

- The worldwide economic depression that had begun in the 1870s began to ease during Laurier's term as Prime Minister due to both rising prices & worldwide demand for Canadian products.

The Laurier Boom

- The Klondike Gold Rush helped stimulate the Canadian economy by providing a flow of capital, which was used to expand factories and buy new equipment.
- The rise in industrial production created a demand for raw materials (minerals, wood, wheat & fish), which raised prices for these resources.
 - The Canadian Shield & BC mining industries were booming.
 - The lumber industry grew from \$2 million to \$65 million from 1900-1910.
 - The prairies became the 'bread basket of the world'.
 - Fishing industries in BC & the Atlantic were successful.
- Canada also benefited from lower freight rates and better shipping technology.
- As the population of the western Provinces grew eastern Canadian manufacturers expanded to supply them. They needed electric power and which led to the development of hydro-electric dams.

A Transportation Revolution

- 1901: automobiles first start to appear on Canadian roads.
- 1907: Canada's 1st gas station opens.
- 1909: Baddock, NS – 1st successful flight in Canada. Early airplanes were held together by wire.

A Communications Revolution

- 1896: 1st public screening of a moving picture in Canada.
- 1901: Guglielmo Marconi received the 1st wireless telegraph communication in St. John's from Wales.
- 1907: Reginald Fessenden transmitted the world's 1st radio broadcast of music & voice.

Arts & Leisure

- The growth of towns & cities led to the growth of spectator sports & outdoor recreation.
- With cars people could travel farther; skiing, camping & hiking become popular.
- 1909: 1st Grey Cup football game is played.
- During the late 1880s & early 1900s, many Canadians became world champions in sports.
- Canadians taste in foods also began to change. Refrigerated railcars made a greater variety of foods available. Processed foods also became more common.
- Soft drinks like Coca Cola & Canada Dry Ginger Ale also came to Canada.

Poets, Writers & Artists

- Emily Carr – BC artist whose paintings has FN influences
- Lucy Maude Montgomery – author of Anne of Green Gables
- Stephen Leacock – author of Sunshine Sketches of a Small Town
- Robert Service – wrote about the Klondike Gold Rush including the Cremation of Sam McGee
- Pauline Johnson – Mohawk writer and poet