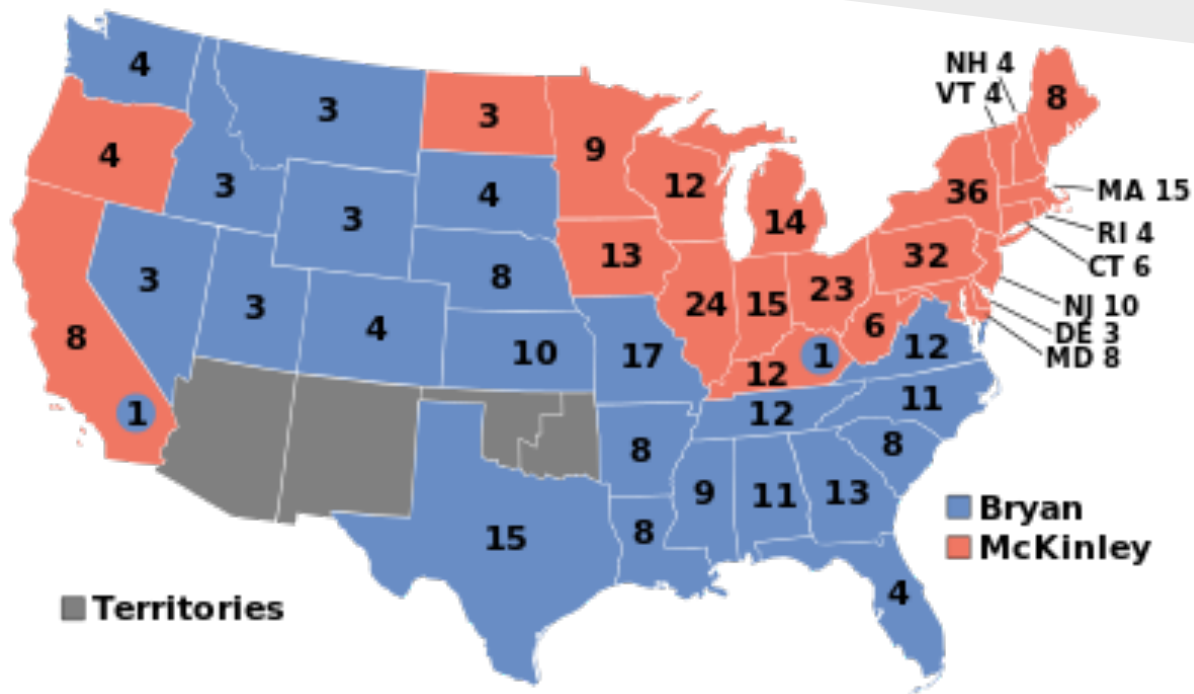


# Work and Labor During the Progressive Era

*Katie, Tucker, Lauren, Matt, Katherine, and Fiona*

# Election of 1896



# Thesis

**The primary fear of many Americans following industrialization was not of the economic change that it brought, but rather of the disintegration of traditional American values. Believing that industrialization and capitalism had the potential to be positive forces, progressives aimed to reshape industry's negative image through the implementation of moral reforms in order to convince the general public that industry could be beneficial for America.**

# Tariffs

- American Government wants a shift towards industrialization
- McKinley Tariffs of 1896
- raised tariffs on manufactured goods, eliminated tariffs on raw materials
- promoted American industry, detrimental to farmers



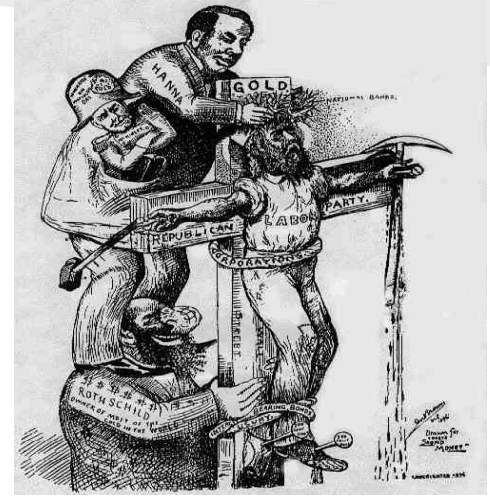
AGRICULTURE—THE REAL “UNPROTECTED FEMALE.”

