



Creation of the FDA, 1906  
(FDA)

MUNUC 34



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## CHAIR LETTER

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MUNUC 34 and to our committee, The Jungle: The Creation of the FDA, 1906! I'm Shweta, and I will be your chair. To briefly introduce myself, I am a second year at the College interested in studying political science or history. I am extremely involved in UChicago's MUNiverse—I am also chairing a journalists' rights committee for our collegiate conference, ChoMUN, and I compete on our travel team. I was born in India, but I grew up in multiple places including Taiwan, China, and the United States. When I moved to the US I was exposed to the breadth of American history and I loved learning about the transition from the Gilded Age to the Progressive Era, which is the period of time our committee will focus on.

This period was critical to the United States' history because it paved the way for widespread social and political reform. Health regulations, corporate activity, the advent of muckraking, and the rights of immigrants, women, children, and laborers are all engaging topics worth discussing during committee. We encourage you to consider the role of all these issues when drafting your founding resolution and when shaping your crisis arcs. In doing so, we hope you gain a better understanding of not only the creation of the FDA but also the socio-political climate in which it was formed. Many variables were at play surrounding the FDA's establishment, and I'm really excited to see you all collaborate and juggle these factors!

As a gentle reminder, considering our committee will be set in a time when women, immigrants, and other minority communities did not have the same rights as they do today, it is vital that we speak with sensitivity and respect during the committee. Being considerate of your fellow delegates' backgrounds and identities is essential whether that is during the GA or crisis sessions, frontroom or backroom. If we see any rhetoric or behaviour that is concerning, we will immediately shut it down. Tolerance and respect is our utmost priority (followed closely by having a great time!).

I look forward to getting to know you all, and I'm so excited to be able to work with you! I truly hope you enjoy this experience as a delegate as much as we did creating it. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to me!

Best,

Shweta Nanda

Chair, Creation of the FDA, 1906

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# CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTER

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Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to The Jungle: The Creation of the FDA, 1906! Before diving into committee details, I want to first introduce myself. My name is Angelysse Madsen, and I am a second year student at UChicago studying business economics, psychology, and neuroscience. Outside of my studies, I am a co-chair on the student government committee on campus sustainability, a peer mentor for the Class of 2025, and am very involved in the MUNiverse here at UChicago. Not only am I your CD for this committee, but I am chairing a Peru committee for our collegiate conference, ChoMUN, and I compete on our traveling team. Free time is scarce for me, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

Moving on from me and onto the more interesting topic: the FDA. I found myself fascinated with the whole topic of the industrial revolution through the Progressive Era in the United States, partially because of the wide range of niche topics to cover in it, but also because it is broadly looked over. We know that Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* led to the creation of the FDA, but what about everything else in between? Public outrage didn't just magically make rich businessmen and congressmen agree to introduce food regulation legislation; it was far more complex than that, and this is what I am so excited to explore throughout the weekend as your Crisis Director!

While Model UN (and especially crisis, a large chunk of this hybrid committee) is supposed to be fun, we will be discussing a time in which women, minorities, and many others did not have the same rights as they do today. These and other sensitive topics may come up so please be considerate in the ways in which you respond to crisis updates and interact with fellow delegates, as well as in the direction you decide to take your backroom when the time comes. We will not hesitate to shut down any arc or speech that is disrespectful to anyone or any belief.

Despite this, we are so excited to bring you this committee and can't wait to see what you come up with over the course of the weekend. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me. I am looking forward to meeting you all and walking through the creation of the FDA with you!

Cheers,

Angelysse Madsen

Crisis Director, Creation of the FDA, 1906

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## SENSITIVITY NOTE

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This committee covers the creation of the Food and Drug Administration following the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act and Meat Inspection Act. The FDA's establishment takes place during the Progressive Era, a socially and politically revolutionary time in the United States. Our committee's topic is exciting because in history, it changed the way we regulate food, drugs, and beverages in the United States. We hope you're as excited to walk through this time in history as we are!

Despite the fun and excitement that comes with doing Model UN, there are also many opportunities for actions and comments that are not suitable for committee that will result in disciplinary action. Our goal is for MUNUC to be a welcoming and safe community for everyone involved, and the guidelines outlined below help to ensure that this is the case.

There will be no tolerance for racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, or any other form of discrimination. We will also not tolerate any bigotry against any belief system, nationality, or cultural identities. Whether a comment is unintentional, comedic, or outright, it will not be tolerated.

