

Mr. Aitken

Washington State History

- Changing Labor in Washington

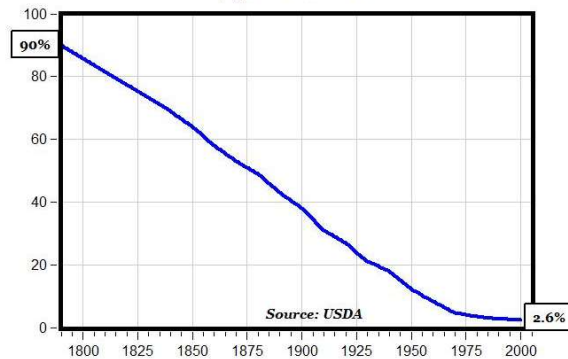
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Agriculture to Manufacturing

- The Industrial Revolution began in the 1800s. Over time, people shifted from working in agriculture to working in factories.
 - 1776: more than 90% of U.S. population lived and worked on farms.
 - 1900: less than 40% worked on farms.
 - Today: less than 3% work on farms.

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**Farm Jobs, % of Total U.S. Jobs
1790 to 2000**



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Labor Union

- Definition:
 - An organization of workers, who as a group work to achieve common goals, such as better wages, working conditions, safety, etc.

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Why Unions?

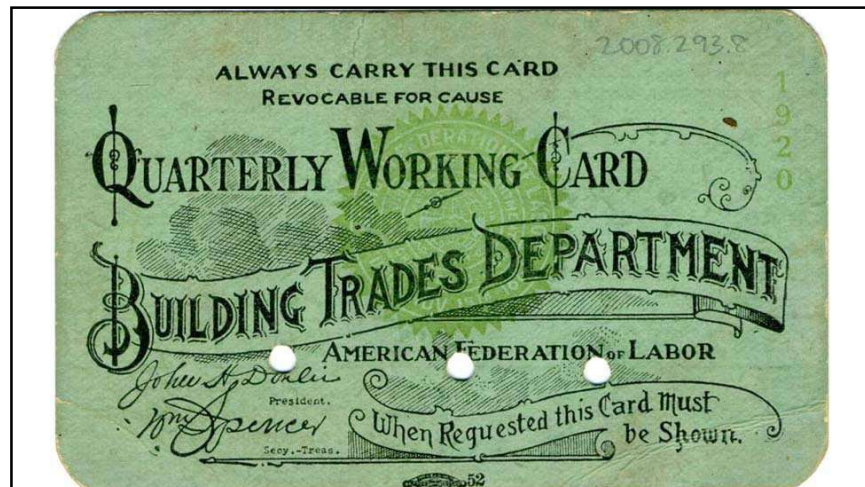
- 1800s: low wages, long hours, dangerous conditions, unequal treatment of minorities, women, and children.
- Almost no government regulation to protect workers.

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Labor Unions

- American Federation of Labor (AFL):
 - Began in 1880s. One of the oldest, largest, and most effective unions still around today.
 - Mostly only open to white men at first. Later (~1930s) included women and minorities.

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Labor Unions

- Industrial Workers of the World (IWW):
 - Nicknamed: "Wobblies".
 - More radical union. Closely aligned with the socialist or communist movement. Sought to overthrow capitalism entirely.

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Government Reaction

- Before the 1930s, most local and federal governments sided with business owners.
- Feared radical elements and communism.
- Local police, national guard, and soldiers were sometimes used to break up labor strikes and intimidate workers.

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Everett Massacre

- 1916: workers at an Everett shingle factory were on strike for 3 months.
- Law enforcement and vigilantes beat strikers with axe handles to break strike.
- Rumors spread that Wobblies were coming, and would burn down the city.

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Everett Massacre

- November 5, 1916:
200-300 Wobblies board 2 steamboats in Seattle, and sailed up to Everett.
- Law enforcement and vigilantes refuse to let the boats dock.
- A shot is fired. Then 10 minutes of intense gunfire, mostly from vigilantes.

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Everett Massacre

- 2 deputies died (shot in the back by other vigilantes). 16-20 wounded.
- 5-12 Wobblies killed, 27 wounded.
- No one knows who fired the first shot.
- 74 Wobblies arrested. None convicted.

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Seattle General Strike



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Seattle General Strike

- Began in January 1919, a strike of 35,000 shipyard workers.
- February 6: grew to a general strike (many unions across the city) of 65,000 workers. Almost shut down the city.

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Seattle General Strike

- Ended after 5 days.
 - Mayor had called in federal troops.
 - Pressure from national labor organizers.
 - Some strikers began to return to work.

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Seattle General Strike

- Completely peaceful.
- Mostly ineffective. Didn't achieve any goal.
- Shipyard workers continued their strike.
- Unions lost some credibility. Portrayed as communist sympathizers.

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Centralia Massacre

- Legionnaires (WW I veterans) and Wobblies had long history of conflicts.
- Rumors spread that Legionnaires planned to loot or destroy the union hall during the Armistice Day parade (Nov. 11, 1919).

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Centralia Massacre

- Gunfire broke out between the two groups. Different accounts over who started it.
- 4 Legionnaires died.
- 1 Wobbly later taken from jail and lynched by an angry mob.

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Centralia Massacre

- 7 Wobblies convicted of murder, though no proof of them actually firing the shots.
- Nobody ever arrested for lynching of the Wobbly prisoner.

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Centralia Massacre

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1919.

THE POST-INTELLIGENCER. Home

VOL. LXXVI, NO. 141. PUBLISHED BY THE POST-INTELLIGENCER CO., 1000 PINE ST., SEATTLE, WASH. D. C. 98101. THIRTEEN CENTS.

FOUR IN CENTRALIA PARADE KILLED BY I. W. W. ASSASSINATION PLOT EXPOSED BY CONFESSION MOB STORMS JAIL AND HANGS LEADER OF REDS

Not to Be Forgotten

VETERANS MARK ANNIVERSARY OF CONFLICT'S END

Former Football Star of U. of W. Killed by Reds

15 RADICALS IN CELLS WHILE TERRORIST PLOT IS BEING INVESTIGATED

Prisoners Known as James I. Smith Declares Red Organization Planned Murders Weeks in Advance of Armistice Day; Papers on Lynch Victim Support Claim.

By W. H. JOHNSON.

CENTRALIA, Nov. 12.—(AP)—The Centralia parade death, the credited to the late tonight, while three other persons are severely wounded, a **plotting** of **thirteen** members of Company B of the Third Washington Infantry **massing** Centralia from Tacoma at midnight, ready to take the situation in hand. **By wire**

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