**The Boer War**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynBGT8rRaj0>

Prime Minister [**Wilfrid Laurier**](https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/sir-wilfrid-laurier/) was reluctant to get involved, and his divided [Cabinet](https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/cabinet/) was thrown into crisis on the matter. **Canada did not have a professional army** at the time. Eventually, under intense pressure, the government authorized the recruitment of a token force of 1,000 volunteer infantrymen. Although they would fight within the British army, **it was the first time Canada would send soldiers overseas wearing Canadian uniforms into battle**.

1. Why did Britain go to war against the Boers in present day South Africa?
2. Who were the Boers?
3. What makes the Boer War significant in the story of Canada?
4. What made the war divisive in Canada?
5. Describe the battle of Paardeberg?
6. What is the legacy of the Boer War?

Look at the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow:



1. What is the message the cartoon is attempting to get across?
2. The cartoon is obviously critical of the war, where do you think most of this criticism came from?