Taylor Earl

11/3/14

History

* Race is used to divide the working classes
* Anyone in theory could operate any kind of machinery
  + This makes the workers not needed
* The average worker was unemployed for 3 months a year
* Industrializaton fueled urbanization
* Cigar factory
  + They are rolling and assembling them in their homes
  + You are working for the person that owns the place where you live
    - Cuts wages so you don't have a lot of money
    - He can always bring people in
    - Lots of hours, little pay
* Jacob Riis (1890)
  + The workers make less in the winter than they do in the summer
    - The rooms don't have lights, so they lose daylight in the winter
  + Girls were fined when found sitting down on the job
    - Girls paid less than men, even if they do the job better
  + Tenements
    - Swine kept in the cellars
    - Very poor hygiene
* Knights of Labor (1869)
  + Consiously reached out across professional lines
    - Skilled and unskilled
    - Agricultural and manufactural
    - Across men and women
  + Adopted a theory of work called producerism
    - Wealth is about producing something tangible
  + They call upon the government to protect the laborers
    - 4)End public land grants to railroads
    - 11)End child labor
    - 13) Graduated income tax
      * Higher taxes with more income
    - 20) Equal pay for equal work
    - 21) 8 hour work day
* The Panic of 1873
  + 6 year depression
  + Production went up after this, but full of misery for the working class
  + Railroads depended longer hours, and paying higher rent, even lowering the wages
    - Great Railroad Strike of 1877
      * Workers wouldnt let the trains move
      * President Hays sent in troops
* Haymarket Riot
  + Bomb went off
  + 8 anarchist men were framed
  + Knights of labor didnt have anything to do with the bombing
    - They lead the strike, but the anarchist threw the bomb even though they weren't associated
  + Employers and law enforcement cracked down on the Knights of Labor
* AFL
  + Coalition of “Skilled Labors”
* Railroad shipping
  + They would charge small farmers more than big farmers
    - The railcar has to go out anyway, might as well be full
  + Grange challenged the railroads
    - Take your crop to a community silo, get a document saying what you own, and they would ship the high volume amounts of goods
* Farmers Alliances (1880’s)
  + Embraced the idea of an 8 hour work day
  + Government idea of transportation ownership
* Worker Safety
  + Its easier to replace a worker, than to keep them healthy
  + In button factories you would get 3 free doctor check ups. after that it was on you
* Interstate Commerce Act (1887)
  + Bans discriminatory RR rates
  + Creates permanent regulatory agency
* Election of 1888
  + First election that was decided not on the popular vote, but rather the electoral college
* Sherman Anti Trust Act (1890)
  + Outlaws monopolistic buisness practices
    - Buisness trusts
  + Reform isn't a partisan thing
* The Populists (1890)
  + Emerges from Grange and Farmers Alliances, but reaches out to urban workers
    - 8 hr work day
    - End land grants to RR
    - Government ownership of RR, telegraphs/phones
      * Public ownership, not private ownership
    - Lower tariffs + graduated income tax
  + Increase democracy (direct election of senators)
    - Senators still appointed by state legislators
  + Free silver: unlimited silver coinage alongside gold
    - Who controls money?
    - We need more money in the system,
    - More credit available
* Election of 1892
  + Clevland wins the election with popular and electoral