



The American Labor Movement

Our Focus Today

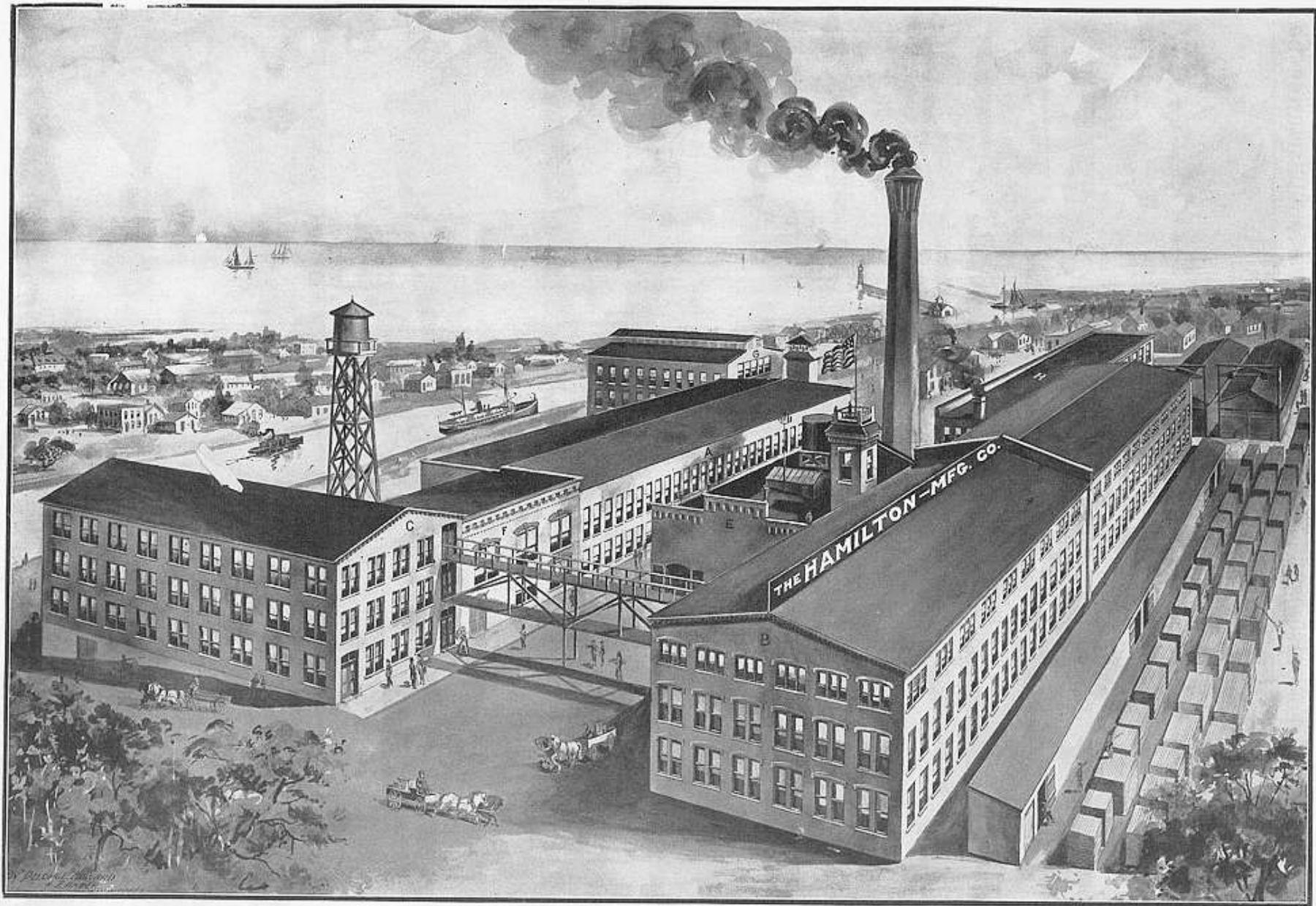


- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzjQaOmEzqQ>

The Main Idea

- In the late 19th century, labor unions formed to fight for better working conditions and pay. Frequently, the disputes over labor turned violent.





