

Welcome Home...



RETURN OF THE 10th BATT. CALGARY. 23 APRIL 1919.
GRANT

Post War Problems

When WW1 ended in November 1918, the devastating effects did not go away quickly. Social problems such as poverty, unsafe working conditions, and inadequate health care resurfaced.

The years immediately after WW1 in Canada were a period of turmoil and unrest!

PUBLIC NOTICE

In view of the severity of the present

Epidemic of Influenza

and in order that all efforts may be concentrated on the stamping out of the disease, the local Board of Health, after consultation with Kingston Medical Society and the Mayor, has enacted that after Oct. 16th, and until further notice,

1. Theatres and Moving Picture Houses shall be closed and remain closed
2. Churches and Chapels of all denominations shall be closed and remain closed on Sundays.
3. All Schools, Public or Private, including Sunday Schools, shall close and remain closed.
4. Hospitals shall be closed to visitors.
5. No public shall be admitted to courts except those essential to the prosecution of the cases called.
6. The Board advises the public most strongly not to crowd into street cars and to avoid as much as possible any crowded train or an assembly of any kind.

Provisions have been made by the Kingston Medical Society whereby all cases applying for assistance will receive the same either by registered practitioners or by final year medical students acting under instructions. Therefore every case of illness should send in a call to a physician.

