Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ HW: The Progressive Movement

Due: Friday 2/8/13

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how journalists helped bring about change in the United States.

The Muckrakers

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Journalist | Issue | Result |
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**Fighting Corruption**

In the late 1800s, there was a Progressive movement that focused on problems in society. The leaders of this movement wanted change in the cities, in government, and in business. They believed that the government and big business had too much power. Powerful organizations linked to political parties, called ***political machines,*** controlled the government in many cities. A leader of the machine in each city was called the

political boss. The political bosses did favors for people in return for their votes. Many of these bosses were corrupt. They accepted bribes and campaign contributions from businesses. In return the businesses received special treatment from the city. They also made kickback agreements with contractors. The contractors would add charges to their bill to the city. Those extra charges were then given to the political boss that provided

the job for the contractor.

Organizations such as the National Municipal League were founded to clean up city government. They wanted to weaken the power of the political bosses. New forms of government were introduced. In Galveston, Texas, the citizens established a city government run by five commissioners. The commission approach was soon adopted by almost 400 other cities. Tom Johnson, the mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, opposed corporations and political bosses in the early 1900s. He achieved lower fares for streetcars, food inspections, and parks for the city of Cleveland. Cleveland was then known as the best-governed city in the country.

***Patronage,*** or rewarding political supporters with jobs and favors, was common at all levels of government. Patronage is another term for the spoils system practiced by Andrew Jackson. Many people who held government jobs were not qualified for the position. President Rutherford B. Hayes wanted to change patronage. He wanted to fix the ***civil service,*** or the body of nonelected government workers. He did not receive

much support for this change. President James Garfield also wanted to change the civil service. However, he was assassinated before his changes could be made. When Vice President Chester A. Arthur became president, he acted to eliminate the spoils system. The Civil Service Commission was started as part of the Pendleton Act of 1883. The Commission required tough tests for federal jobs. Applicants had to prove their abilities

to do the job.

**Controlling Business**

In the late 1800s, many people were concerned that ***trusts,*** or combinations of companies, were becoming too strong. They thought these trusts controlled the economy and the government. Congress passed the Sherman Antitrust Act in 1890. It was the first law to control trusts. Supporters hoped it would allow more competition between businesses. It took about 10 years for the Sherman Act to be used against trusts. A few large companies controlled the railroads. They alone determined rates for travel. Congress passed the Interstate Commerce Act in 1887. This act said that railroads had to have fair rates. Those rates also had to be published. The Interstate Commerce Commission was created to supervise the railroads. High tariffs on products from other countries caused higher prices. Republicans supported the high tariffs. They thought it would protect American businesses. The reformers and the Democrats wanted lower tariffs. Grover Cleveland became president in 1893. He won the election in part because he supported lower tariffs.

**The New Reformers**

Reformers wanted solutions for the problems in society. One way to reform was socialism. Socialists believed that the government should own and run the industries. They thought that profits should not go to individuals or private companies. The industries should be run for the benefit of all people. Another way to reform was progressivism. Progressives did not want the government to own the industries. They wanted the government to regulate, or supervise, the industries. Progressives wanted the government to resist big businesses and support the working members of society. They wanted to help the people who had no money or power.

Journalists helped the reform movement. Investigative reporters brought problems to the attention of the public. They were called ***muckrakers.*** One reporter, Lincoln Steffens, uncovered the corrupt political machine in the big cities. His book, *The Shame of the Cities,* convinced people of the need for improvement in the cities. Ida Tarbell wrote about unfairness in the oil trusts. Her articles led to more government control over oil companies. Upton Sinclair wrote *The Jungle.* His book told about the horrors in the meatpacking industry. His descriptions shocked Americans. As a result, Congress passed the Meat Inspection Act in 1906. Congress passed the Pure Food and Drug Act that year. This law required correct labels on food and medicine and banned

selling harmful food.

