

- Montreal in 1885 is similar to big North American cities
- The problem was that there was two Montreal's
  - The rich Montreal controlled by the British
  - The poor Montreal of the French
- There were English and French in Montreal
- The English minority controlled business, government, high society all aspects of power even though the French were the Majority
  - French had little influence
- The Bank of Montreal was the most powerful bank in the country
- The vast part of Montreal was slums where the poor lived
- Workers housing was situated around the factories
  - You lived in an atmosphere of industrial pollution
  - It was sometimes impossible to see street to street because of the smoke
  - Smoky Valley
- People live and die in a small single room in these slums
  - This was not uncommon

## The Outbreak

- Small pox was prominent
  - The world was filled with infectious diseases
  - Small pox killed fast and many people
  - Small pox killed many rulers of Europe
    - Queen Mary, King Louis I Emperor Joseph
  - 90% of children who died from the age of 1-5 died of small pox
- Small pox entered the body through your respiratory, enters the blood system and then quickly multiplies in the body
- Beauty marks were invented to cover up small pox
- Small pox kills about 1 in 3 people
- There was a breakthrough
  - If you got small pox once you're immune
- Edward Jenner deduced this:
  - Vaccination
    - If you give someone a minor case of small pox they then can be immune to it
    - People are infected intentionally
  - Inoculation
    - Get it once and you're safe for the rest of your life

## The Spread

- Small pox was starting to go viral in Montreal
  - With only one person bringing it in on the train soon it starts to infect more and more people
  - It pops up around the city, those who were in the hospital are the first to fall victim

- The hospital was cleared but at the cost of the city
- The strategy for this outbreak is to start largescale vaccination
  - The children are vaccinated first
- There was a vocal minority that were against vaccination
  - Used a lot of propaganda to convince people not to vaccinate as it is a "death sentence"
  - Convinced the less educated working French poor to not be vaccinated
- This got the program suspended
- A perfect storm was being created
  - Many people in large public places where infection is prone
  - People who partook in risky activities usually got infected

## Containment

- In June 1885 there are very few cases in English Montreal as most of them were vaccinated and if anyone got sick they were immediately quarantined so the disease couldn't spread
- However in French Montreal small pox was vastly transported as they were poorer and less educated
  - People who got sick got visitors thus spreading the disease
- The French refused to listen to public health officials
- This created a large blame on the French population for allowing the disease to spread
  - This was partly true
- In August 1885 there were more cases of smallpox
  - There was a call to try to get more people vaccinated
- There was propaganda against vaccination
  - Vaccinations are administered by rich doctors who want to get richer
    - Obviously worked, less vaccination among the poor
- The small pox infection was viral and had many negative effects on Montreal
  - Tourists stopped coming to Montreal,
  - Manufactured trade was halted
  - Produce was sent back to Montreal unopened
- Montreal faces a huge public relations problem, the economy was being throttled by the disease
- The two Montreal's decide to come together to push for compulsory vaccination
  - Demand for all workers by their bosses to be vaccinated
  - The catholic church comes out in support for vaccination
- Still there was resistance
- The death toll continued to climb week after week from September to November
- In November disease starts to fizzle
- In winter 1886 the disease was nearly gone
  - The cold killed the disease
  - Vaccination
  - No more people it could kill
- Death toll was around 3200 but was certainly higher
  - Truly around 5000
- 2800 of the 3200 were French Canadians
- 2200 were Irish Catholics
- The English Canadians were hardly infected
  - This shows the socio-economic toll and difference
- The disease was ill

## The Cautionary Tale

- The challenges of urbanization and living in urban Canada before the War
- For the rich the cities were a blessing
- For everyone else it was a curse
  - Brought disease
  - Magnified already existing problems like social inequality, pollution, over population
- If you were poor and not British you were expected to live in the slums
- If you were young you were trapped in this environment
- These were the real victims of urbanizations, people who were forced to live and die as a result of urbanization

## Themes

- English-French relations
- Effects of different social/economic class
- Ethnic differences
- Challenges of living in urban Canada