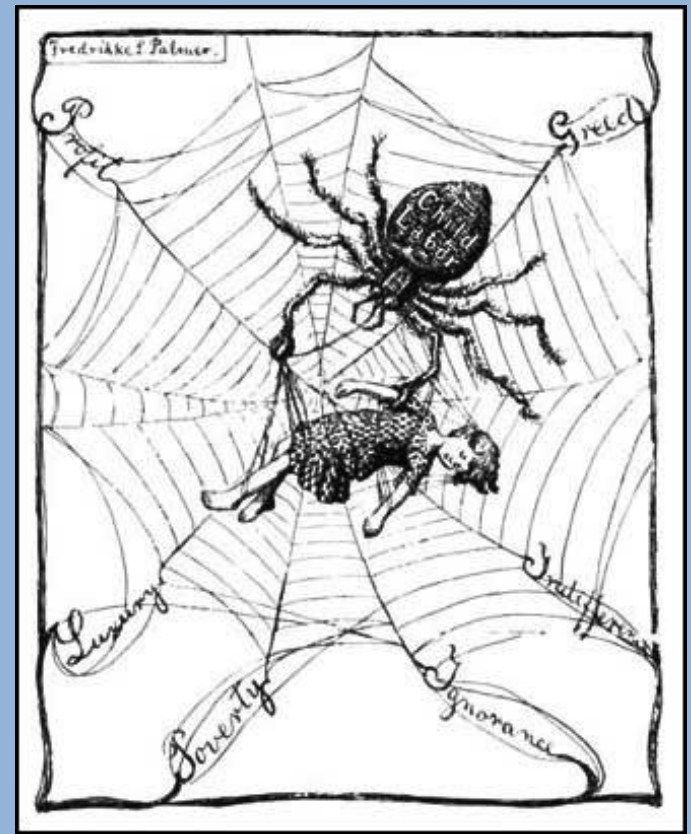


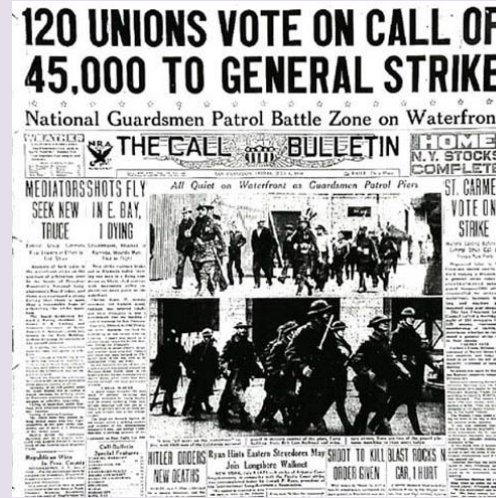
Industrial Era Reforms



Workers' Efforts to Address their Conditions

Consider how workers in the late 1800s FELT about their treatment and pay. What options did they have to do about the situation?

Labor unions



- An organization of workers formed to advance its members' interests, and to negotiate as a group with employers over wages, hours, benefits, job security, and working conditions.
 - Collective bargaining: a negotiating technique where representatives of the employer and labor union talk until they have reached a mutually satisfactory agreement on wages, benefits, hours, and/or working conditions.

Why might workers choose to join a union?

- To achieve better working conditions, higher pay, and shorter work days.
- To address unsafe working conditions
 - 1900-1910 3% of all workers killed or injured
 - no insurance for families
 - family had to assume debt if hurt (pay hospital bills), especially difficult if family member died on the job
- To use their strength in numbers to achieve their goals.



How successful were unions?

- As times got tougher, unions began to take hold (still faced numerous obstacles)
 - Public opinion (most Americans thought employers had the right to hire and fire and saw unions as radical/communist)
 - Businesses, banks, and the government supported one-another
 - Courts supported business owners (ordered unions to go back to work when they went on strike)
 - Workers themselves were often an obstacle (workers often could not speak the same language and most workers were more concerned with keeping their jobs rather than fighting for better wages and conditions.)

