

History Lecture #13 The Old World

Wednesday, November 2, 2016 2:27 PM

Overview

- Modern compared to Napoleonic Wars: cars, airplanes, film, photos
- However: still not modern, characterized by traditional values like in 19th century

The Generation of 1914

- Service in war was between 18-45 years old
- Robert Wohl □ interested in young adults in war
- What would be missing in 1880 society?
 - Government; primarily municipal – federal only postal services
 - No identification
 - Age was irrelevant
 - Life was not governed by time
 - Time changed from city to city
 - Standardised by needs of the railway
 - Population in 1881: 4.3 million
 - 90% rural society

Waterdown, East Flamborough Township

- defined as “urban centre” in 1900s but this was not actually true

Working (in Waterdown)

- Rural areas – don't have one job for the whole year; various jobs for the many things need to be done
- Dominated by agriculture
- Self-sufficient
- Getting more industrialized
- More creek, more water being used, water level drops and no more water power □ **progress** as now using steam power or electricity
- Relied on outsiders for manufactured goods

Pastimes (Waterdown)

- Organized sport □ baseball, roller skating
- Music
- Drama groups
- Rural areas very social □ always gathering with friends b/c nothing else to do
- Clubs relied on traditional, social events

Daily Life

- Deeply religious society □ every denomination was represented
- School was mandatory, not well enforced □ Elementary and high schools
- Childhood was relatively carefree and lots of freedom □ more so than nowadays
- No notion for choice in shopping

Social/Economic Relations

- Large gaps between social classes in urban areas
- Small economic gap not large in rural areas
- Social gap was largely irrelevant
- No hierarchy set up by employment, that's why there's not really any social hierarchy
- Wealth, influence, breeding education tends not to really matter
- Initiative, merit, ability and self-reliance are important (character/intrinsic values are judged)
- Not very much crime

Inventions

- Hydro came in 1912
- Trains came in 1912 – huge revelation in rural communities

Dying

- Safer society □ no motor vehicles
- No violent crime
- Still dangerous time to be alive □ expected mortality was 48 years
 - Poor medical care
 - Workplace safety

Themes

- Progress
- Modernization
- Rural vs. urban
- Social and economic gaps
- Simple, more primitive life in 1914
- Silence