

CHAPTER 2

1896-1945

*Nationalisms and
Canadian Autonomy*

PART 4

Urban centers

Public health

During industrialization:

- many new factories were built in urban areas which led many people to leave their rural lives in search of better jobs in the city
- **urbanization intensified**
 - 1901-1931: the urban population in Canada increased by 25%
 - 1911: 528,397 people living in Montréal and its suburbs
 - 2016: 4,098,927 people living in the greater Montréal area.



Public health

Problems in cities caused by urbanization:

- Overcrowded housing
- Poor ventilation
- Lack of health services
- Lack of affordable lodging
- Epidemics caused by bad water and milk quality
- Garbage in the streets
- Alcoholism
- High infant mortality





High infant mortality

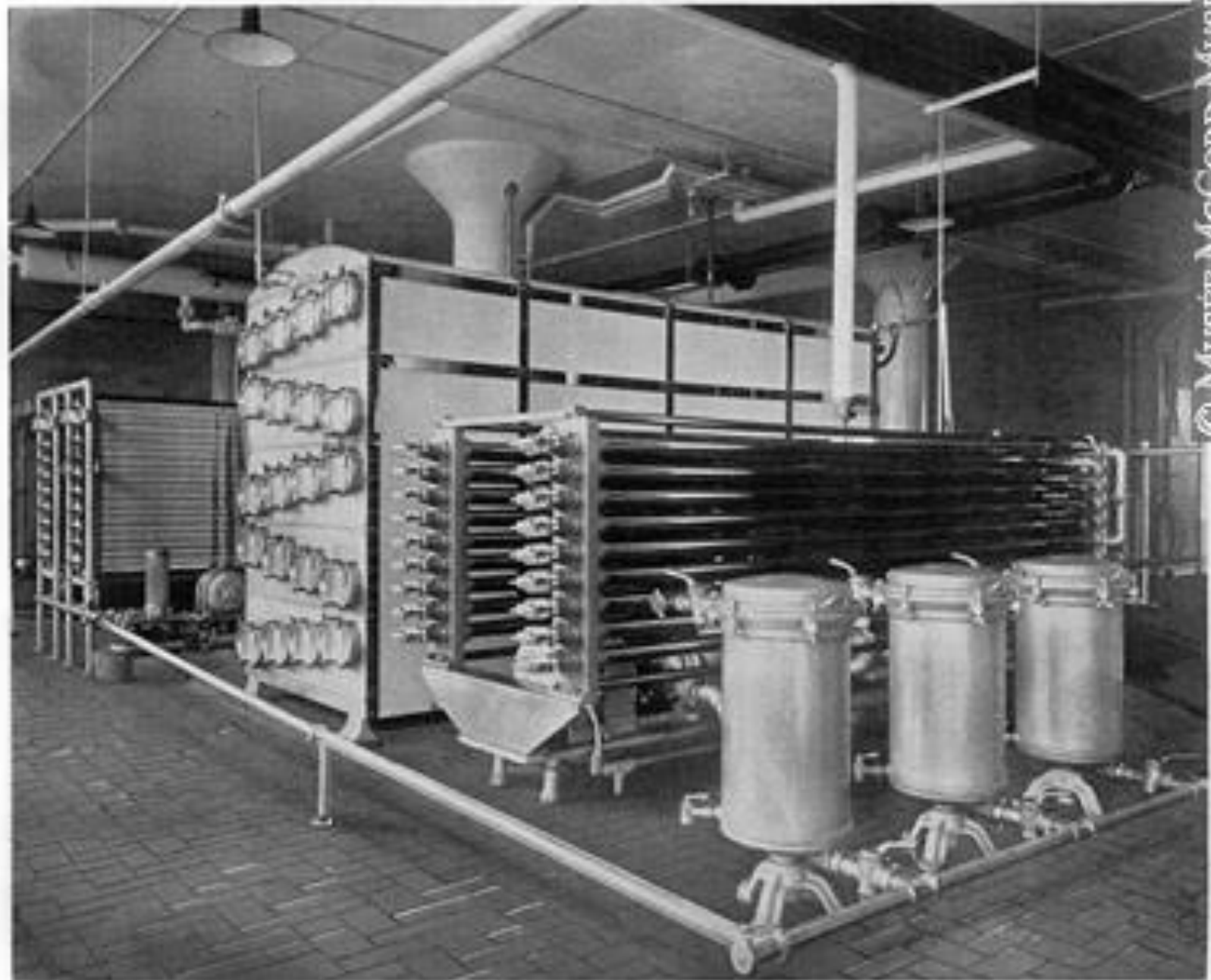
In the late 19th century and early 20th century, $\frac{1}{4}$ children died before the age of 2. Today in Québec, it's $\frac{1}{200}$.