Methods of fighting unions

- Hired lawyers to fight in court or lobbyists to influence lawmakers (gave money to candidates = bribery)
- Developed “black lists” (a list that is circulated among employers with the names of union organizers or troublemakers. Once on the list, it was almost impossible to be hired.)
- Made workers pledge not to join a union as a condition of their employment
- Lockouts (management locked out striking workers and brought in “scabs”, or replacement workers.)



The Progressive Movement

- What is a “progressive”?
 - favoring or advocating progress, change, improvement, or reform, as opposed to wishing to maintain things as they are
 - making progress toward better conditions; employing or advocating more enlightened or liberal ideas, new or experimental methods, etc.
- Progressives were people who looked at the problems that existed in society and tried to fix them to make America a better place.

What were some of the problems that Progressive reformers felt needed to be addressed or changed in order to move forward? What were some of the problems of the Industrial Era that needed fixing?

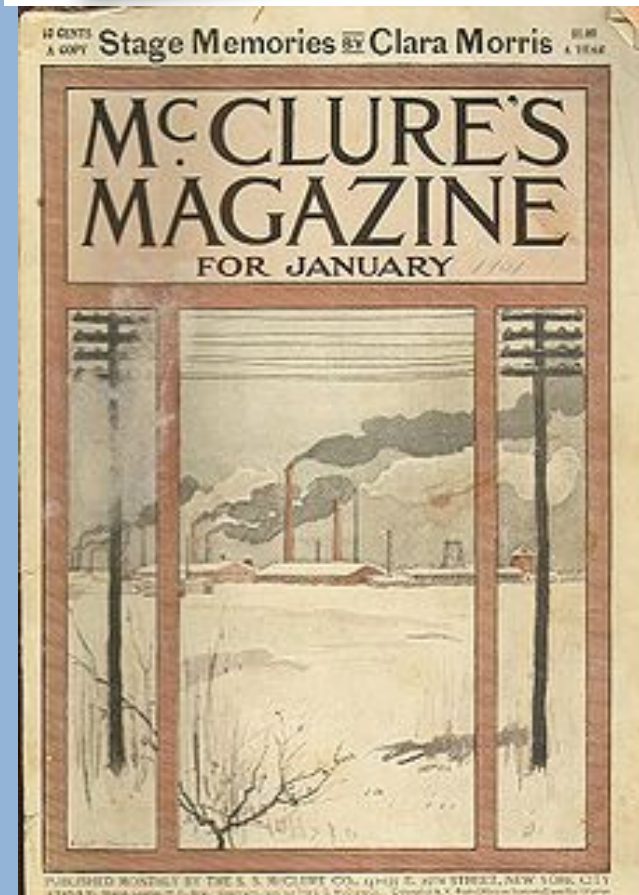
Fun Facts about Progressives

- Progressives were optimistic and truly believed that they could bring about change in the new century.
- Most Progressives did NOT support the belief that the poor were weak and unfit and should therefore be left to die.
 - Instead, they argued that a person's environment could have an impact on their upbringing and situation.
 - They believed that by changing the environment, poverty and injustice could be stopped. This was a new idea!
- Progressives felt that there were too many needy people and problems to be fixed. It was not enough to rely only on private charities. Progressives therefore argued that the govt. had to become more actively involved in addressing the nation's problems. No more laissez-faire!

Progressive Reform Efforts

- **Muckrakers** were a group of writers during the Progressive Era who tried to expose the problems that existed in American society as a result of the rise of big business, the growth of cities, and immigration. Most of the muckrakers were journalists.
- Progressives used muckrakers' writings to inspire and push for reform in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

