

Chapter 5 Section 1-2

Progressive Reform

Focus Questions:

- Identify the goal of the suffrage movement and identify the 19th Amendment.
- What did John Spargo's book expose regarding child labor and labor conditions?
- How did the government respond to Spargo's book?
- Identify at least two reforms introduced because of a dangerous fire in New York, City.

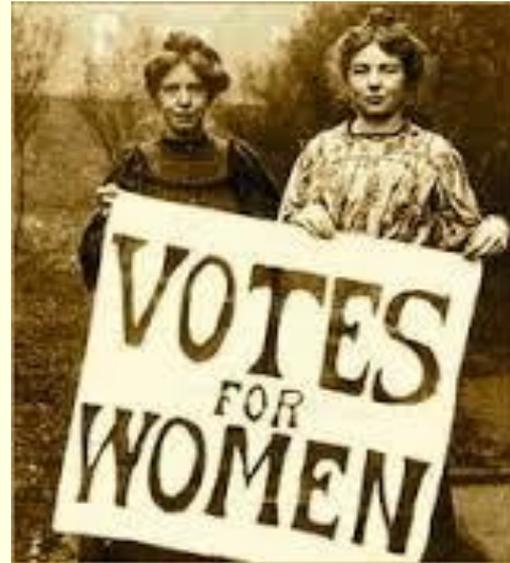
Suffrage Movement

- Is known as the movement for women's rights.
- Progressives joined the movement and focused on getting women to become active in politics.
- The goal was to ensure rights for women and most importantly the right to vote.



19th Amendment

- Faced opposition in 1918 with in the Senate. The bill was short two votes.
- In 1920 the Senate finally passed the Amendment with the two thirds vote needed.
- The 19th Amendment granted and protected the right to vote for women.



Campaign Against Child Labor

- In 1900 over 1.7 million children under the age of 16 worked outside the home.
- In 1904 the National Child Labor Committee set to abolish child labor.
- John Spargo's book the *Bitter Cry of the Children* presented detailed evidence on child labor conditions.
- He described how 9 and 10 year olds were hired at the coal mines paid, .60 for 10 hours, and the work led to spinal issues and crippled children.

Government Responds

- The outrage convinced states to pass laws that set a minimum age for employment, and established other restrictions on minors such as maximum hours worked and education requirements.
- For many families the new wealth generated by industrialization enabled them to survive without having children work.
- For others, the child labor laws required women to take on the work load themselves.



Health and Safety Codes

- The fire in the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York City led to stricter building codes dealing with fire hazards, stricter codes on unsafe machinery and working conditions.
- Progressives also joined with unions to help workers receive compensation when injured on the job.
- Laws required that employers pay injured employees. (Workers Comp)
- Progressives also pushed for zoning laws that divided commercial areas from residential areas.
- Building codes set minimum standards for light, air, room size, sanitation, and required buildings to have fire escapes.
- Health codes required restaurants and other facilities to maintain clean environments for their patrons.



Prohibition Movement

- Many progressives believed that alcohol was responsible for many social problems in the US.
- Drinking led to alcoholism, physical abuse and sickness.
- Employers believed drinking hurt production and efficiency.
- The Prohibition Movement eventually led to a period of prohibition in the United States where laws passed banning the manufacture, sale and consumption of alcohol.