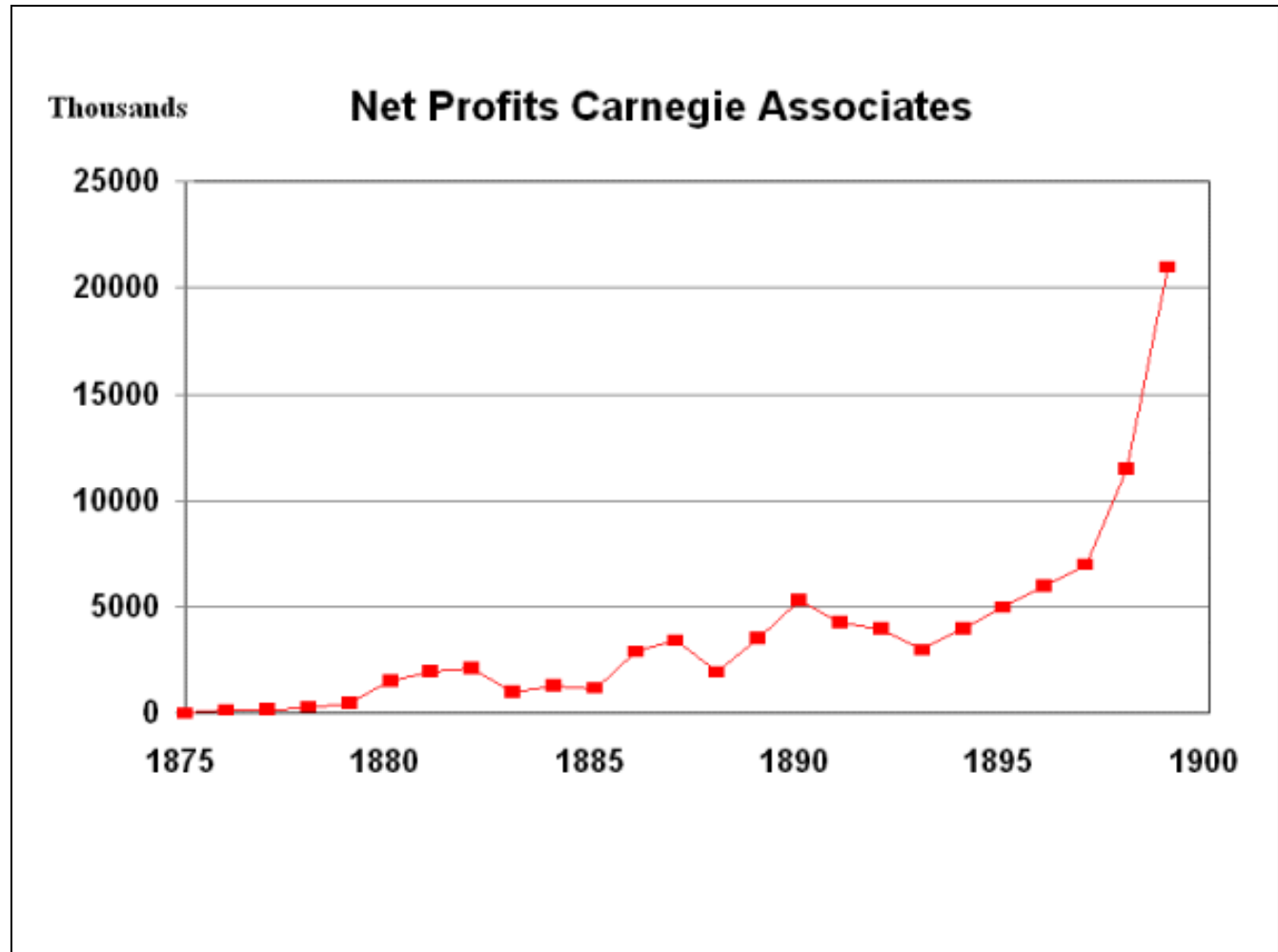
PLANT OF THE HAMILTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY, TWO RIVERS, WIS.