muckrakers:
expose the
social injustices

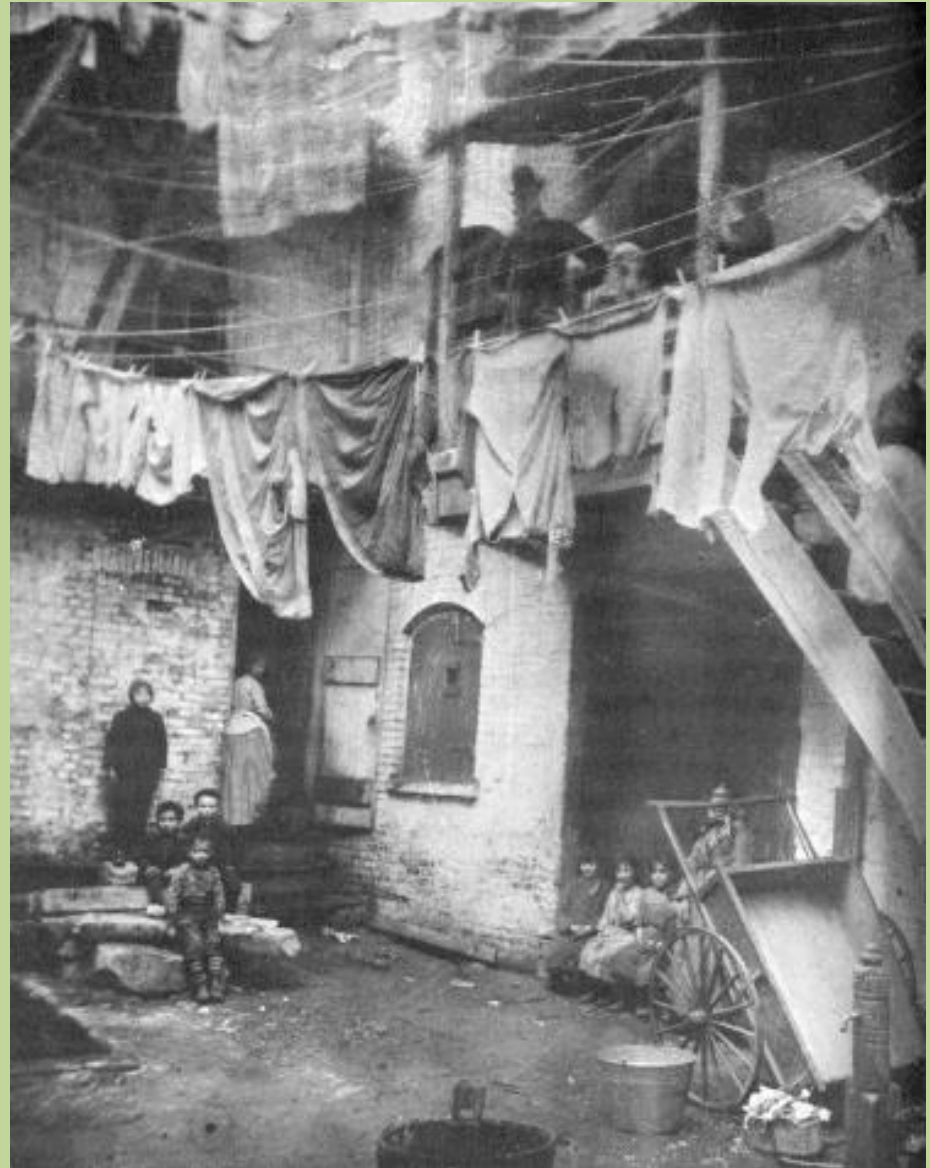


Living Conditions



Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890)

