

Andrew Carnegie

Andrew Carnegie was the owner Carnegie Steel during the late 1800s. Using tactics that he was exposed to during his time in the railroad industry, he became one of the wealthiest business owners. His business, started in Pennsylvania, used both vertical and horizontal integration in order to achieve success. Carnegie's business became the world's largest industrial corporation. His company was eventually purchased by JP Morgan and it became part of the United States Steel Corporation. Andrew Carnegie is important because of the way he and others like him (John D Rockefeller) exploited their workers, which led to strikes like the Homestead Steel Strike. This showed the ruthlessness of robber barons. Carnegie felt guilt from all of this and gave money to places like libraries.

Sherman Anti-Trust Act

The Sherman Anti-Trust Act was passed in Washington DC during the late 1800s by John Sherman of Ohio. This act was created in order to get rid of trusts and other contacts or combinations that restrained trade. Because of the act's failure to define "trust" or "restraint of trade," the act was relatively ineffective. The act was also used to help big businesses in some cases. They were also used against labour unions since unions "restrained trade" when they went on strike. The Sherman Anti-Trust is important because it was intended to hurt trust but it was instead used against labour unions (and radicals like Samuel Debs). It was, however, an attempt to do something about trusts.

American Federation of Labour

The American Federation of Labour was founded in the late 1800s by Samuel Gompers. It was the most successful of the early labour unions and had over one million members by the 1900s. This labour union concentrated and realistic goals and less on social reformations. They worked for eight-hour wages and better working conditions in America known as "bread and butter" issues. The American Federation of Labour coordinated strikes and boycotts in attempt to get their opinions heard by big businesses. The American Federation of Labour is important because it was the first successful union and it focused on "bread and butter" issues that were important to American labourers.

Haymarket Square Bombing

The Haymarket Square bombing took place in the late 1800s in Chicago. Before the bombing itself, a labour protest was taking place. People like Samuel Fielden addressed the crowd of labourers gathered there. They were mainly strikers replaced by scabs who wanted an eight-hour work day. Anarchistic things were said, prompting cops to arrest people. An unknown person threw a bomb, killing and injuring police officers. The police officers began firing and hit some of their own. There were eight men who were arrested for being involved. The Haymarket Square bombing is important because it led to the Red Scare and made people worry about communism and anarchy. This led to anti-Union feelings in America.

Pullman Strike

The Pullman Strike broke out in the late 1800s in Chicago. This strike, linked to George Foreman (and Eugene Debs as well), became the first instance of the injunction of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and was against the Pullman Palace Car Company near Chicago. Members of the American Railway Union started the strike due to a 25% wage cut. Debs was one of the first to call for the strike against Pullman's company by boycotting the cars. The strike eventually led to violence and led to the use of federal troops. The Pullman Strike is important because it was the first time that the Sherman Anti-Trust Act was used against unions. This set a precedent for future cases.

Eugene Debs

Eugene Debs was the founder of the Industrial Workers of the World and was known as a fighter for labor unions in the late 1800s and into the early 1900s. He became a socialist after he was thrown in jail after the Pullman Strike (at George Pullman's plant) and the injunction of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. He gave speeches all over America and became quite popular despite his socialist or "un American" ideas. Debs also ran for president multiple times (from federal prison in Washington DC no less). He ran under the Socialist Party. Eugene Debs is important because he was a symbol of the unions and fought for the rights of the workers. He was one of the first labor union radicals.

Laissez-Faire

Laissez-Faire was an idea created around the late 1700s by Adam Smith in Scotland. It was discussed in his work *The Wealth of Nations*, which was a book promoting a free market economy. This idea started in Britain but also shaped American business in the 1800s. Starting as part of an antithesis on Mercantilism, it became a justification for the government as to why they were not becoming too involved with/controlling big businesses. America in the mid-late 1800s, however, was not truly following the ideas of laissez-faire because the government did help and interfere with big business, through acts like the Pacific Railroad act and the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. Laissez-Faire is important because it was used to justify the government's actions and promoted a more open economy.