A - Type Department.
 B - Wood Goods Department.
 C - Warehouse and Finishing.

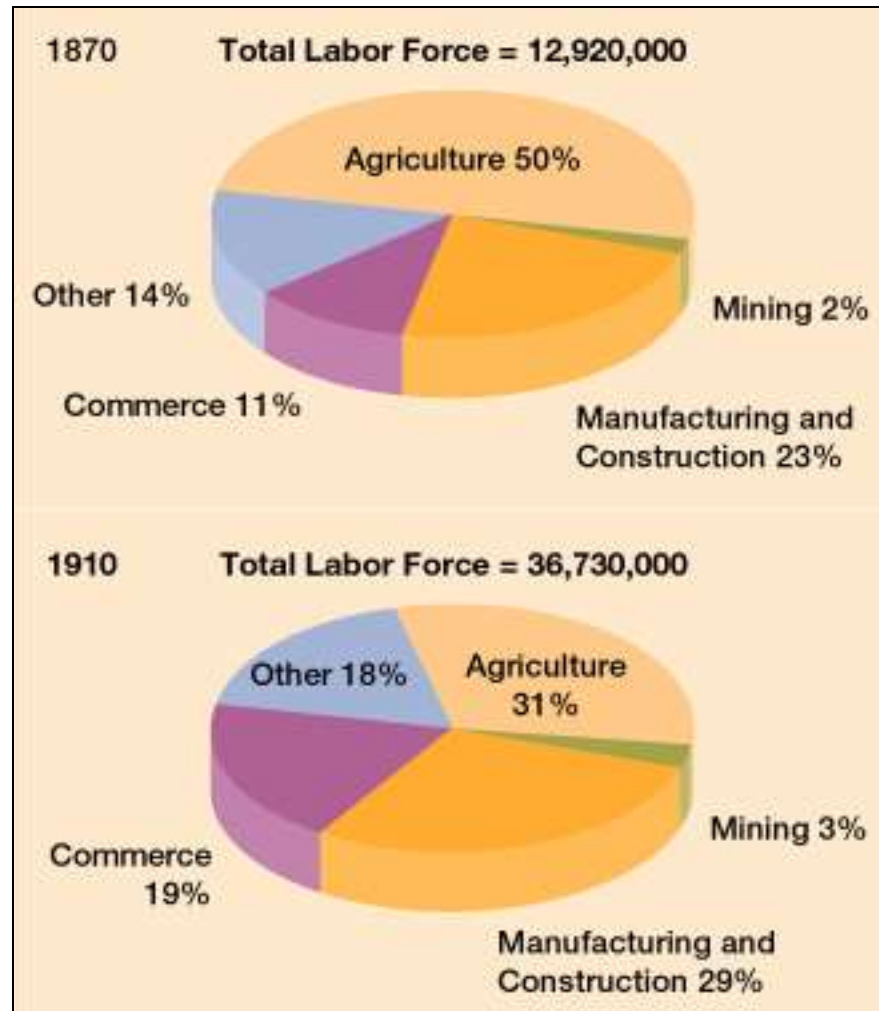
D - Dry Kilns.
 E - Power Plant.
 F - Offices and Pattern Vaults.

