

3. The Gilded Age and the Progressive Movement

3.1 The Gilded Age

3.2 The Progressive Movement

3.1 The Gilded Age

**3.1.1 Who's Who in
the Cast?**

**3.1.2 Civil Service
Reform**

**3.1.3 Railroad
Regulation**

3.1.4 Tariff Policy

3.1.5 Monetary Policy

**3.1.6 Forgettable
Presidents**

**3.1.7 “Black Lives
(Don’t) Matter...”**

**3.1.8 The Farmers
Crusade: Radical or
Reactionary?**

3.1.1 Who's Who in the Cast?

The Nature of Party Politics

- Public interest in elections was avid between 1870 and 1896
- Nearly 80% of eligible voters cast ballots
- Politics was recreation.
- Parades, picnics, speeches

- **Party loyalty was important**
- **Democrats: opposed government interference in matters of personal liberty**
- **Republicans: government could be an agent of reform**

Party Factions

**Factional quarrels split
both parties**

- **Republicans**
 - **Stalwarts: led by Conkling (Spoils System)**
 - **Half Breeds: led by Blaine (Spoils system)**
 - **Mugwumps: Schurz (educated men should lead)**





- **Democrats**
 - **White-supremacist southerners**
 - **Immigrant and working class supporters of political machines**
 - **Business oriented advocates of the gold standard**
 - **Debtor advocates of free silver**

3.1.2 Civil Service Reform

Civil Service Reform

Some politicians tried to dismantle the spoils system

- **Some advocated appointments and promotions based on merit (civil Service) rather than political connections**



National Civil Service Reform League formed (1881)

- **President Garfield is
assassinated by a
distraught job seeker**
- **Leads to the Pendleton
Civil Service Act, 1883**
- **Civil Service
Commission oversees
competitive
examinations**



3.1.3 Railroad Regulation

Railroad Regulation

Railroads reduced rates for large shippers and offered free passenger passes to preferred customers and politicians

- Reform occurs first at state level**



- **1880: 14 states established commissions to limit freight and storage charges of state-chartered RR lines**
- **1877... Munn v. Illinois**
 - **Court upheld the principle of state regulation of RRs**

- **1886... Wabash case**
 - **Court declared only Congress can limit rates of interstate commerce**

- **Interstate Commerce Act of 1887**
- **Prohibited pools, rebates, and long-haul/short-haul rate discrimination**

- **Created Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC)**
- **First regulatory agency**
- **Investigated railroad rate-making, illegal practices, and sought court assistance**



- ***Maximum Freight Rate***
case (1897)
- **Supreme Court said
the ICC lacked the
power to set rates**

- ***Alabama Midlands*
case (1897)**
- **Court overturned
prohibitions against
long-haul/short-haul
discrimination**

3.1.4 Tariff Policy

Tariff Policy

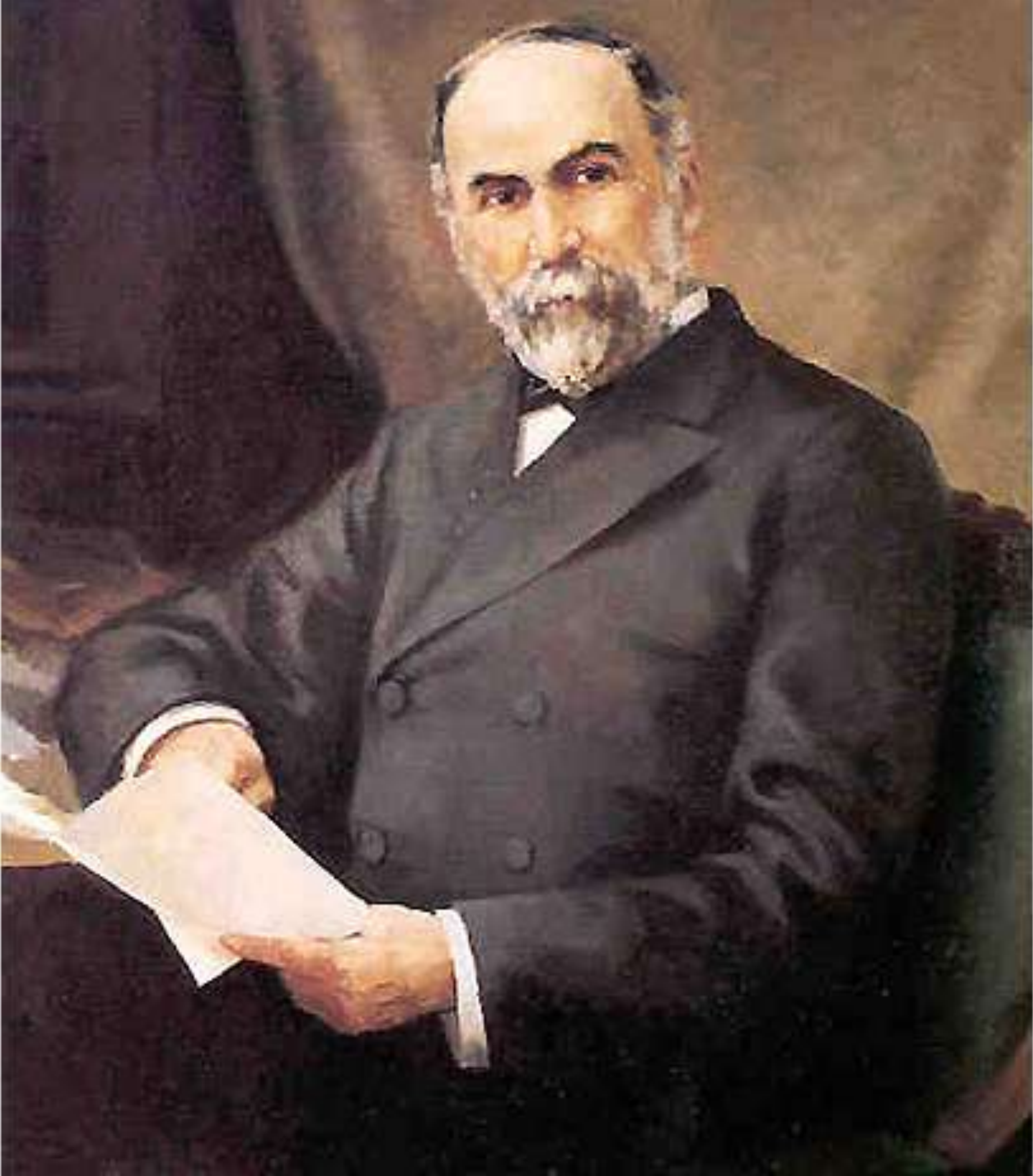
1880s: tariffs on 4,000 items

- **Some economists argued for free trade**

- **Politicians: tariffs support industry, protect jobs**
- **Republicans: protective tariffs core of political agenda**
- **Democrats: tariffs made prices artificially high**