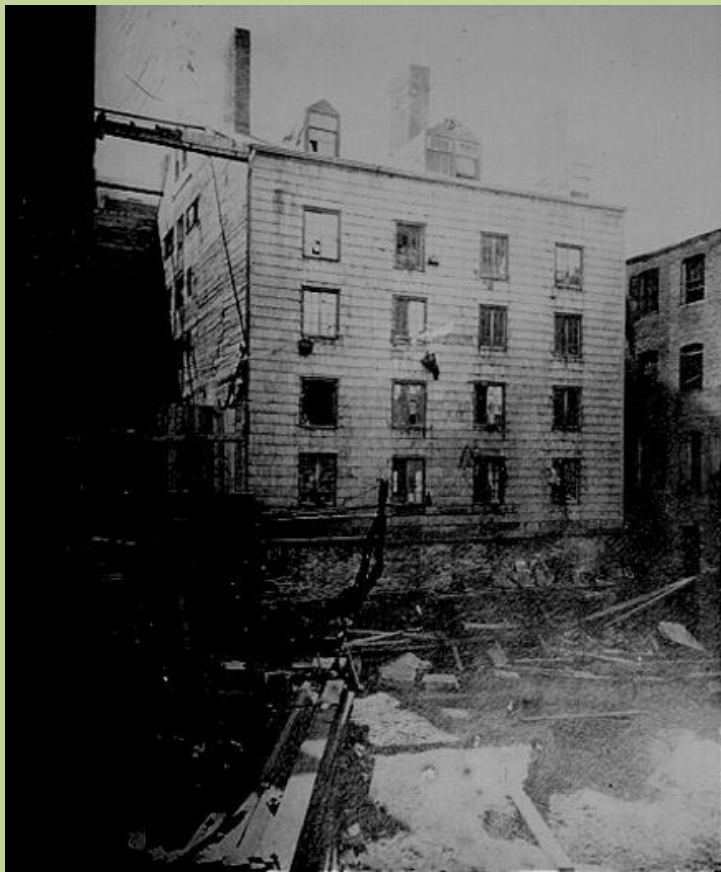
- As a police reporter for the *New York Tribune*, Jacob Riis wrote about conditions in New York City's Lower East Side.
- Riis set up an office in Mulberry Bend, a tenement neighborhood across from police headquarters. Each day he traveled through the neighborhood, witnessing firsthand the cramped, dirty quarters and inadequate sanitation.



- The stories Riis wrote emphasized the humanity of the tenement population. A theme of his writings was that the poor were not immoral by nature, but, rather, were products of the environment in which they lived.



- Riis' goal was to improve NYC's tenements by the creation of new laws, remodeling and making the most of the old houses and building new tenements.



“The truth is that pauperism grows in the tenements as naturally as weeds in a garden lot.”