This committee takes place during a time where women, children, members of the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, and other marginalized communities did not hold the rights they do today. In fact, most of these groups still do not have the ability to exercise such rights. Therefore, any attempt to reduce anyone's rights will not be tolerated, even if done with the intention of maintaining historical accuracy. In committee, any attempts in frontroom or backroom to reduce a specific community's wages, withhold their rights, or advocate for the revocation of any previously granted rights will be viewed as discriminatory and shut down.

While we aim for the teaching of history here at MUNUC, we expect that we treat social issues in the same light we hold them in today.

Delegates must show respect for their fellow delegates, members of the dais, and MUNUC as a whole. It is common for tensions to arise in committee between members, and there is nothing

wrong with healthy competition and debate. However, it is essential that we do not allow it to get out of hand and cause someone to feel unsafe in this environment. We ask that you all have mutual respect and understanding for your other delegates and dais to ensure that all of you walk away with a positive experience.

If you have any questions about what topics will or will not be allowed in committee, please do not hesitate to ask. Before, during, and after committee sessions, members of the dais will be available to answer questions regarding notes, arcs, or anything else on the topic. As stated above, we want to create a safe and productive environment and will happily entertain any questions in an effort to do so.



## COMMITTEE STRUCTURE & MECHANICS

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This committee is a hybrid, which means we will be incorporating both crisis and General assembly (GA) elements. We will open with a State of the World update: Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* has just been published and has gained a lot of traction. Citizens, journalists, and scientists are calling for action, and the government is facing pressures to create a regulatory agency. After this opening update, you will then move into two GA sessions. During the GA sessions, you will work to create the FDA and its policies as you see fit. We will provide you with guidelines and things to consider later in the background guide which we will highlight again in committee before beginning the resolution-writing process. During this time, we will do one note run per GA session to let you begin developing resources and your backroom arc without putting significant focus into it.

Once the FDA is created, we will move into continuous crisis where we will use crisis breaks to stress-test the organization you have created. During the continuous crisis sessions, there will be a full backroom with semi-accelerated arcs. Due to the first two of five sessions being taken up with GA, we will be more lenient with detail in notes and will be more inclined to accept larger asks so that you can still have a full backroom experience. During the continuous crisis, there will be directive writing and passing in the frontroom per usual crisis guidelines. For more information about the crisis portions, check out the MUNUC Delegate Training Materials on the website, [munuc.org](http://munuc.org)!

## LETTER FROM HARVEY WILEY

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Dear Delegates,

I write to you as Harvey W. Wiley. I am the current Head of the Bureau of Chemistry, and since the FDA is under the jurisdiction of the Bureau, I have been appointed to oversee this organization. I am here as an overseer, someone to guide debate, and prompt efficient use of our time together.

As one of the most influential voices behind the Pure Food and Drug Act, I have come up with a variety of topics I would like to see discussed in committee and acknowledged in the official legislation of the FDA that you will all be collaboratively writing. There are a lot of viewpoints, opinions, and voices to be heard, and I am excited to see what compromises we reach.

One big thing to consider is how large of a role you want the central government to play in this organization. We are here as a government-sanctioned body because it is evident that businesses cannot be left to their own devices to regulate food and drugs safely. However, that doesn't mean complete and total government oversight. That would make most businessmen angry, and we can't have that. The degree and method to which the government intervenes is one of the most important decisions you as a committee must make. You also must carefully define how you will regulate food and drug production, whether this be directly thought of as the FDA or through a subsequent body you can create.

Another thing you need to keep in mind is the workers. While the Pure Food and Drug Act and Meat Inspection Act directly affect plant owners and producers, the workers also need to be considered. There have been numerous worker strikes and while improving their working conditions will help, you need to make sure that employers are still paying the same or higher wages despite higher costs of production.

Animal disease is prominent in the US and may be a large source of the poor quality of meat in the market. Since low quality or infected meat will no longer be tolerated, animal disease may also need

to be considered. It may also be necessary to invest more time and resources in bacterial and viral disease sciences to help create cures for anything that causes harm to people in their ingested food.

While the US has increased regulation of exports due to Europe having previously higher food quality standards, this is no longer the case. We import and export a lot of food products, and it is important that we are importing food that is up to our standards as well as producing it.

While capitalists were looking to make a profit, these new regulations will diminish their profit margins greatly. Their concerns for staying in business are now our business, since a shrinking market will only lead to more monopolies forming and jobs lost.

Your task as the Food and Drug Administration is to outline the guidelines for food and drugs that companies must follow, find a way to uniformly enforce these rules, and set up ways for this organization to continue moving forward in its food, drug, and beverage standards.