- **McKinley Tariff (1890)**
boosted rates +4%
- **Dingley Tariff (1897):**
rates went even higher





3.1.5 Monetary Policy

Monetary Policy

- **Increased industrial / agricultural production causes price drop after Civil War**

- **Farmers received less for crops**
- **Costly to borrow money because little money in circulation**
- **Favored coinage of silver to increase money in circulation and reduce interest rates**

- **Large merchants and manufacturers favored money backed by gold**

**U.S. and others
unofficially adopted the
gold standard in the
1870s**

- **Bland-Allison Act (1878)
authorized the Treasury
to buy \$2 Million to \$4
million worth of silver
each month**



- **Sherman Silver Purchase Act (1890)...**
increased monthly
purchase to 4.5 million
ounces



3.1.6 Forgettable Presidents

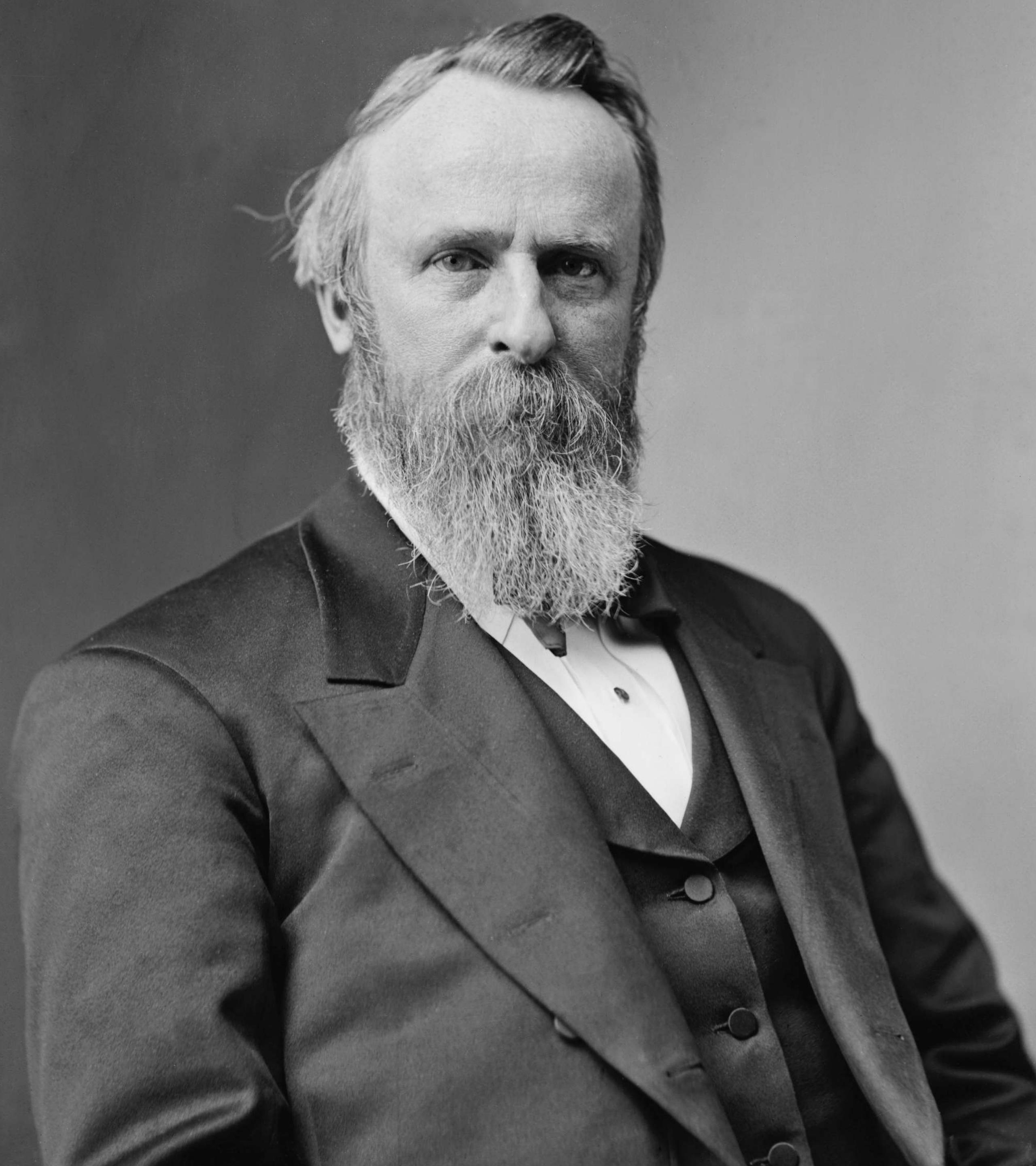
Forgettable Presidents

**American Presidents
between 1877 and 1900
moved tentatively to
restore authority to the
presidency**

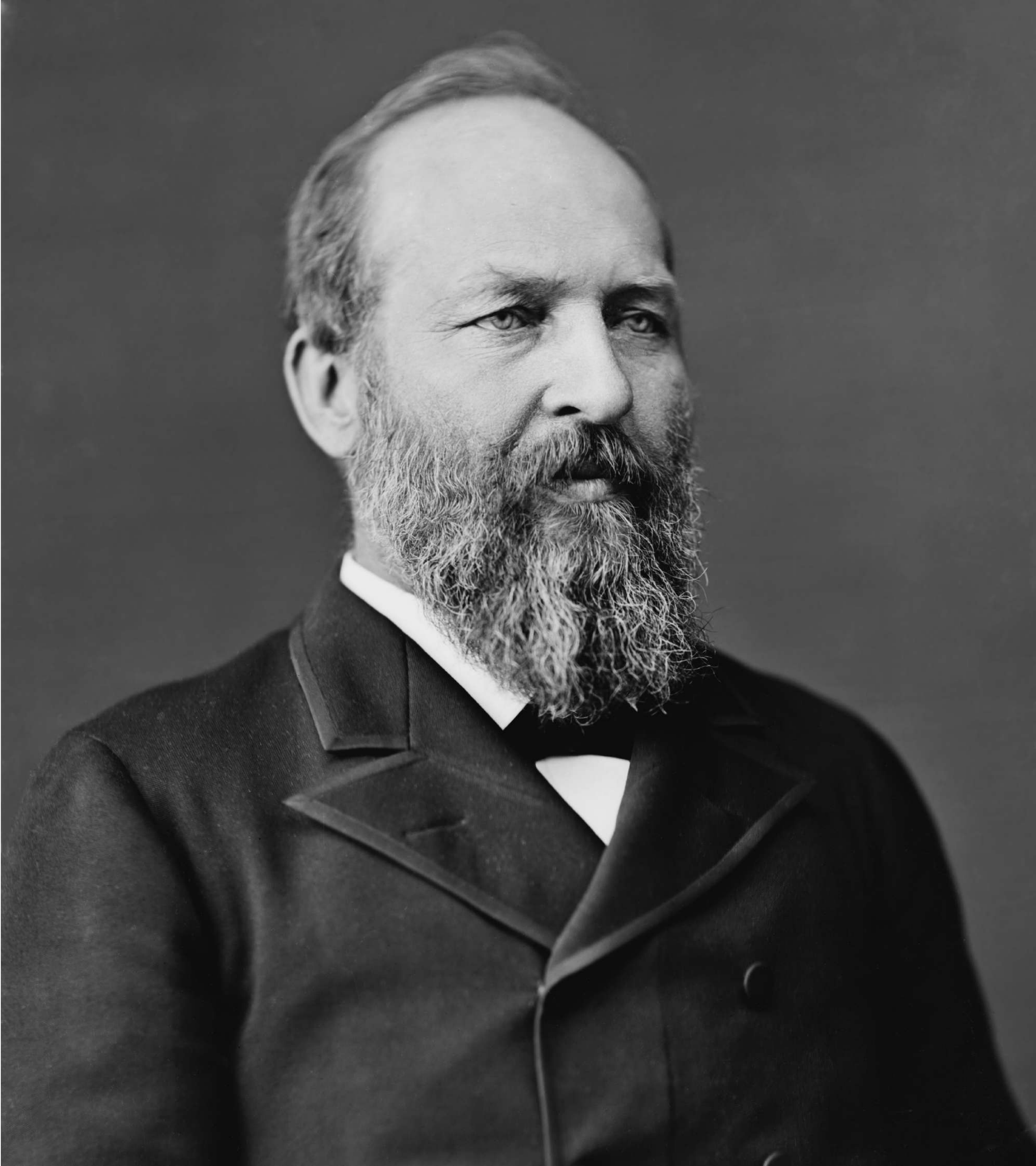
- Tried to work as
legislators and
administrative leaders**

Hayes, Garfield, Arthur

- **Hayes (R): attempts to overhaul the spoils system**
- **Ended Reconstruction in the South**



- **Garfield (R): Tried to work independently**