- Church Street Tenement



Children's Playground



Basement Pub



Five Cents' Lodging



Blind Beggar



A Peddler



Men's Lodging House



A Plank for a Bed



Women's Lodging House

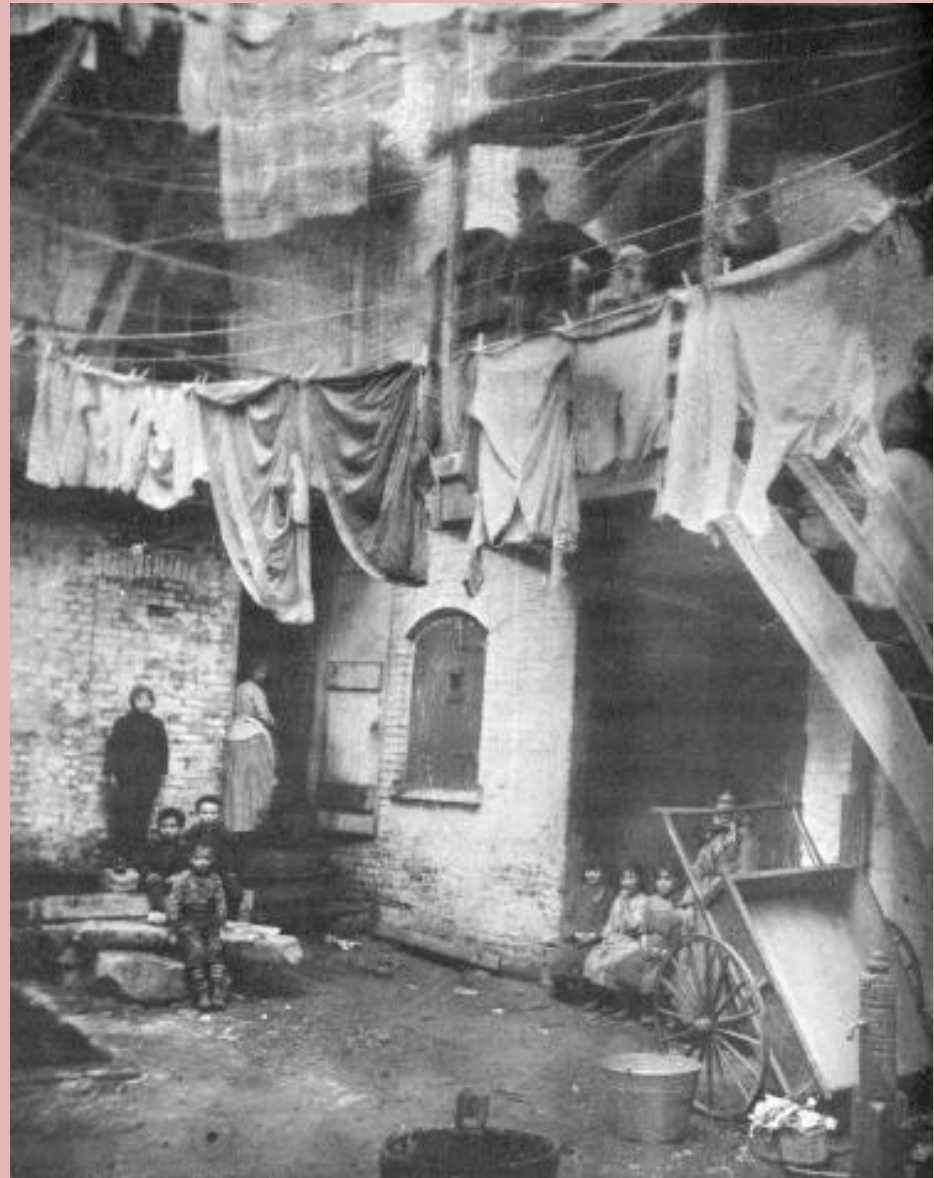


Street
Arabs

Other Efforts to Address Poverty and Urban Issues



- Charity Organization Societies: wanted to reform charity by ensuring that paid agents investigated the “worthiness” of the poor before distributing aid.
 - Believed unregulated and unsupervised relief caused rather than cured poverty – WHY?



- Charity organizations sent a volunteer “friendly visitor” to homes to offer advice and oversee the family’s progress. These volunteers kept files on families and during their visits, advised families on how to live, how to raise their kids, and what to eat.



Anti-Vice

- Purity Crusaders: opposed vice (drugs, gambling, prostitution, crime) and wanted to rid cities of immoral activities
 - 1873, Anthony Comstock founded the NY Society for the Suppression of Vice and helped to pass a law prohibiting sending through the mail any materials deemed obscene. The Comstock Law slowed distribution of info on birth control for decades.
 - Crusaders also attacked corrupt politicians/law enforcement who bought votes, rigged elections and profited from vice (police were often paid to ignore gambling and prostitution rings.)



Temperance Movement

A movement that criticized excessive alcohol use.

- Wanted to abolish or severely limit people's access to alcohol.
- They pressured the govt to pass anti-alcohol legislation

Believed that drinking led to personal tragedies and weakened people who were already morally corrupt leading them to engage in other evils (gambling, prostitution, crime, etc.)