Best,

Harvey W. Wiley

# TOPIC: CREATION OF THE FDA

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## History of the Problem

### ***The Gilded Age***

The Gilded Age describes the period of rapid economic growth after the American Civil War between 1870 and 1900 in the United States. The term Gilded Age was conceived by Mark Twain who wrote a novel titled *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today* in 1873. The book mocked the promise of the “golden age” after the Civil War, implying that the Gilded Age was an era of intense socio-political issues masked under a thin gold layer of economic expansion.<sup>1</sup> Characteristics of the Gilded Age are its significant economic and industrial growth, its increased political participation and corruption, and the widespread desire for reform across various communities.

### ***Industrial Growth and Railroads***

The Gilded Age was propelled by the Second Industrial Revolution, also known as the Technology Revolution, in the United States. This period of economic boom in the United States made it the vanguard of industrialization across the world. The nation was expanding quickly into heavy industries like that of factory manufacturing and mining. In fact, in 1890, manufacturing and mining made up 30 percent of the country’s Gross National Product (GNP) while agriculture made up 19 percent.<sup>2</sup> Most important to the rapid growth of industry across the country, however, was the enormous expansion of railroads. An increase in steel production was experienced in the 1860s, effectively allowing for railways to be made from steel instead of iron at a competitive price. Steel was a more durable material and its strength meant that longer lengths of rail could be put down, increasing the speed of railroad production.<sup>3</sup> In 1869, the first Transcontinental Railroad was established, allowing access to the mining and ranching regions in the West. Such progress

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<sup>1</sup> Upchurch, T. Adams (2009). *Historical Dictionary of the Gilded Age*. Scarecrow Press. p. 82. ISBN 978-0810862999. Retrieved April 7, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> “The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Advanced Placement United States History Study Guide.” *The Rise of Industrial America, 1877-1900* | AP US History Study Guide from The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, 29 Nov. 2011, ap.gilderlehrman.org/essays/rise-industrial-america-1877-1900.

<sup>3</sup> “The Age Of Steel.” *AMERICAN HERITAGE*, 1 Aug. 2021, www.americanheritage.com/age-steel.

continued—railroad production tripled between 1860 and 1880, and it doubled in size by 1920.<sup>4</sup> The enormous expansion of rail lines during the Gilded Age allowed for the movement of people and ideas at an unprecedented rate. Furthermore, the new tracks allowed areas isolated from one another to be connected, a development that contributed to the rise of commercial farming and the national marketplace.

### ***Innovation and Monopolies***

The United States' steel production skyrocketed with the assembly of the transcontinental railroad, but this wasn't the only industry that took off. The Gilded Age saw over 50,000 patents,<sup>5</sup> securing the United States' role as not only an industrial hub but also an innovative one. Thomas Edison, for instance, invented and patented the incandescent lightbulb in 1879.<sup>6</sup> In 1885, the American Telephone & Telegraph Company (now AT&T) was founded, revolutionizing communication across the US.<sup>7</sup> These are some of the most well-known creations of the Gilded Age.

While the era was quite profitable, it also saw the rise of monopolists—critically called “robber barons.” These individuals were wealthy industrialists and financiers who struck it rich by investing in US industry.<sup>8</sup> Among the most notable was Andrew Carnegie of Carnegie Steel, which revolutionized steel production and was later sold to JP Morgan in 1902 for \$492 million (about \$15 billion today), making it the largest business transaction in modern history.<sup>9</sup> Other figures include Standard Oil founder John Rockefeller, financier J.P. Morgan, and coke manufacturer Henry Clay Frick. The title “robber barons” was given to these individuals by critics who believed they were making profits at the expense of others, especially their workers. Nevertheless, they also had many admirers, who thought of them as “Captains of Industry” and praised them for their philanthropy. Carnegie, for one,

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<sup>4</sup> “Gilded Age - Industrial and Technological Advances.” *Gilded Age - Industrial and Technological Advances | Industrial Technological Advances*, [www.liquisearch.com/gilded\\_age/industrial\\_and\\_technological\\_advances](http://www.liquisearch.com/gilded_age/industrial_and_technological_advances).

<sup>5</sup> “U.S. Patent Activity Calendar Years 1790 to the Present.” *U.S. Patent Activity, CY 1790 to Present*, [www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/taf/h\\_counts.htm](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/taf/h_counts.htm).

<sup>6</sup> “The History of the Light Bulb.” *Energy.gov*, [www.energy.gov/articles/history-light-bulb](http://www.energy.gov/articles/history-light-bulb)

<sup>7</sup> “Bell System.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., [www.britannica.com/topic/Bell-System](http://www.britannica.com/topic/Bell-System).

<sup>8</sup> Zinn, Howard (2005). “11: Robber Barons and Rebels”. *A People's History of the United States*. New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics. pp. 253–95. ISBN 978-0-06-083865-2.