- **Wanted to reduce tariff and increase relations with Latin America**
- **July 1881 Charles Guiteau shot Garfield**



- **Arthur (R): Became dignified and temperate after years as “party hack”**
- **Signed Pendleton Civil Service Act**



Cleveland and Harrison

- **Cleveland (D):**
 - **expanded civil service, vetoed private pension bills, urged Congress to cut tariffs**



- **Benjamin Harrison (R):**
 - **Used bribery and multiple voting to win Indiana and NY**
 - **Supported civil service reform**
 - **Signed Dependent's Pension Act; provided (overly) generous aid to injured war veterans**
 - **\$1 billion government budget**



- **Cleveland (D):**
 - **Failed at tariff reform**

3.1.7 “Black Lives (Don’t) Matter...”

Violence against African Americans

**Economic opportunities
for African Americans
were still rare**

- 90% of southern blacks
were farmers or
servants**



- **Discrimination was rampant**
- **“sundown towns”**
 - **Only whites on the streets at night**
- **Most lynching victims were accused of assault on a white women**

Disfranchisement

White supremacists found new ways to keep blacks in inferior positions

- **Poll taxes (\$1-\$2)**
 - **“Mississippi Plan”**
 - **Poll tax (8 months in advance) and literacy test**
- **Literacy tests**

U.S. v. Reese (1876)