# American Population vs. Industrialization



- The workforce likened their position to crucifixion

- Laborers suffer at the hand of corporations

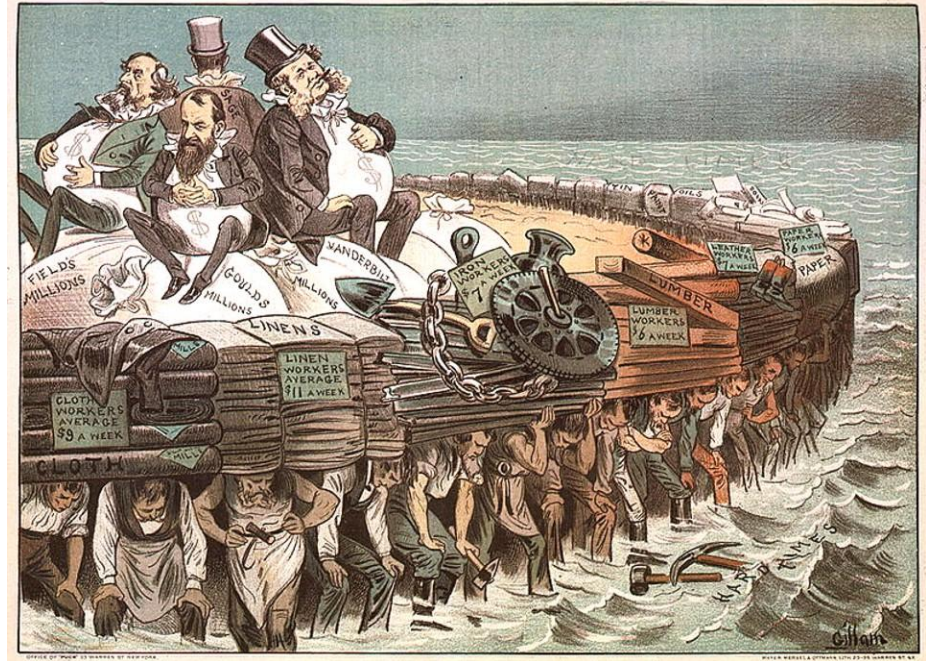


- The Grange was an agricultural group that asserted that the entirety of society is dependent on the farmer, and they supported the Populists and the Progressives
- Demonstrates a portion of the American population's aversion to industry and belief that the government neglects the importance of the small farmer and other laborers



# American Population vs. Industrialization

There was a belief that the government supported corporations and industrialization and neglected the common man, which demonstrated a break from morals because the government exists for the people, yet it did not successfully protect the rights of the individual



# Child Labor



- Industry did not create child labor -> created the need to regulate it
- Children: lower wages, quick, easy to train
- Achieving reforms:
  - \* Increased awareness
  - \* Propaganda- Children should have a childhood, they're the future of America!
  - \* Opposition from employers and parents who relied on the income

**Smith-Hughes Act (1917):** \$1 million to states that agreed to provide vocational education programs to their public schools -> alternative to work

- By 1929, children under 14 were banned from working in factories in all states

# Women and Labor

## Muller v. Oregon

- Muller not following Oregon's labor laws (women can work not more than 10 hours a day)
- Appeal to Supreme Court, they uphold the law
- "...as healthy mothers are essential to vigorous offspring, the physical well-being of woman becomes an object of public interest and care in order to preserve the strength and vigor of the race." 208 U.S. at 412.
- Enforcing sex discrimination due to traditional beliefs about women + if men don't want to work



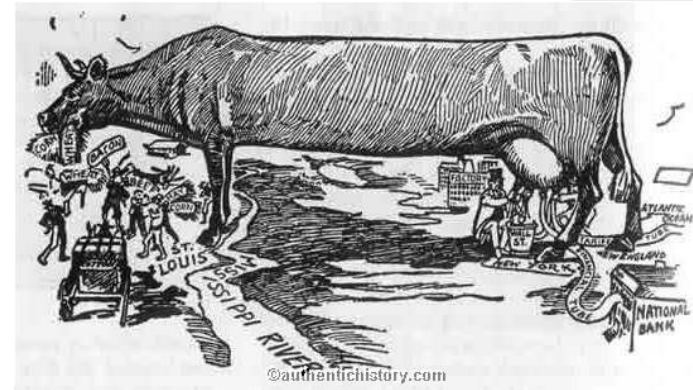


# Minimum Wage Laws

- 1912, passed first minimum wage law in MA. Only Women. Not men
  - “Men should not be made the object of paternalistic legislation”
  - Tactical: Supreme court just held up a max hours legislation for women, arguing they need protection
- Minimum wage: “The normal needs of the average employee regarded as a human being living in a civilized society.”
  - We will protect you, and ensure you have a good life
- “Morality commanded a decent living for all.”
- Not only a decent income, but dignity of work
- Father John Ryan, Catholic economist: Right to a living wage is right given by God

# Antitrust and Farmers

- Antitrust Acts and the Federal Trade Commission (1914) helped stave the abuses of financial big-houses in New York City by watching illegal trade practices.
  - Principal mission is the promotion of consumer protection and the elimination and prevention of anticompetitive business practices, such as coercive monopoly
    - **What did this do for the image of industry?**
- Wilson sought to use progressive reform to help struggling industry. Though the Federal Farm Act (1916) , he was able to help the struggling agricultural industry by providing farmers with long-term mortgages.
  - Wilson knew he would have to introduce the farmers into industry one way or another, and by slowly introducing them into a mainstream economy (through mortgages and loans), made sure that the agrarian population felt included and important (especially after some distress following the 1896 election where the voice of the farmer seemed all but lost)



# Discussion: How Does This Idea Apply Today?

BP:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFTnvymysQA8>

Macdonalds:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LzMtL6cT4I>

Budweiser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7L5QByvXOQ>