A. R. B. WILLIAMSON,
Medical Health Officer.

Influenza Epidemic

- In the fall of 1918, Canada was struck with a terrible epidemic called the “Spanish Flu”.
- Soldiers returned home, bringing the Spanish Flu with them
- The Spanish Flu killed **50,000 Canadians**... This is almost equal to the number of Canadian deaths caused by the Great War!



**21 million people died
world wide!!**

Spanish Flu Epidemic vs. Common Flu

- Most virulent among those aged 20-40
- Some people would go to bed healthy and never wake up
- Medical facilities were swamped
- Everyone wore face masks; no shaking hands; public buildings closed
- Harsher on the very young and very old
- Many people fully recover in a few days to a week
- Home remedies work (liquids, medication, rest)
- Use hand sanitizer and cough in sleeve; sometimes stay home from work or school

Labour Unrest

The end of the war caused problems for workers:

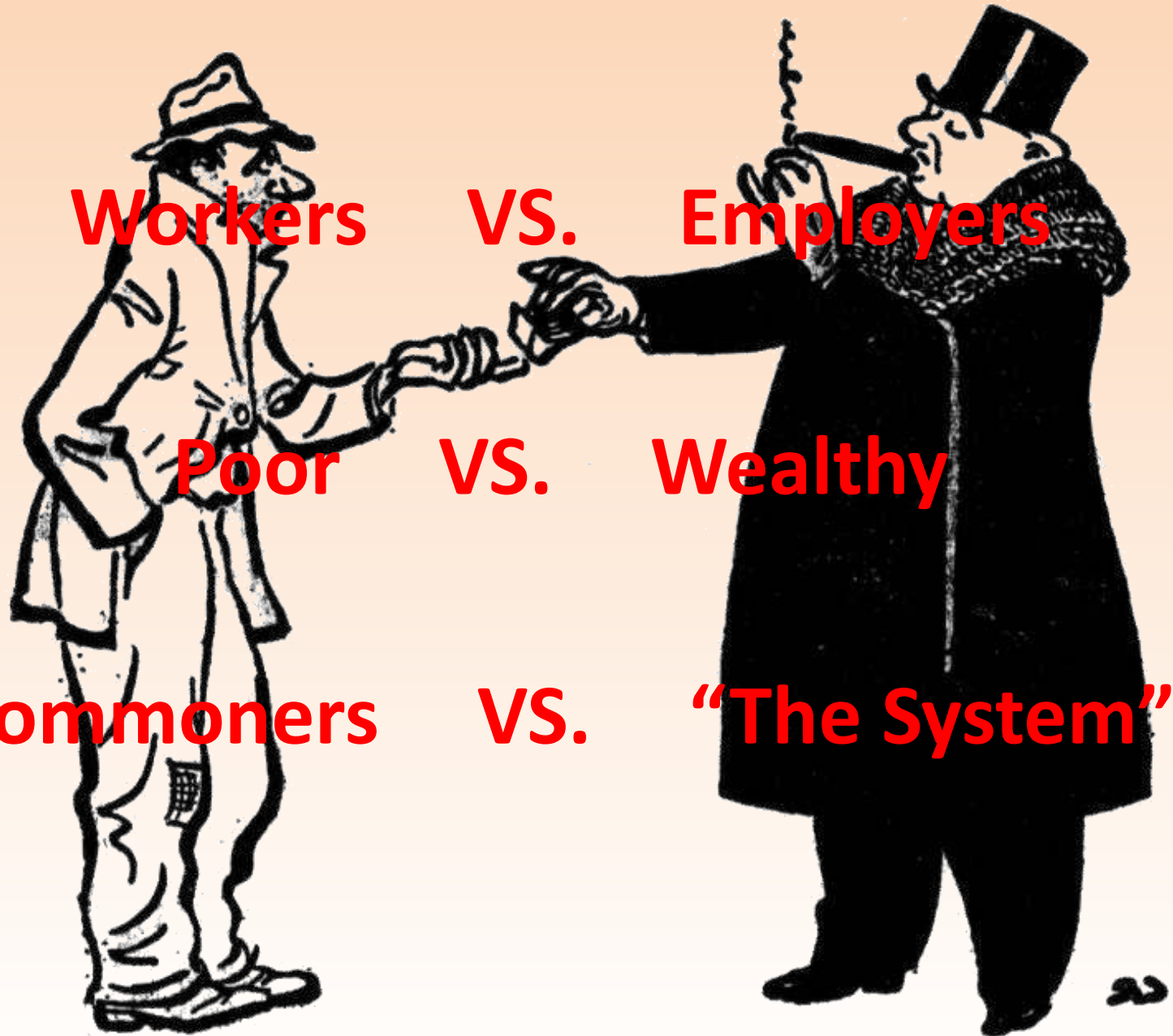
- **Factories geared down** because materials were no longer needed for the war effort
- **Wages and working conditions were poor**
- **Women** faced **pressure to give up** their **jobs** in factories and return to “domestic” work
- There were few jobs for returning soldiers; **many veterans were unemployed**