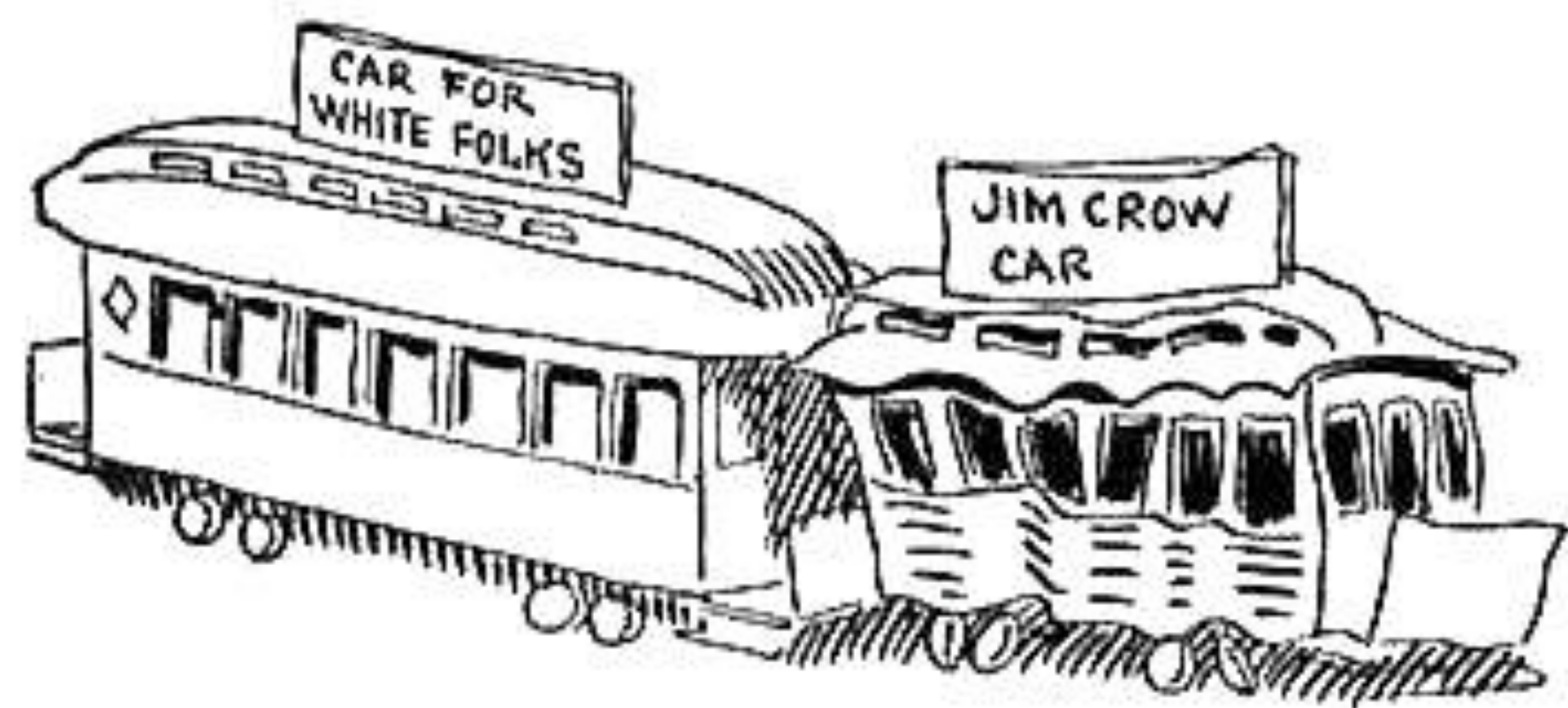
- **Congress had no control over local and state elections other than 15th Amendment**
- **“Grandfather clause”**
- **Exempted sons and grandsons of those eligible to vote prior to 1867**

Legal Segregation

**1870s, Supreme Court
said 14th Amendment
only protected civil rights
against state
governments**

- **Civil Rights Cases
(1883): Court struck
down 1875 Civil Rights
Act that prohibited
segregation in public
facilities, such as
streetcars, theaters, and
parks**
- **Said federal government
could not regulate
private behavior in
matters of race**

- ***Plessy v. Ferguson***
(1896)
- **allowed for “separate-but-equal” facilities at the state level**





WE WATER
TO WHITE TRADE
ONLY

**COLORED
WAITING ROOM**

**PRIVATE PROPERTY
NO PARKING**
Driving through or Turning Around

**BINGO
TONITE!**

Who's REALLY Behind the
Bingo Game in Your Town?
**Good
Housekeeping**
DESIGNED TO TELL THE STORY!

True Story
**HITLER'S
LOVE LIFE
REVEALED**

BY HIS
FORMER MAID

IN SALE HERE
FRITH BALDWIN'S
FROM HAWAII
HAWAII
Hawaii's Most Famous Tourist



3.1.8 The Farmers Crusade: Radical or Reactionary?

Politics & Public Service, 1892

- **Populist (or People's) Party platform in 1892 incorporated a host of popular reform ideas, including:**
 - **Australian (or Secret) Ballot**
 - **Popular Election of U.S. Senators**

- **Direct Democracy**
- **Banking Reform**
- **Government Ownership
of the Railroads**
- **Graduated Income Tax**
- **Free and Unlimited
Coinage of Silver
(Bimetallism)**

1873-78	Economic hard times hit
1876	Hayes is elected President
1877	Georgia passes poll tax
1878	Bland-Allison Act requires treasury to buy \$2 to \$4 million in silver each month
1883	Pendleton Civil Service Act introduces merit system
1886	<i>Wabash</i> case declares that only Congress can limit interstate commerce rates
1887	Farmers' Alliances are formed
1890	Mississippi Plan uses poll taxes and literacy tests

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1890s	Jim Crow laws are passed in southern states
1892	Populist convention in Omaha draws up a reform platform
1893-97	Major Economic Depression in U.S.
1896	McKinley is elected President, <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> establishes separate but equal doctrine
1900	Gold Standard Act requires all paper money to be backed by gold, <i>McKinley is reelected</i>

THE WIZARD OF OZ

With JUDY

GARLAND

FRANK

MORGAN

RAY

BOLGER

BERT

LAHR

JACK

HALEY

A VICTOR FLEMING
PRODUCTION • PRODUCED BY
MERVYN LEROY

Screen Play by Noel Langley, Florence Ryerson and Edgar Allan Woolf
From the Book by L. Frank Baum • Directed by VICTOR FLEMING



Billie BURKE

Margaret HAMILTON

Charley GRAPEWIN

and The MUNCHKINS

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER'S
TECHNICOLOR TRIUMPH!

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN U. S. A.





3.2 The Progressive Movement

3.2.1 Upper Class Reformers

3.2.2 Working Class Reform

3.2.3 Government Reform

3.2.4 Theodore Roosevelt's Bully Pulpit

**3.2.5 High Point for
Conservation**

**3.2.6 Was Taft a
True Progressive?**

**3.2.7 Wilson's New
Freedom**

3.2.1 Upper-Class Reformers

- **Elite women led organizations like...**
- **Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)**
 - **Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)**

- **Municipal Voters League, U.S. Chamber of Commerce**
- **Believed running schools, hospitals, and local government like businesses would stabilize society**

The Social Gospel

- **Led by Protestant ministers
Rauschenbusch,
Gladden, and Sheldon**

- **Brought religious values into the workplace... sought to create industrial harmony and improve the environment for the poor**

- **Believed helping led to salvation**
- **Tried to Americanize immigrants and Indians by expanding educational, economic, and cultural opportunities**



HOUSEWIVES
ALLIANCE

DEMANDS
PROPER
INSPECTION
OF MEAT

EAT NO MEAT
BUY NO MEAT
EAT FRESH VEGETABLES

3.2.2 Working Class Reform

Working Class Reformers

Bread and Butter reforms...