This illustration shows Death, represented by a skeleton, taking children from a family of modest means.

Public health

Solutions to public health issues in urban centers:

- Low-cost housing was built
- Sewers and aqueducts were built
- Municipal garbage collection was introduced
- Water purification (chlorination and filtration system)
- Distribution of pasteurized milk (heating the milk to kill microbes)
- Public health clinics were set up
 - Educated, treated and gave compulsory vaccinations
- In 1921, the hospitalization costs of poor patients was to be shared between the Québec government, municipalities and hospitals.



Milk pasteurizing plant

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MAPLE, QUEBEC, CANADA
BORN IN QUEBEC, QUEBEC, CANADA, MAY 10, 1936

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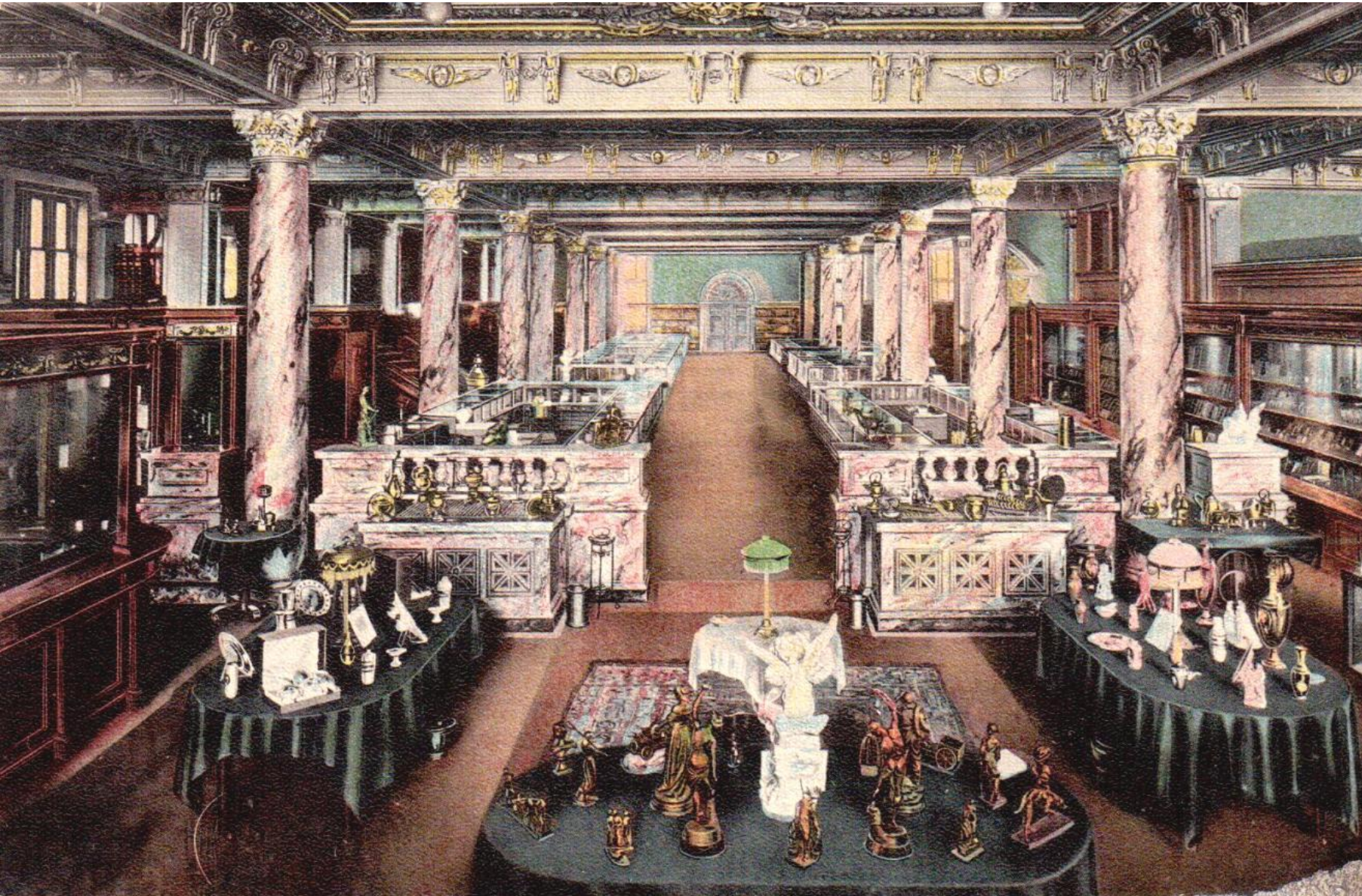
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Infrastructure