- There was a feeling that the **common people paid the price** of the war while **wealthy company owners stayed home** and got richer.

- Now in peacetime, **workers wanted a better deal.**

- **Owners did not want any change**





Workers VS. Employers

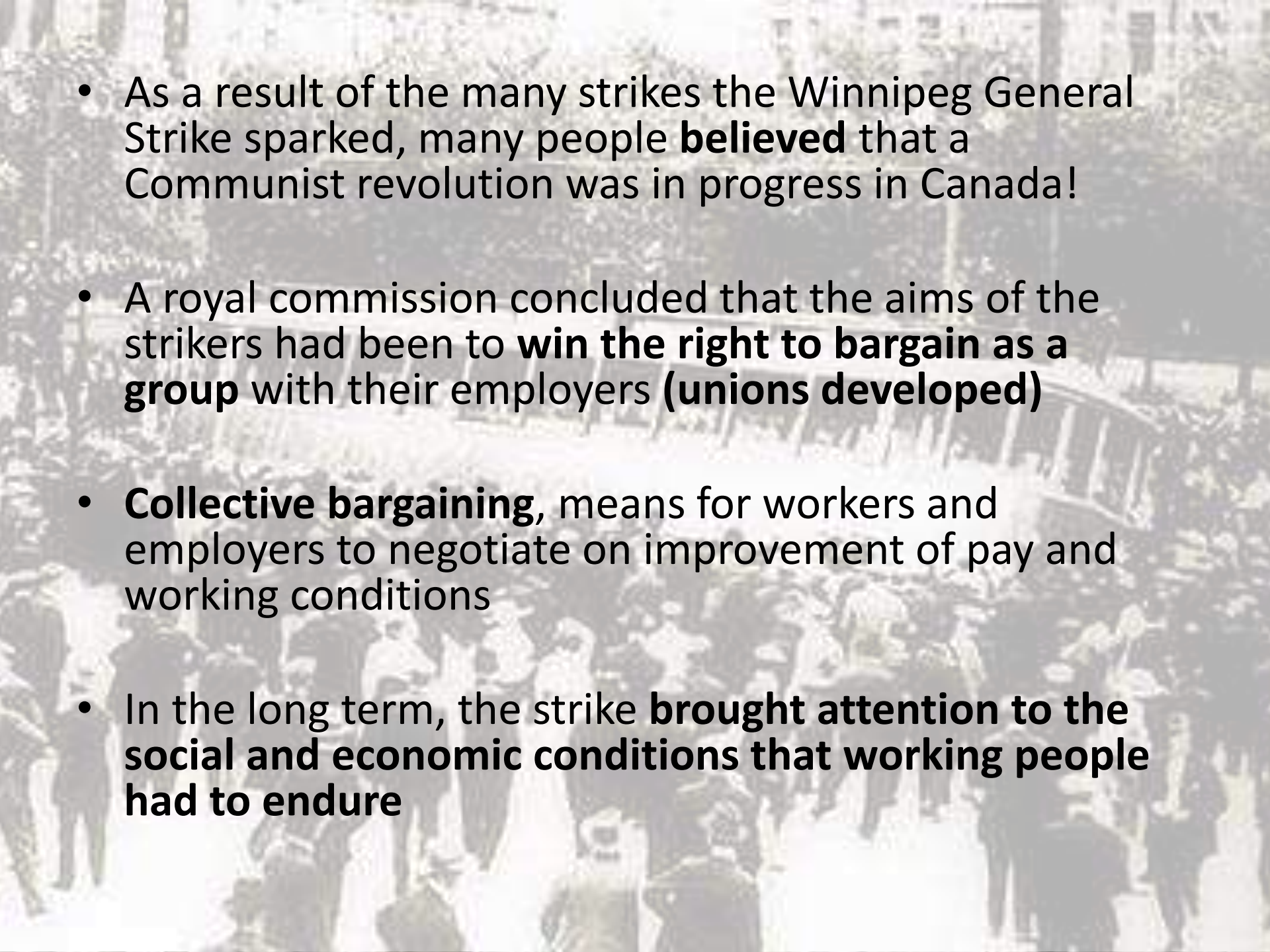
Poor VS. Wealthy

Commoners VS. "The System"

The Winnipeg General Strike

May 15, 1919

- Most workers were simply **concerned about wages and working conditions**
- Some of the strikers were war veterans who felt that working conditions did not match their wartime sacrifices
- **30,000 workers went on strike in Winnipeg** to support the building and metal workers
(trades, building, railway, factory, police, firefighters, postal workers, cooks, tailors, etc.)

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- As a result of the many strikes the Winnipeg General Strike sparked, many people **believed** that a Communist revolution was in progress in Canada!
 - A royal commission concluded that the aims of the strikers had been to **win the right to bargain as a group** with their employers (**unions developed**)
 - **Collective bargaining**, means for workers and employers to negotiate on improvement of pay and working conditions
 - In the long term, the strike **brought attention to the social and economic conditions that working people had to endure**



Prohibition

- The Prohibition era in Canada started in 1916
- During the war, the **Women's Christian Temperance Union** successfully campaigned for a **ban on liquor**
- Arguments **FOR** prohibition were **A. Grain** should be used to feed soldiers and **B. Money** should be spend to feed families
- A complete ban on alcohol created a new kind of crime called **Bootlegging**, the illegal sale of liquor

LIPS THAT
TOUCH LIQUOR
SHALL NOT
TOUCH OURS



☒ Agree ☐ Disagree	In most Canadian provinces, prohibition did not last more than 10 years.
☐ Agree ☒ Disagree	Many medicines had alcohol in them; therefore, they were also banned.
☐ Agree ☒ Disagree	When prohibition was law, all alcohol producers in were shut down and no new ones started up.
☐ Agree ☒ Disagree	Imprisonment, hard labour, \$1,000 fine
☒ Agree ☐ Disagree	Canada was a major provider of illegal alcohol to the United States when they had prohibition.
☐ Agree ☒ Disagree	Illegal alcohol made by homemade stills was as safe to drink as alcohol made by big companies.
☒ Agree ☐ Disagree	Bootlegging was a term given to people who smuggled illegal alcohol because they would literally hide bottles under their clothing, like the legs of their pants.