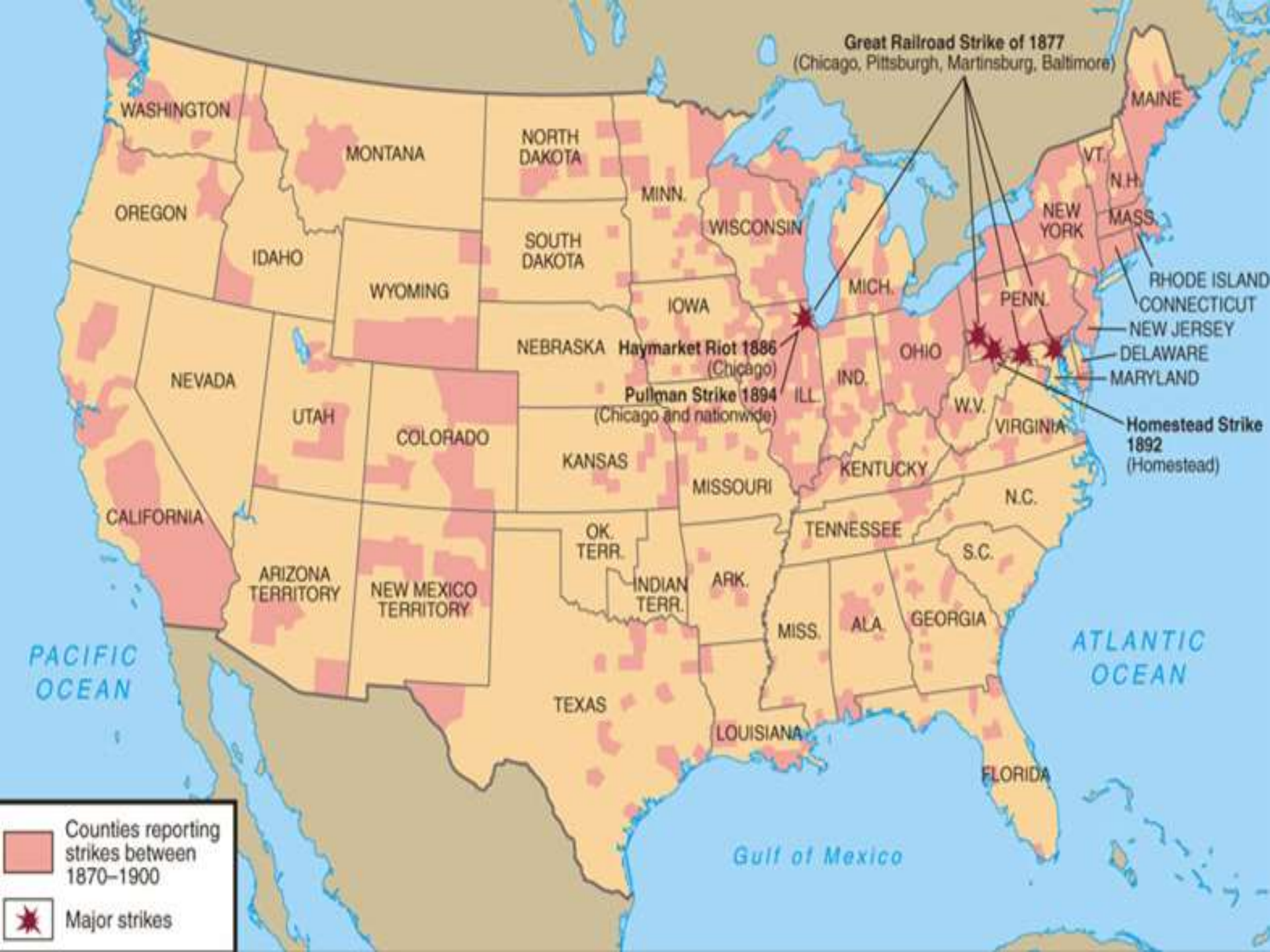
G - Curing Rooms for Wood Type Stock.
 H - Machine Shop.

Big Corporate Profits!



The Changing American Labor Force





Changes in the Labor Force

- Unskilled workers were easily replaceable.
- There was a surplus of workers which drove down wages.
 - Immigrants
 - Farmers that have moved to the cities.
- Children were used as workers.