The massive increase in the urban population forced cities to built new infrastructure to meet changing needs:

- 11 public bathhouses, free of charge, were built in Montréal in working-class districts to improve hygiene
- New roads were built for cars
- New rail lines were created for streetcars and trains
- Buildings were becoming taller
- Big department stores were built where shoppers could buy a wide variety of products in one place
- Urban sprawl began, as many small cities developed around larger cities like Montréal and Sherbrooke.



► *Interior of the Birks store in Montréal, circa 1908.*

The Royal Bank building reached 22 storeys.

Services

In the 1920s, economic disparity was extreme:

- The bourgeoisie minority lived well, in clean, safe neighbourhoods
- The majority of the urban population did not.



Services

To improve the quality of life in the city:

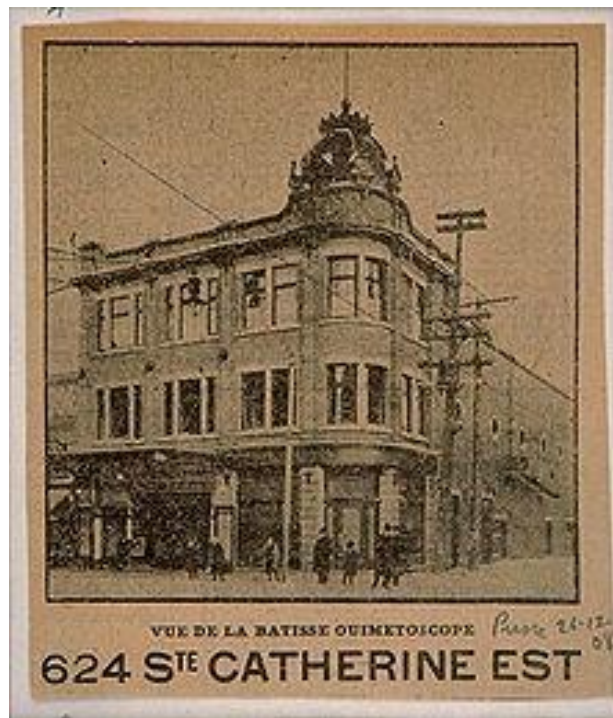
- The government invested in **public services** like
 - permanent firefighting services for all citizens
 - electric street lights to make neighbourhoods safer.
- The **recreational sectors** were growing
 - Sports began catering to spectators
 - Parks were built to provide safe play areas for children and to enjoy leisure activities free of charge
 - Businesses providing entertainment set up in the cities, like movie theatres.
- **Public transit** was being developed, especially streetcars.

The Montréal Canadiens

During the Roaring Twenties, crowds gathered to applaud the feats of professional athletes. One sport in particular roused the passions of French Canadians: hockey. They identified, in particular, with Montréal's *Club de hockey Canadien*, a professional team founded in **1909**, and featuring a large number of French Canadian players. This enthusiasm reached an all-time high on the night of March 25, 1924, when the Canadiens won their second Stanley Cup.