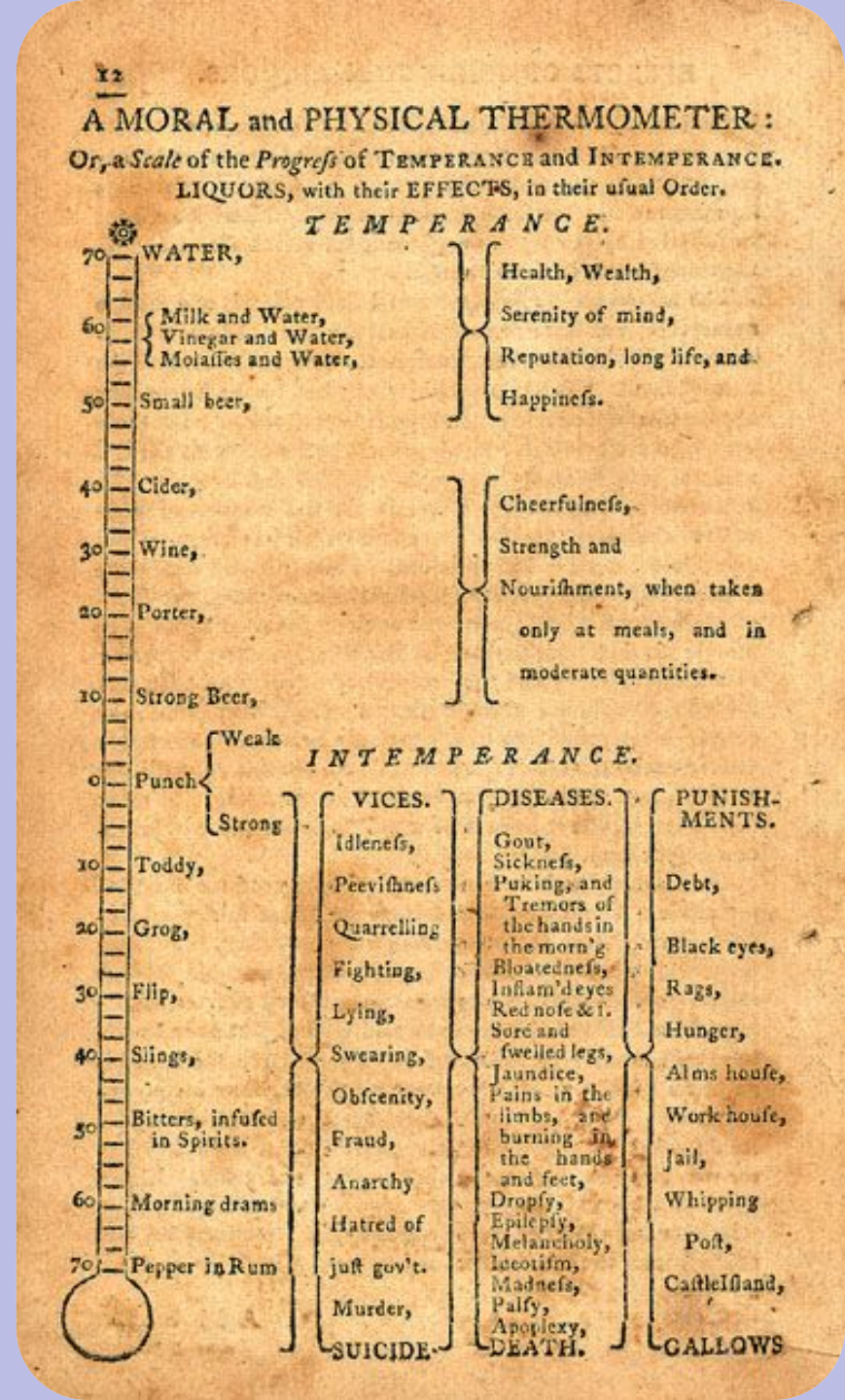


Richmond Pearson Hobson, Anti-Saloon League Tract

Every time a man drinks he takes that much away from his manhood; will power declines...

Today there are 5,000,000 American citizens, heavy drinkers and drunkards, who have shackles on their wrists, a ball and chain upon their ankles. A few thousand brewers and distillers to-day own 5,000,000 slaves.

Starting at 20, a young man as a total abstainer will live to be 65; as a moderate drinker he will die at 51. The heavy drinker at 20 dies at 35; 30 years are cut out of his short life.





THE DRUNKARDS PROGRESS.
FROM THE FIRST GLASS TO THE GRAVE.

Step 1: A glass with a friend.

Step 2: A glass to keep the cold out.

Step 3: A glass too much.

Step 4: Drunk and riotous.

Step 5: The summit attained. Jolly companions, a confirmed drunkard.