- **Safe factories,
shorter workdays,
workers'
compensation, and
better housing**

**Working Class Advocates
opposed prohibition,
Sunday closing laws, civil
service, and non-partisan
elections**

- **Because many were
involved in machine
politics**
- **Because they resented
being told what to do
by their “betters”**

Socialists

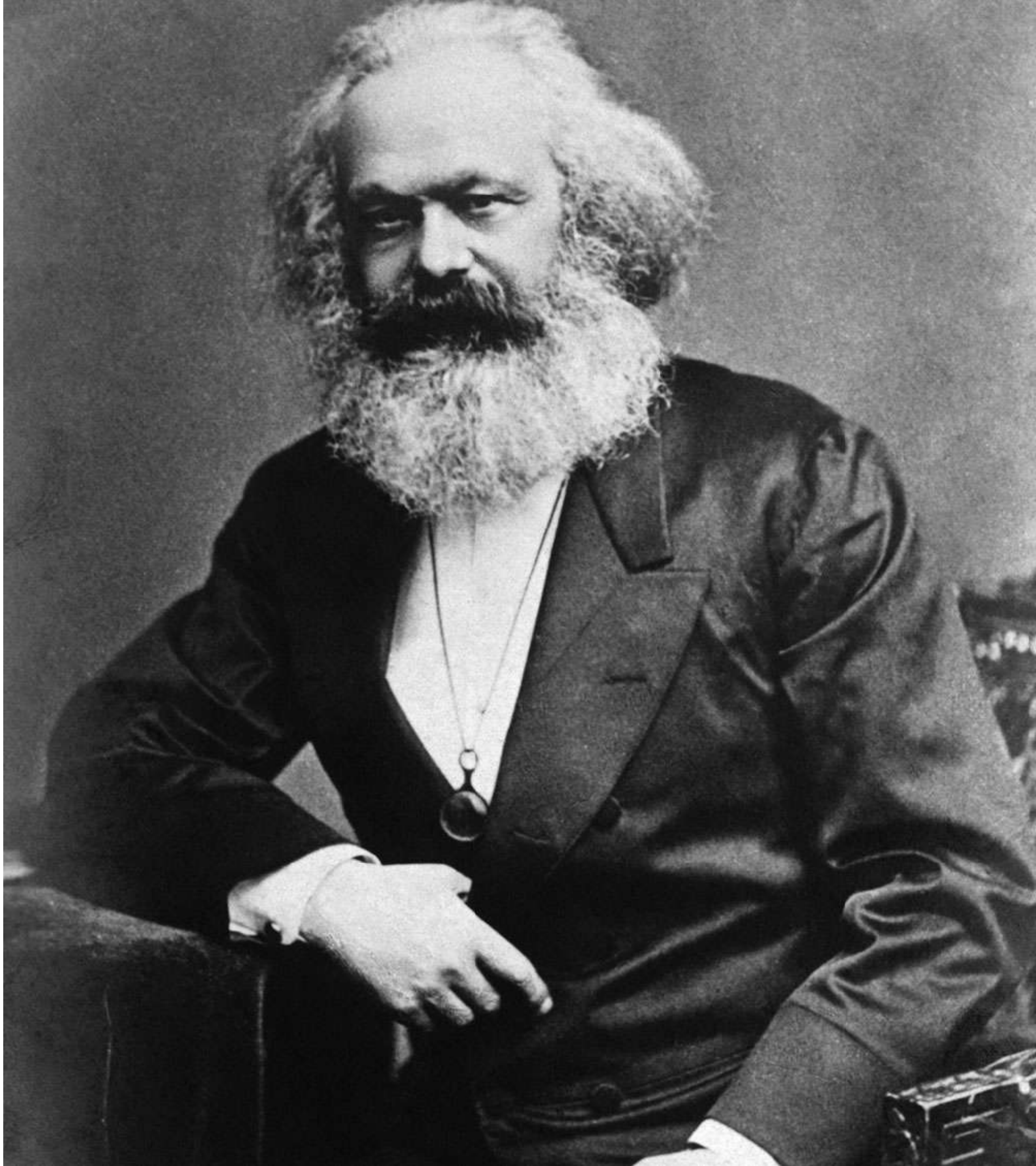
**Made up of disillusioned
immigrant intellectuals,
industrial workers,
Populists, miners, and
women's rights activists**

- **Desired a different
type of society
altogether**

**1912, the Socialist Party
of America, claimed
150,000 members and
700,000 subscribers to
newspapers**

- Organized behind
Indiana-born Eugene
V. Debs**

**The Prophet of the
Class Struggle,
Karl Marx
(1818-1883)**



Subscribe for the
INDUSTRIAL WORKER

Foremost Exponent of Revolutionary
Industrial Unionism

Published in the English Language

One Dollar per Year
Three Months 25c

P. O. Box 2129 Spokane, Washington

CAPITALISM

WE RULE YOU

WE FOOL YOU

WE SHOOT AT YOU

WE LAY FOR YOU

WE WORK FOR ALL

WE FEED ALL

PYRAMID OF CAPITALIST SYSTEM

The IWW Seeks Subscribers. 1911

- **This poster hoped to attract subscribers to Industrial Worker, the newspaper of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).**
- **A small but radical labor union**

- **Hoped to unify American workers in “one big union,”**
- **All jobs, genders, and races.**
- **“An injury to one is an injury to all.”**
- **100,000 members in 1923**
- **Known as Wobblies**

**Muckrakers were
reporters who
investigated social
injustices and exposed
them in print.**

- **These reporters dug up
“muck” (dirt) to expose
corruption in business
and government.**

Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*

**One of the worst
examples of corruption c.
1900 was the meat
packing industry.**

- **Dead rats, pieces of rope, workers' fingers and other debris were often scooped up and deposited in potted ham or other processed meats.**

- **Sinclair's book led to federal and state laws regulating meat packing.**



MCCLURE'S MAGAZINE

FOR JANUARY 1901



- **Tarbell was the most prominent female muckraker and a respected respected business historian. In 1904 she wrote an important, critical history of Standard Oil Company, The Mother of Trusts.**



The enormous effort of American suffragists to secure the vote for women finally succeeded with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920.

