



Labor

Labor Changes

- Employees more expendable
- Real wages rose but working conditions, hours were deplorable (10 hours/day, 6 days/week)
- **Company towns**—tyrannical
- Unemployment/depression in late 1800s allowed for even lower wages, worse conditions
 - 75% of workers who went on strike in 1894 were fired
 - Conditions for immigrant workers even worse



Women & Canadians

- Women – wages far lower than men; blamed for lowering the wage level in general; not always accepted into organized labor
- Canada – Low wages (much lower for women); conditions of industry were poor but not as terrible as in America (worst factories: cotton mills and cigar factories)



Unions

- **National Labor Union** (1866) – William H. Sylvis
 - Gained 8-hour workday for federal workers
- **Knights of Labor** (1869)
 - Uriah Stephens; Terrence V. Powderly (Grand Master Workman)
 - Open to ALL workers
 - Worked for an 8-hour workday for all
 - Equal pay for men & women; no child labor
 - Lobbied for **Chinese Exclusion Act**
 - Favored arbitration to strikes, but successful strike against railroads → increased membership
 - Declined in power in late 1880s—**BLUM**: catered to too many groups of workers (Skilled and Unskilled)



American Federation of Labor (AFL)

- Founded in 1881 by **Samuel Gompers**
- Federation of separate craft unions
- Worked for an 8-hour workday and 6-day workweek, legislation to promote worker safety and compensation, higher wages
- Favored **collective bargaining** over strikes



Haymarket Riot

- Chicago, 1886
- Workers were protesting attack on strikers when bomb exploded, killing 7 policeman & 4 civilians
- Organized labor members were arrested and 7 were guilty → 4 hanged

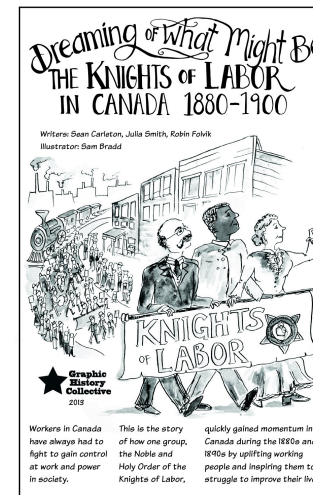


Attention Workingmen!
— GREAT —
MASS MEETING
TO-NIGHT, at 7.30 o'clock,
at 7.30
HAYMARKET, Randolph St. Bet. Desplaines and Halsted.
Good Speakers will be present to denounce the latest
atrocious act of the police, the shooting of our
fellow workmen yesterday afternoon.
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.



Canada Labor Timeline

- 1872 – **Trade Union Act** passed by Macdonald – Legalized registered trade unions; wanted to appease the **9-Hour Campaigns**
- 1886 – **Canadian Trades and Labour Congress** – First national trade union based in QUE/ONT
- 1881 – Knights of Labor reach Canada
- 1890 – AFL reaches Canada – **John Flett** appointed Canadian leader by Gompers



Challenges

- Public looked down on **closed shops**
- Immigrants were unfamiliar with labor
- Women were largely excluded, but founded own union in 1903: **National Women's Trade Union League**
- Blacks excluded from most unions
- **Blacklists** – List of people employers thought were undesirable (perhaps just because they were union members) → stopped those people from getting a job in that industry nationwide



120 UNIONS VOTE ON CALL OF 45,000 TO GENERAL STRIKE

National Guardsmen Patrol Battle Zone on Waterfront



Managers vs. Unions

- **Yellow-Dog Contracts** – New employee signed these stating they would not join a Union
- **Hired spies, strikebreakers**
- **Federal troops called in to end strikes**
 - **Homestead Steel Strike (1892)** – 300 **Pinkerton** detectives employed to keep peace → strikers resisted → seven detectives and nine strikers died → strike was a big failure
 - **Pullman Strike** organized by **Eugene Debs** (1894);
 - Debs jailed for breaking an injunction which called for the strike to end. Supreme Court decided strikes violate the Sherman Antitrust Act as “a conspiracy in restraint of trade”; federal troops sent by **Cleveland** → 12 killed

