

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

A FEW FACTS ...

- ⊙ Factories had been small
 - Everyone knew each other
 - Worked with your boss at your side
- ⊙ As industry grew (mass production)
 - 10-12 hour workdays - 6 days/week
 - Fired at any time - for any reason
 - Lost jobs to immigrants
 - Immigrants would work for lower pay

WORKING CONDITIONS

◉ Factories & Mines

- Noisy, unhealthy, unsafe
- Accidents common
 - Steel industry = hot steel spill burns
 - Coal industry = gas & coal dust related deaths
 - Cave ins
 - Factories - poor light ruined eyesight
 - Chemicals made them fire traps
- Sweatshops
 - Crowded urban factories

WOMEN & CHILDREN WORKERS

WOMEN

- ◉ Worked as servants & factory workers
 - Especially textiles (clothes)
 - Usually paid ½ the salary of men

CHILDREN

- ◉ 1900 - Hundreds of thousands of children under age 16 worked in factories
 - Laws passed in many states
 - Must be at least 12 and can't work more than 10 hours/day
 - Ignored by most employers
 - Did not include children employed in agriculture (farming)

LABOR UNIONS

- ⦿ Formed to demand better working conditions and better pay
- ⦿ Trade Unions
 - Labor unions for only a certain trade
 - Not as powerful - too limited

KNIGHTS OF LABOR

- ◉ Garment cutters of Philadelphia
 - Secret union
 - Secret meetings & handshakes
 - Fired if joined union
 - Led by Terence V. Powderly
 - Included African Americans, women, & immigrants

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

- ◉ Members from many different trades
- ◉ Led by Samuel Gompers
 - Wanted shorter hours, better pay
 - Better conditions, right to bargain with employers
- ◉ Collective bargaining
 - Unions represent the workers in bargaining with management

WOMEN & UNIONS

- ◉ Many unions did not allow women
 - Women worked jobs for ½ the pay
- ◉ Mother Jones (Mary Harris Jones)
 - Fought for workers' rights
- ◉ 1911 - Triangle Shirtwaist Co.
 - Fire broke out in factory
 - Could not escape
 - Locked employees in (keep from leaving early)
 - 150 died
 - Led to the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union

UNION ACTION

◉ Strikes often violent

- Led the public to distrust/dislike unions

◉ Railroad Strike of 1877

- In a depression (after Panic of 1873)
- Railway workers forced to take pay cuts
 - Went on strike
 - Burned rail yards, ripped up tracks, destroyed property
- Companies hired “Strikebreakers”
 - Replacements for striking workers
 - Violent riots led to the troops being sent in to restore peace

◉ Haymarket Riot 1866

- Poilce & striking workers
 - Violent clash
 - Chicago's Haymarket Square
 - 4 strikers killed
 - 7 officers killed by bomb

◉ Homestead Strike 1892

- Carnegie's Steel plant in Homestead, PA
- On strike due to wage cuts
 - Hoped to weaken union
 - Hired non-union workers
- 13 killed
- Military sent in to restore order

◎ Pullman Strike 1894

- Pullman sleeping cars
- Strike due to wage cuts
- Pullman closed plants
- Union friends on RR refused to use Pullman cars - froze RR
- Led by Eugene V. Debs
 - Told to end obstruction
 - Given an “injunction” - order to stop obstructing RR
 - Refused, sent to jail