- **Alice Paul's hunger strikes and picketing of the White House had paid off.**



Melting Polt in P.S. 188, 1910

- **These immigrant children from the Lower East Side of New York are dressed in costumes from their native lands; they surround their teacher, dressed as the Statue of Liberty.**

- **Schools flooded with children who could scarcely speak English, tried to respect their students' ancestral cultures while also cultivating loyalty to their adopted country by teaching American “civics” and appreciation for patriotic symbols and rituals.**



Jane Addams and the Women's Peace Party Call for Peace, 1915

- **25,000 members who
claim to represent the
“mother half of humanity.”**
- **American entry into the
war in 1917 eroded
popular support**
- **pacifism considered anti-
American.**



PEACE

The Wages of Negligence

Officials review the charred remains of some of the survivors of the catastrophic Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire in 1911. Outrage over this calamity galvanized a generation of reformers to fight for better workplace safety rules.



“Out of Work and the Reason Why”, 1899

This temperance propaganda from an 1899 magazine illustrates the role of women in the temperance movement.

Alcohol abuse threatened the stability of the family.



3.2.3 Government Reform

Government and Legislative Reform

- **Late 1800s... the view that democratic government should be small came under question.**
 - **Middle Class reformers (PROGRESSIVES) rejected the laissez-faire government**

- **Wisconsin's Robert M. La Follette... dynamic progressive governor**
- **Instituted direct primaries, more equitable taxes, and regulation of railroads**
- **Crusades against corruption became commonplace throughout era**



Government and Legislative Reform

- Labor reforms... by 1916, two-thirds of states required compensation for victims of industrial accidents
- Prohibition... 1918-18th Amendment

- **Prostitution... Chicago Vice Commission: “scientific” survey of dance halls and published The Social Evil in Chicago**
- **Other areas of reform including public schools, universities, social sciences, social work**

3.2.4 Theodore Roosevelt's Bully Pulpit

- **1898, organized a brigade called the Rough Riders to fight in Cuba during Spanish-American War**
- **Serves as NYC Police Commissioner, Asst. Secretary of the Navy, writes a dozen western novels.**

- **McKinley assassinated by an anarchist in 1901, Roosevelt becomes president**
- **Becomes quintessential progressive president with his rugged individualism, conservationist ideas, and personal, activist reform agenda**



Roosevelt Tames the Trusts

- **Roosevelt did not attack all trusts indiscriminately.**

- **He pursued a few high-profile cases against a handful of corporate giants, in order to “tame” other businesses into accepting government regulation.**



3.2.5 High Point for Conservation

- **Roosevelt and
famed naturalist
John Muir at Glacier
Point, Yosemite
Valley, California.**



The Machine and Nature

- **These 1911 sightseers at the Grand Canyon in 1911 unwittingly foreshadowed the mass tourism that arrived with the car.**

- **Soon millions of motorized Americans would flee from cities and suburbs to overrun wilderness sites.**