Management vs. Labor

“Tools” of
Management



“Tools” of
Labor

- “scabs”
- P. R. campaign
- Pinkertons
- lockout
- blacklisting
- yellow-dog contracts
- court injunctions
- open shop

- boycotts
- sympathy demonstrations
- informational picketing
- closed shops
- organized strikes
- “wildcat” strikes



Working Conditions



- Were harsh and unsafe.
- 10 Hour Days
- 6 Days A Week
- Pressured to work as fast as possible.
- Exploited Workers
- Sweatshops were set up in the garment industry.



Child Labor

- By 1900 1 out of 6 children ages 10 to 15 held a job.





Knights of Labor



- Focused on settlements rather than striking.
- Membership was open to African Americans and Women.





Goals of the Knights of Labor

- ù Eight-hour workday.
- ù Workers' cooperatives.
- ù Worker-owned factories.
- ù Abolition of child and prison labor.
- ù Increased circulation of greenbacks.
- ù Equal pay for men and women.
- ù Safety codes in the workplace.
- ù Prohibition of contract foreign labor.
- ù Abolition of the National Bank.

American Federation of Labor

- Samuel Gompers
- Focused on Bread & Butter issues
- Collective Strikes instead of individual areas
- Used strikes to win wage increases and shorter work weeks.



How the AF of L Would Help the Workers

- ù Catered to the skilled worker.
- ù Represented workers in matters of national legislation.
- ù Maintained a national strike fund.
- ù Evangelized the cause of unionism.
- ù Prevented disputes among the many craft unions.
- ù Mediated disputes between management and labor.
- ù Pushed for **closed shops**.