**Expanding Democracy**

The governor of Wisconsin in the early 1900s was Robert La Follette. He supported reform and brought changes to the state. He raised taxes for corporations and improved the civil service. He especially brought changes to the electoral process in the state. Candidates had been chosen at state conventions. Party bosses ran the conventions. La Follette started the direct ***primary***. This allowed the voters to choose the candidate

for their party. The Wisconsin reform spread to other states.

The state of Oregon also made reforms in the political process. They started the ***initiative,*** which allowed citizens to place a measure or an issue on the ballot in a state election. The ***referendum*** was established. It let voters accept or reject measures that the state legislature enacted. Voters were able to remove unsatisfactory elected officials from their jobs by the ***recall.*** These reforms were known as the Oregon System. Other states in the West soon followed Oregon’s example.

Progressive supporters wanted people to vote for their senators directly. The Constitution gave the state legislature that responsibility. Party bosses and businesses often controlled the selection. The Seventeenth Amendment gave the people a chance to vote for their representatives directly.

**The Fight for Suffrage**

The Fifteenth Amendment allowed voting to all freed men. It did not allow voting for women. People who fought for women’s right to vote were called ***suffragists.*** Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the National Woman Suffrage Association. The organization wanted an amendment to the Constitution that allowed women to vote in national elections. Another organization worked to include the women’s vote in state elections. The two groups joined together in 1890. Some people opposed woman suffrage. They believed it would change the balance of society and lead to problems in the home.

Wyoming was the first to allow women to vote in state elections in 1869. By 1919 most states allowed women to vote in some elections. The fight for the national elections continued. Alice Paul was a leader of the National Woman’s Party in 1916. She had seen suffragists use marches and hunger strikes to gain attention in Great Britain. When President Woodrow Wilson did not support woman suffrage, Paul led a protest before

the White House. The protesters were arrested for blocking the sidewalk. They then started a hunger strike. Support grew for women’s right to vote. New York and, a year later, South Dakota and Oklahoma granted equal suffrage. President Wilson gave his support for an amendment to the Constitution. The Nineteenth Amendment allowed women to vote in the national elections. The amendment was approved in the Senate in 1919 and ratified in 1920.

**Women and Social Reform**

The women’s clubs became more involved in social reform. The clubs were mostly made up of middle-class women. Their goal was to help working women, immigrants, and society. They convinced Congress to create the Children’s Bureau in the Labor Department. They wanted federal laws that would protect children. They supported libraries, schools, and settlement houses. The clubs worked to raise money for hospitals and parks. They sponsored laws that regulated the labor of women and children in the workplace. The clubs also pushed for government inspections in workplaces. They were involved in the laws concerning the food and medicine industries. Some clubs pressured the state to provide financial support for widows and abandoned mothers. These funds are part of the Social Security system used today. The Women’s Trade Union League worked to protect the rights of women factory workers. This organization helped support workers

on strike and paid bail for those arrested during a strike.

The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union and the Anti-Saloon League tried to convince people to stop drinking alcohol. They supported laws that prohibited the making or selling of alcohol, called ***prohibition.*** Leaders made speeches connecting alcohol to violence and poverty. One woman, Carry Nation, sang hymns outside saloons. She also pushed into the saloons and broke bottles and kegs with an ax. The organizations supported other goals such as prison reform and woman suffrage. Some people wanted to ban alcohol for social reform. Those who had religious or moral reasons joined them. The support continued to grow. The Eighteenth

Amendment to the Constitution made it illegal to make, transport, or sell alcohol in the United States. This Prohibition Law went into effect in 1919.

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Please note that answers should be more than one sentence.

**1.** Which presidents wanted to change the civil service by eliminating patronage?

**2.** How did the government gain control over powerful businesses?

**3.** What was the difference between socialism and progressivism?

**4.** How did Wisconsin lead reforms in the electoral process?

**5.** How did Alice Paul protest President Wilson’s lack of support for woman suffrage?

**6.** How did the Women’s Trade Union League protect the rights of women factory workers?