

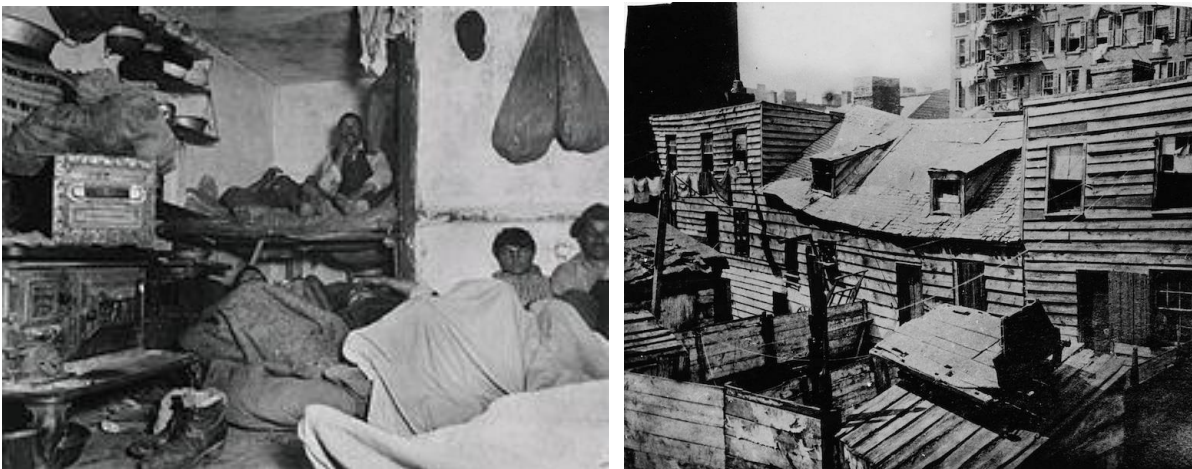
The Muckrakers

Lincoln Steffens – Shame of the Cities, 1904

Bribery was widespread. Men empowered to issue peddlers' licenses and permits to citizens who wished to erect awnings or use a portion of the sidewalk for storage purposes charged an amount in excess of the prices stipulated by law, and pocketed the difference. . . . City carriages were used by the wives and children of city officials. Supplies for public institutions [schools, homeless shelters, and soup kitchens] found their way to the private tables of government officials. A member of the Assembly who owned a grocery company succeeded in having his bid for city supplies accepted although the prices of those supplies were in excess of his competitors'. In return for the favor thus shown, he endorsed a measure to award the contract for city printing to another member, and these two voted "yes" on a bill granting to a third the exclusive right to furnish city pharmacies with drugs.

Men ran into debt to the extent of thousands of dollars for the sake of election to either branch of the Assembly. The debt could be quickly paid off - once in office, one Councilman stated that he was paid \$50,000 for his vote on a single measure.

Jacob Riis - How the Other Half Lives, 1890



Ida Tarbell - History of the Standard Oil Company, 1904

Rockefeller and his associates did not build the Standard Oil Co. in the boardrooms of Wall Street banks. They fought their way to control by rebate and drawback, bribe and blackmail, espionage and price cutting, by ruthless ... efficiency of organization.

. . . . And he (Rockefeller) calls his great organization a benefaction (something that is good for society), and points to his church-going and charities as proof of his righteousness. This is supreme wrong-doing cloaked by religion. There is but one name for it -- hypocrisy.

Upton Sinclair - The Jungle, 1906

There was never the least attention paid to what was cut up for sausage; meat that was moldy and white would be doused with borax and glycerine and dumped into the hoppers (grinding barrels) and made over again for home consumption. There would be meat that had tumbled out on the floor in the dirt and sawdust where workers had tramped and spit. There would be meat stored in great piles in rooms; and the water from leaky roofs would drip over it, and thousands of rats would race about on it. A man could run his hand over these piles of meat and sweep off handfuls of the dried dung of rates. These rats were nuisances, and the packers would put poisoned bread out for them, they would die, and then rats, bread, and meat would go into the hoppers together.

John Spargo - The Bitter Cry of Children, 1906

Work in the coal breakers is exceedingly hard and dangerous. Crouched over the chutes, the boys sit hour after hour, picking out the pieces of slate and other refuse from the coal as it rushes past to the washers. From the cramped position they have to assume, most of them become more or less deformed and bent-backed like old men.

The coal is hard, and accidents to the hands, such as cut, broken, or crushed fingers, are common among the boys. Sometimes there is a worse accident: a terrified shriek is heard, and a boy is mangled and torn in the machinery, or disappears in the chute to be picked out later smothered and dead. Clouds of dust fill the breakers and are inhaled by the boys, laying the foundations for asthma and miners' consumption (tuberculosis).

Miners have again and again told me that there are hundreds of little boys of nine and ten years of age employed in the coal mines of this state (despite the legal age being 12).

Progressive Movement

Issue or Problem	Muckraker who exposed the problem (Name and book)	A specific example or detail of the problem cited by the muckraker	Effort by government or individual to address the problem
Unsafe food or other products			
Poor Working Conditions			
Monopolies			
Corruption in Government			
Urban Poverty/poor living conditions			

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