HARPER'S WEEKLY

EDITED BY GEORGE HARVEY



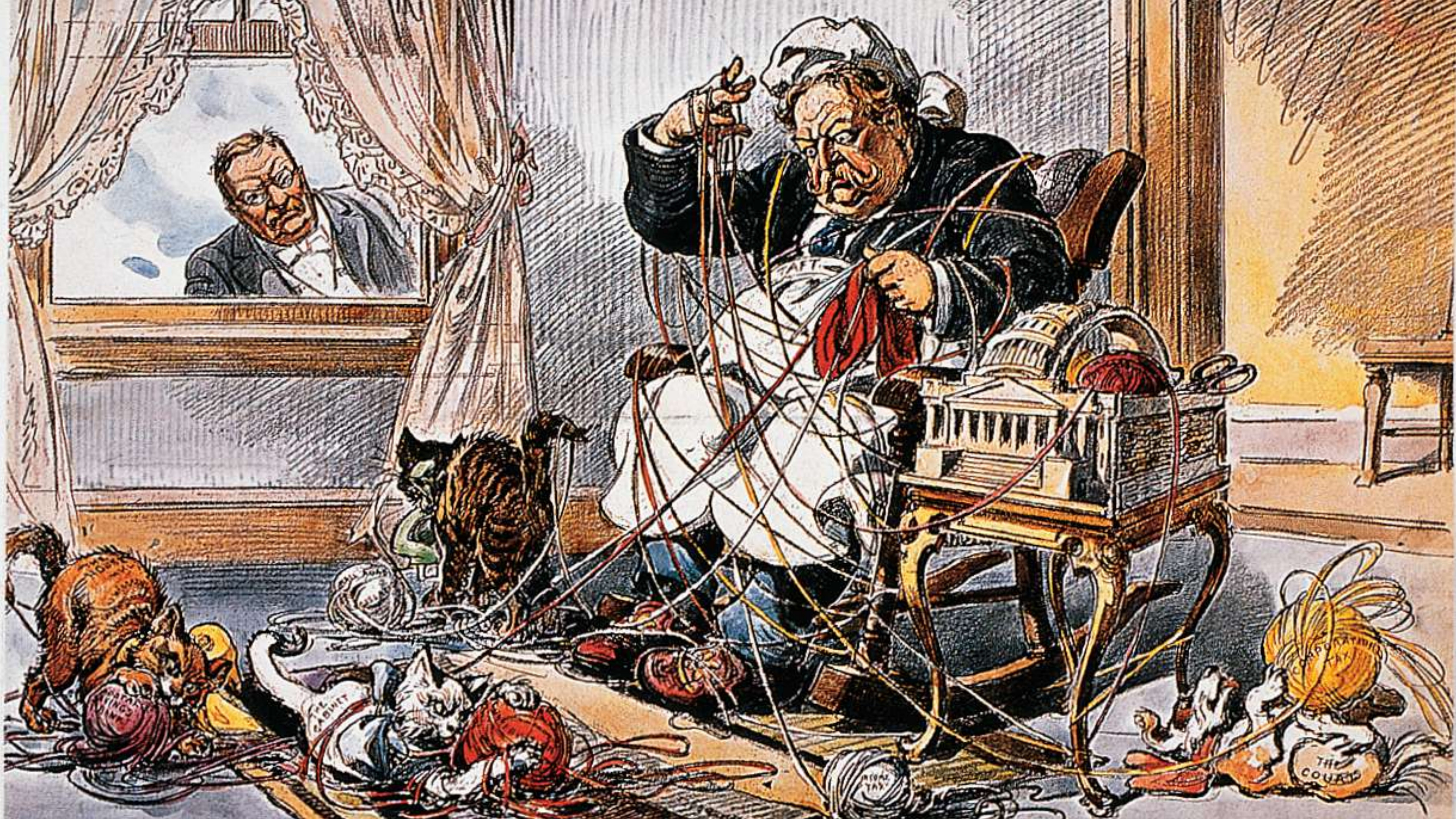
W.H.D. Koerner - '11

3.2.6 Was Taft a True Progressive?

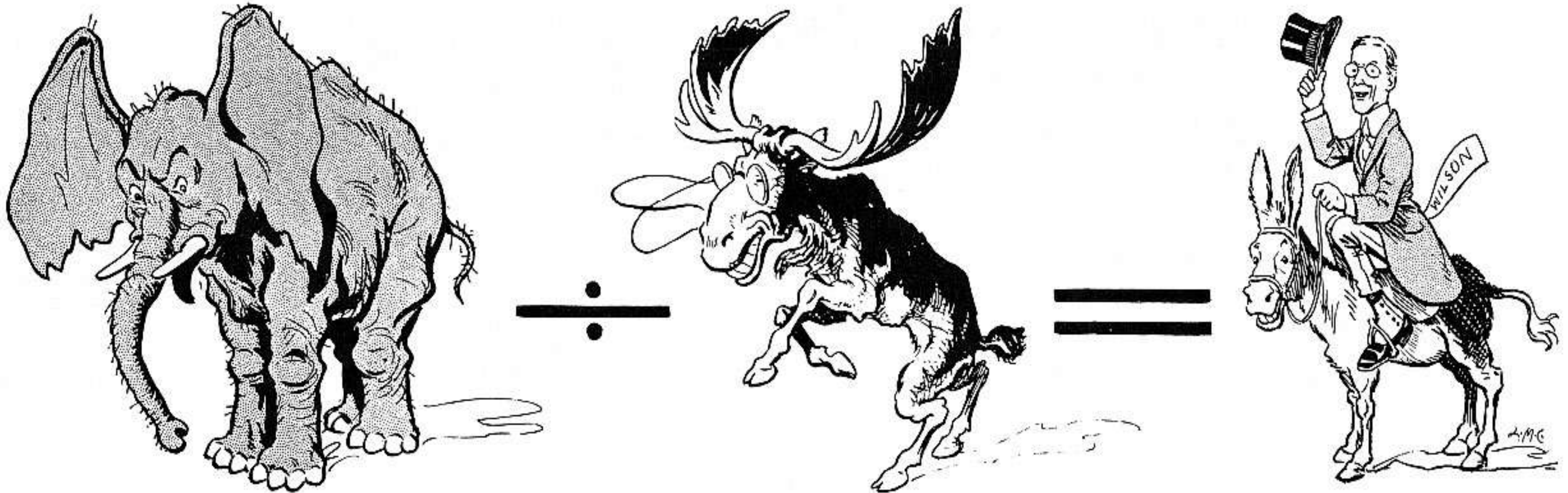
Baby, Kiss Papa Good-Bye

- **Theodore Roosevelt leaves his baby, “My Policies,” in the hands of his chosen successor, William Howard Taft.**



