



Pylypiw (determined): Wasyl, we have now been in Canada for a year. I have made a decision.

Eleniak: What are you going to do?

Pylypiw: I am going back to my village of Nebyliw in Ukraine to tell them about the opportunities in Canada. I also need to see my family.

Eleniak: I will miss you, friend. Can you give this money to my wife so she can join me?

Pylypiw: I will. Hopefully there will be other Ukrainians who want to join us here on the Canadian Prairies. There is plenty of land to settle. I will start spreading the word about Canada. By next year, I will return with my family to settle down.

Narrator: In 1896, Wilfrid Laurier was elected Prime Minister. He wanted to build a strong Canada by promoting immigration. In order to do this, he appointed Clifford Sifton as his minister of the interior. Canada needed more farmers like Eleniak and Pylypiw who could turn the Canadian Prairies into flourishing farms. Prime Minister Laurier and Clifford Sifton often discussed this immigration issue in the prime minister's office on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

Laurier (worried): Clifford, we need more people! We need settlers in Western Canada to cultivate the farmland. More farm products will mean more business for the railways. More trade will make Canada a stronger and more powerful country.



Sifton: As the elected representative from Brandon, Manitoba, I know the importance of trade with the West.

Laurier: When I was running for prime minister, I promised Canadians that the twentieth century would belong to Canada. In order to become a great country, we need to fill the Western plains with prosperous farmers.

Sifton: Wilfrid, as a farmer, I know what problems immigrants will face when they get to Canada. We need people who are willing to work hard. They need to be skilled farmers who know how to grow wheat in the challenging climate of the Prairies where summers are very hot, and winters are very cold. As well, the growing season is short.

Laurier (doubtful): Where are you going to find all these settlers?

Sifton: Europe. There are lots of people who want their own land, but are not able to get it. I have heard of a group called Ukrainians. Some of them have already come to Canada to become settlers in the Prairies. They don't have a country of their own because they live under the rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Russian Tsar. Their rulers speak other languages and follow customs that are foreign to the Ukrainians.

Laurier: Why would they want to come to Canada?

Sifton: Ukrainians come from a wheat-farming area in Europe; but, for them, life is very hard. They have few opportunities and very little freedom.

Laurier: Why?