Step 6: Poverty and Disease.

Step 7: Forsaken by Friends.

Step 8: Desperation & crime.

Step 9: Death by suicide.

Settlement Houses

- A reformer named Jane Addams renovated an abandoned old mansion in a working-class immigrant neighborhood and opened **Hull House**, the nation's first settlement house.
 - **Addams' goal** was to help immigrants hold on to aspects of their old lives that they valued and learn about American ways.



Hull House

- Hull House eventually occupied 13 buildings covering a full city block, housed 70 live-in settlement workers, and even included an on-site art gallery, gymnasium, theatre, and coffeehouse.
- “There are now 47 evening classes meeting at the House weekly, twenty-five evening clubs for adults, seventeen afternoon clubs for children, the Hull-House Music School, a choral society for adults, a children's chorus, a children's sewing school, a training school for kindergartners, a trades union for young women. In daily use are the nursery, the kindergarten, the playground, the penny provident bank, an employment bureau, a sub-station of the Chicago post office. A trained nurse reports to the house every morning and noon, to take charge of the sick-calls for the neighborhood; a kindergartner visits daily sick and crippled children. The coffeehouse serves an average of 250 meals daily, and furnishes noonday lunches to a number of women's clubs; soups and broths and wholesome food are bought by neighbors from its kitchen, and bread from its bakery, adorned with the label of the bakers' unions, goes out to the Lewis Institute, to grocery stores, to neighbors' tables.”

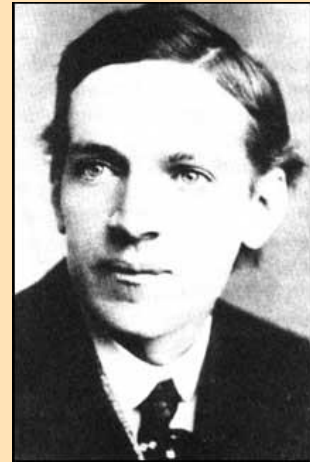
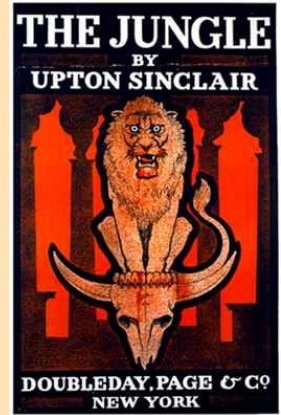


By 1910, there were more than 400 settlements in the U.S.. Settlements were funded by donations and run by volunteers or low paid workers (get free room and board.)



Working Conditions & Labor

- Progressive reformers called the public's attention to poor working conditions and the struggles of labor.
- Upton Sinclair's The Jungle (1904)
 - Wanted to expose the exploitation of the poor and oppressed working in the Chicago stockyards
 - Told the story of a family who came to Chicago from Lithuania with the hope of achieving the American Dream (failed)
 - Description of contaminated meat caught the public's attention (sold 25 thousand copies in the first 6 weeks)
- President Teddy Roosevelt was supposedly unable to eat his breakfast sausage after reading it