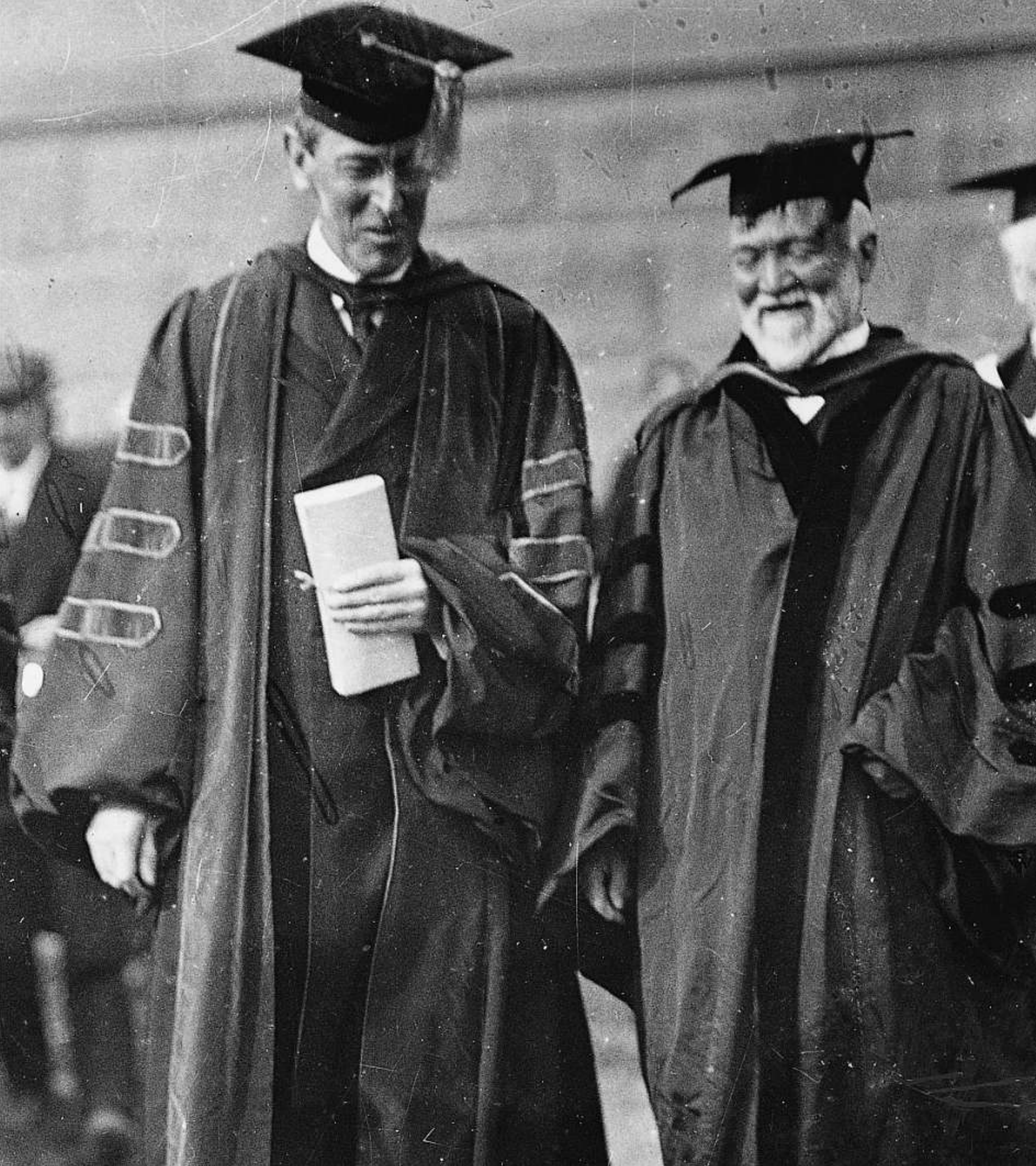


GOP Divided By Bull Moose Equals Democratic Victory, 1912



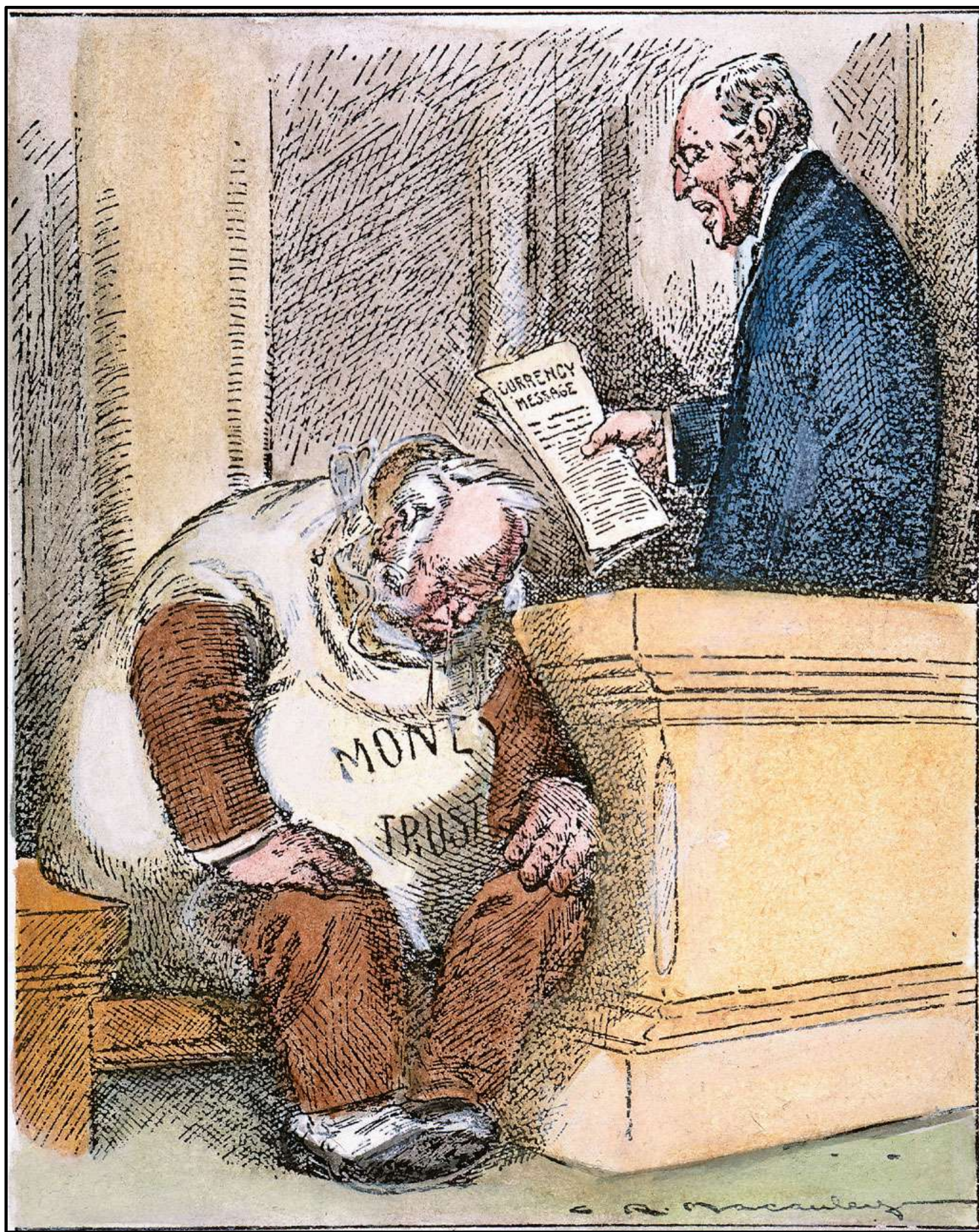
3.2.7 Wilson's New Freedom

- **Wilson first served as president of Princeton University (1902–1910) and governor of New Jersey (1910–1912).**
- **Reform was always his hallmark.**
- **“I would rather fail in a cause that I know some day will triumph than to win in a cause that I know some day will fail.”**



Reading the Death Warrant

- This New York Sun cartoon appeared soon after Woodrow Wilson called for dramatic banking reform.



- **Wilson quickly won popular and congressional support for the Federal Reserve Act of 1913.**