**Players from the Montréal Canadiens,
1924 ▶**

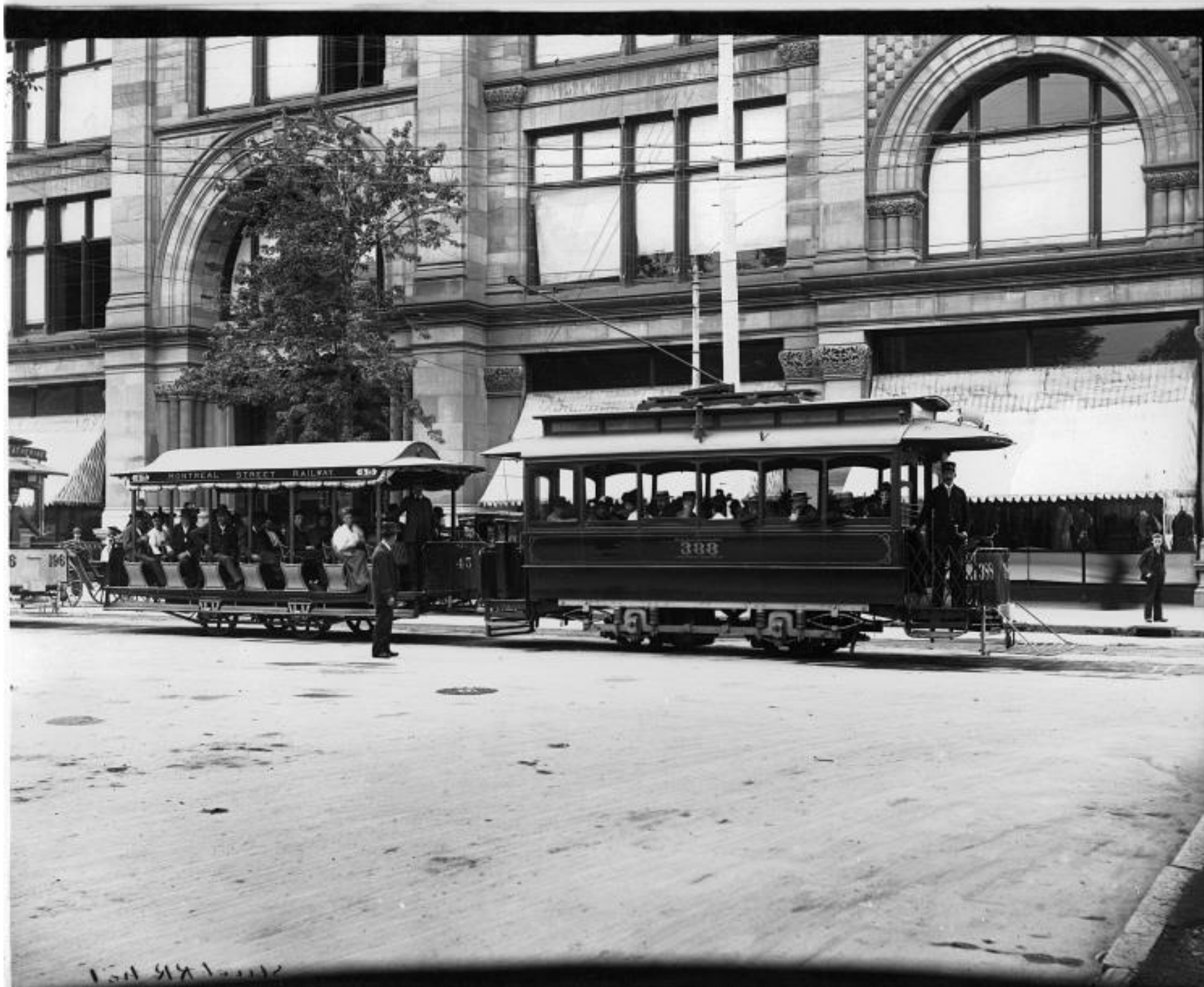




Opening of the Ouimetoscope in 1906 in Montréal

- Montréal's first cinema
- Named after Léo-Ernest Ouimet (owner)
- Tickets cost 10-25 cents (middle-class)
- Movies showed stereotypes of French-Canadian culture (lumberjacks, gold panners, the RCMP, etc.)
- The government made films promoting immigration (NFB of Canada)





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