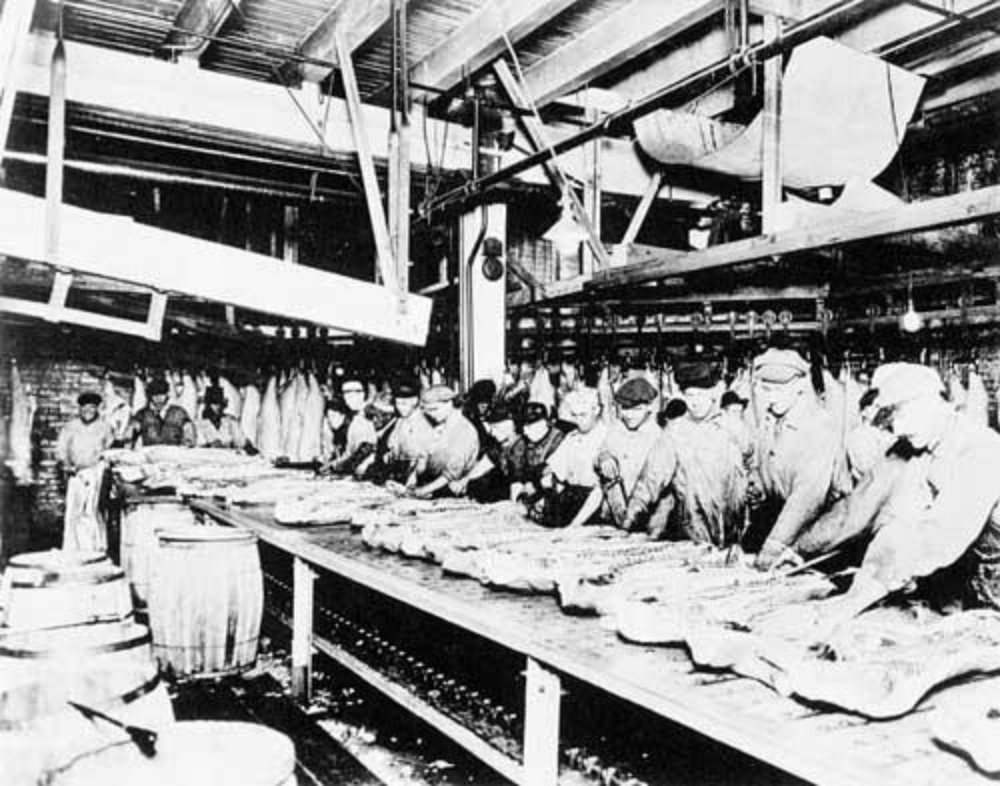


Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* (1904)

There was never the least attention paid to what was cut up for sausage; there would come all the way back from Europe old sausage that had been rejected, and that was mouldy and white—it would be dosed with borax and glycerine, and dumped into the hoppers, and made over again for home consumption. There would be meat that had tumbled out on the floor, in the dirt and sawdust, where the workers had tramped and spit uncounted billions of consumption germs. There would be meat stored in great piles in rooms; and the water from leaky roofs would drip over it, and thousands of rats would race about on it. It was too dark in these storage places to see well, but a man could run his hand over these piles of meat and sweep off handfuls of the dried dung of rats. These rats were nuisances, and the packers would put poisoned bread out for them, they would die, and then rats, bread, and meat would go into the hoppers together. This is no fairy story and no joke; the meat would be shovelled into carts, and the man who did the shoveling would not trouble to lift out a rat even when he saw one—there were things that went into the sausage in comparison with which a poisoned rat was a tidbit....









- After reading The Jungle, Roosevelt ordered a study of the meatpacking industry and used the report to pressure Congress and meatpackers to accept a bill to regulate the meatpacking industry.
- Meat Inspection Act of 1906
 - Enforced some federal inspection and mandated sanitary conditions in all companies that sold meat across state lines
 - Meatpackers argued against having to date code the meat and they won – no date coding until years later
 - Helped to restore people's confidence in the meat industry
- Significance: proved that muckrakers and Progressives could bring about a public outcry that could eventually lead to reform/legislation (INSPIRING!)

- Reformers, writers, govt officials used the public outcry around The Jungle to push for legislation to regulate the sale of food & drugs
 - Americans used a large amount of strong and addictive medicines bought through the mail, traveling salesmen and local stores
 - Many packaged/canned foods contained dangerous chemicals and impurities
 - Hostetter's Stomach Bitters = 44% alcohol
 - Coca-Cola = contained a small amount of cocaine
 - # of medicines were laced with opium
 - Many people, including women and children, became alcoholics or drug addicts in the hopes of getting better
 - Congress passed the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 to correct some of the worst abuses



When you need help for the Stomach, Liver, Kidneys or Bowels take nothing but the **Bitters**. You'll find it the best. Try it for **Indigestion, Headache, Costiveness and Malarial Fever**. Avoid substitutes.