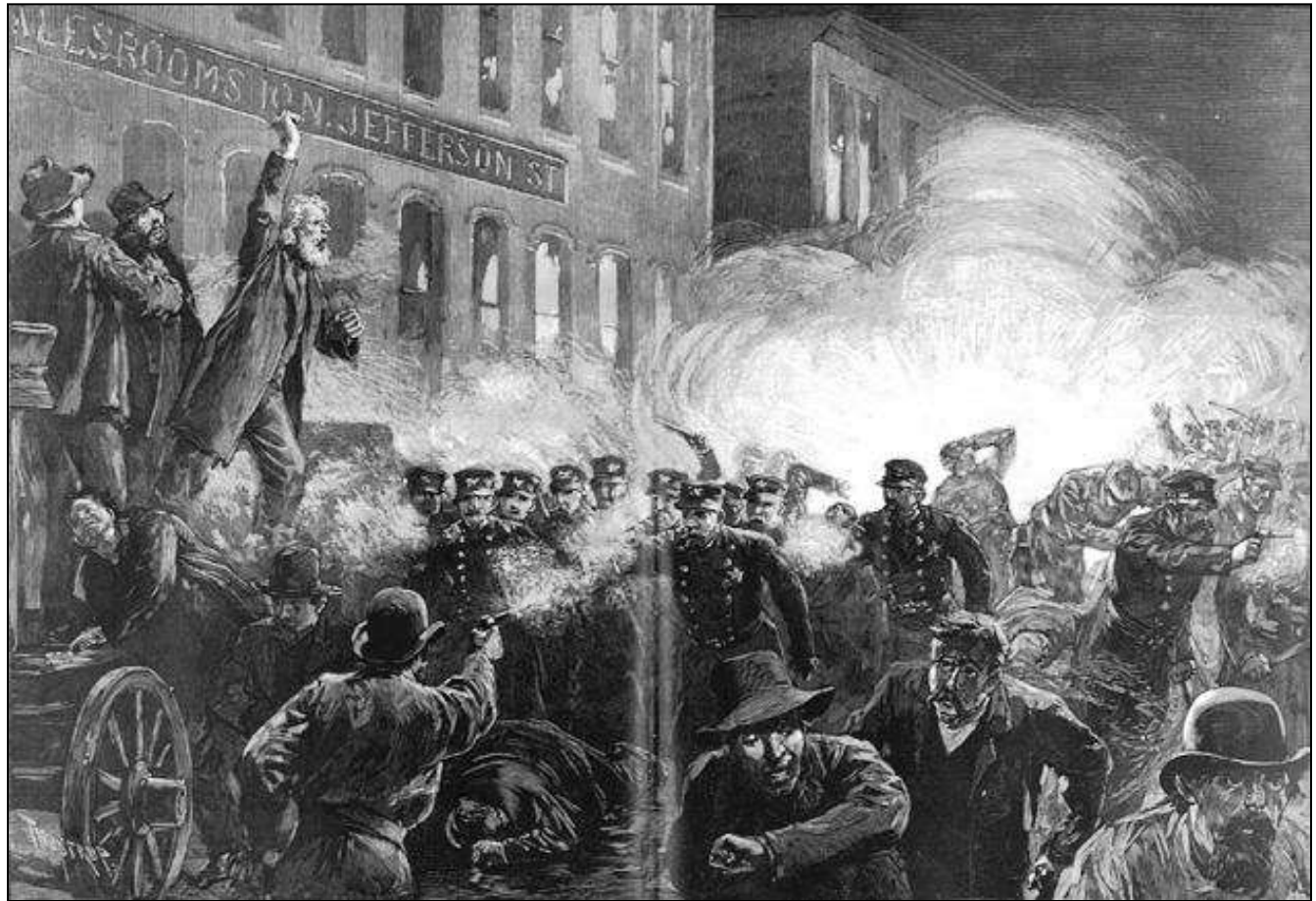
Haymarket Riot



- Chicago
- 80,000 workers
marched peacefully
- As the strike went
on, it became more
violent.
- Someone threw a
bomb and police
opened fire.
- At least 11 people
died



Haymarket Riot (1886)



McCormick Harvesting Machine Co.

Notable Strikes



- The Great Railroad Strike → 1877 → Workers protested and walked off the job stopping freight traffic for over a week.
- The Pullman Strikes → 1893 → Pullman Company laid off 1/3 of its employees → President Grover Cleveland sent in the federal troops to squash the strike.

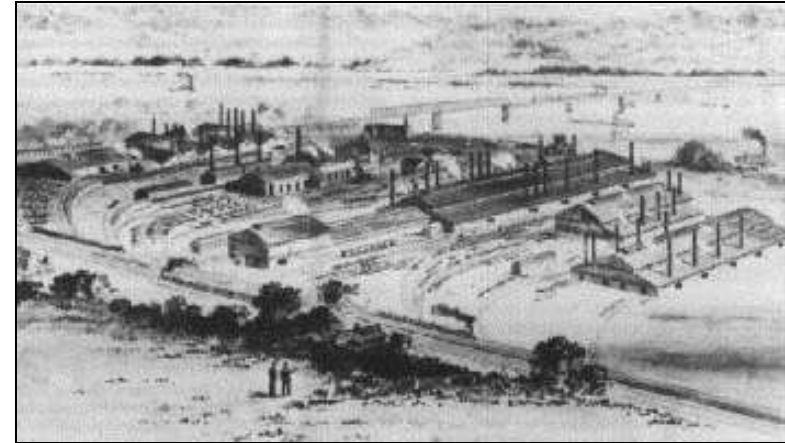
The Great Railroad Strike of 1877



The Great Railroad Strike of 1877



Homestead Steel Strike (1892)



Homestead Steel
Works

The Amalgamated
Association of
Iron & Steel Workers

Homestead Strike Video



Labor's Struggle for Justice, 1880 – 1920



Source: Gary B. Nash, *American Odyssey: The United States in The Twentieth Century*, Glencoe, 1994 (adapted)

Order of Operations

- Complete the Haymarket Affair Assignment