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Prohibition Consequences

- Consequences on the **Economy**
 - government wasn't getting tax money
 - underground economy was thriving
- Consequences on the **Culture**
 - crime rate DECREASED (less public drunkenness)
 - crime rate INCREASED (more illegal means of obtaining alcohol)

Prohibition Consequences

- Consequences on the **Family**
 - more workers taking money home instead of the tavern
- Consequences on the **Workplace**
 - less people missing work / sick days
 - increased production in factories

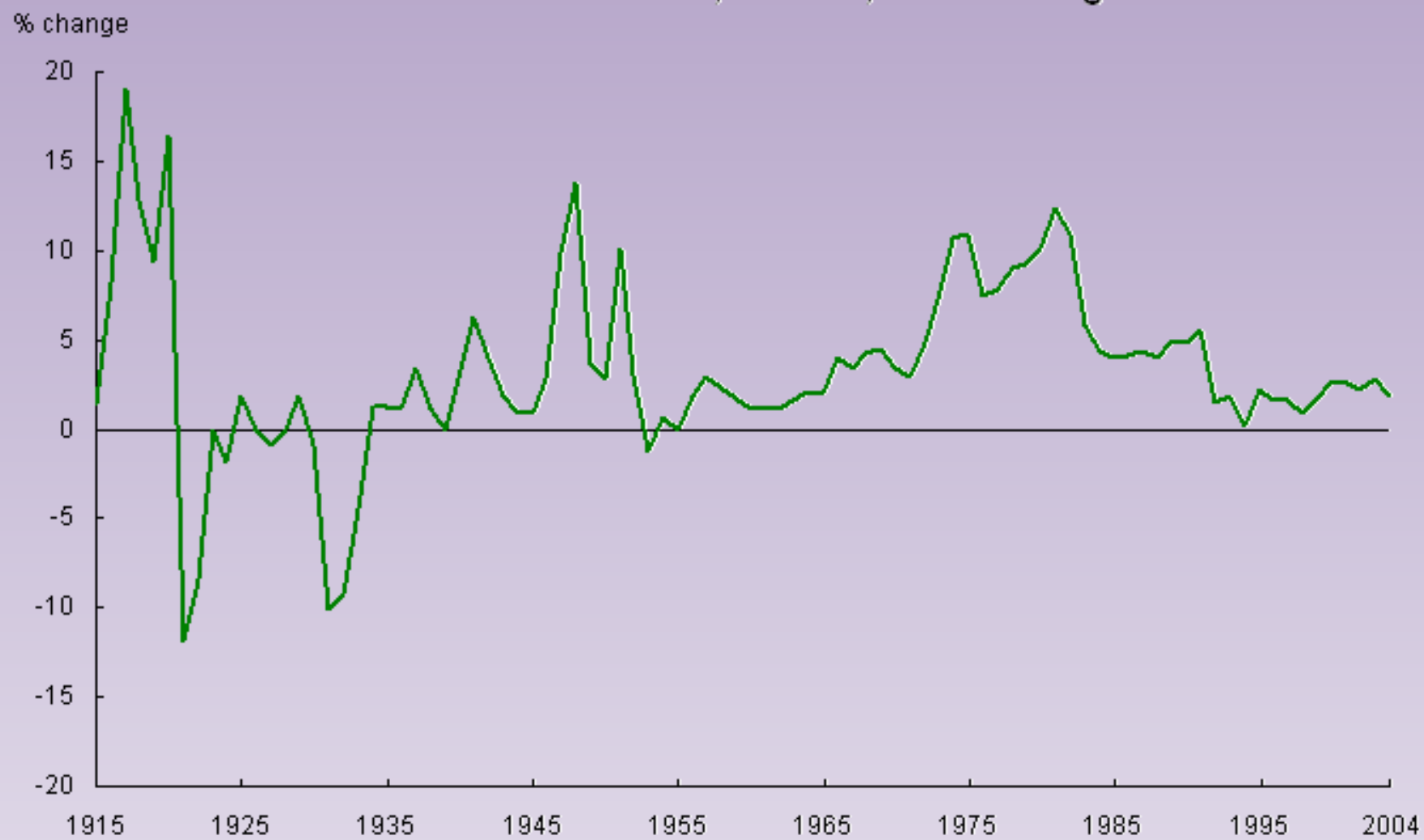


Inflation

- Those lucky enough to keep their jobs were not much better off than those that were unemployed.
- During the war, **prices** of food and clothing had **increased dramatically**.
- The **cost of living** had **DOUBLED** but **wages** had not kept pace with the rising prices.

- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** is an indicator of **changes in consumer prices experienced by Canadians**
- It is obtained by **comparing, over time, the cost** of a fixed basket of goods and services **purchased by consumers.**
- **Inflation occurs when...**
the CPI increase > the wage increase

Consumer Price Index, all-items, annual change



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 326-0002.