<sup>9</sup> “J.P. Morgan - Carnegie Steel.” *Biography.com*, A&E Networks Television, 12 Apr. 2019, [www.biography.com/video/jp-morgan-carnegie-steel-29734979567](http://www.biography.com/video/jp-morgan-carnegie-steel-29734979567).

acted upon his idea of the “Gospel of Wealth,” the notion that the wealthy are responsible for taking part in philanthropic activities such as giving money to charities.<sup>10</sup>

### ***Politics in the Gilded Age: Increased political participation and corruption***

The political landscape of the Gilded Age was quite contradictory. At the national and local levels, it was riddled with scandal and corruption. Politicians were invested in the gains of urban political machines, handing out government service jobs to their supporters, and increasing their own profits rather than tackling important political issues. Voter turnout was at the highest its ever been in American history. In 1876, almost 82 percent of the voting population cast their ballot for the presidential election.<sup>11</sup> The Gilded Age was quite literally the golden age of American political participation. However, while individuals may be eager to believe American pride brought people to the polls during those years, in actuality, corruption did. Political bosses of political machines would commit voter fraud to ensure they remained in office. Constituents, or members of a political machine, would vote early and vote frequently. In fact, they would travel from one polling location to another to cast illegal votes. During one such election in the Gilded Age, a district in New York even reported more votes than it had residents!<sup>12</sup>

### ***Political Machines***

During the Gilded Age, within urban localities, there were a wide range of interests because there were diverse groups and communities. As a result, one group may have demanded for a more elaborate sewage system while another group may have advocated for improved education in schools.<sup>13</sup> Effectively, it was difficult to reconcile the requests of all these groups and local governments struggled to do so given their limited resources and employees. Amidst this political chaos, political bosses came to power. Political bosses were prepared to engage in corrupt acts to

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<sup>10</sup> Carnegie, Andrew. "The Gospel of Wealth, 1889." *Profiles in Audacity: Great Decisions and how They Were Made* (2006): 269.

<sup>11</sup> "Voter Turnout in Presidential Elections." *Voter Turnout in Presidential Elections | The American Presidency Project*, [www.presidency.ucsb.edu/statistics/data/voter-turnout-in-presidential-elections](http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/statistics/data/voter-turnout-in-presidential-elections).

<sup>12</sup> "Corruption Runs Wild." *Ushistory.org*, Independence Hall Association, [www.ushistory.org/us/38d.asp](http://www.ushistory.org/us/38d.asp).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

increase their power by bringing order to cities. The mechanism through which they controlled individuals and maintained power is known as a political machine.

Urban political machines were central to the political landscape of the Gilded Age. As mentioned, political machines were organizations run by a single boss or a small group, and they commanded enough votes to maintain political and administrative control over a county, city, or state. Political machines would build a loyal voter base and provide that base favors like providing housing and jobs. Immigrant groups, for instance, who dealt with the hardships of urban life after immigration, often turned to urban political machines for support. These machines were extremely hierarchical—they would reach down to the neighborhood level in order to respond to the individual needs of different communities. Effectively, their ability to respond to the custom needs of individuals ensured that they would see loyalty at the polls when election time came.

The structure of a political machine was composed by bosses or a county committee, election district captains, and party loyalists.<sup>14</sup> The boss or bosses would be responsible for governing the party and controlling politicians; election district captains would mobilize support at the grassroots level; and the party loyalists were constituents who supported the machine by pledging their votes in return for employment, financial support, and other necessary favors.<sup>15</sup> When these three elements worked together, they ensured that any political machine would stay in power.

Unfortunately, political machines used bribes, kickbacks, patronage, and voter fraud to maintain power—they epitomized corruption. These actions allowed them to manipulate and control taxes, contracts, and voting. For this reason, reform groups called for reviewing the election process as it was the only way to undermine the power of political machines.<sup>16</sup> Political machines began to decline by the start of the twentieth century due to the eventual cleansing of the election process and the exposés undertaken by political cartoonist Thomas Nast.

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<sup>14</sup>*Political Machines*, [www.socialstudieshelp.com/USRA\\_Pol\\_Machines.htm](http://www.socialstudieshelp.com/USRA_Pol_Machines.htm).

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> Center for History and New Media. "The Object of History: Behind the Scenes with the Curators of the National Museum of American History." *The Object of History | Behind the Scenes with the Curators of the National Museum of American History*, [objectofhistory.org/objects/brieftour/votingmachine/index.html](http://objectofhistory.org/objects/brieftour/votingmachine/index.html).

## ***The Progressive Era***

Enter the Progressive Era, an era that, unfortunately, did not entirely live up to its name. The beginning of the Progressive Era overlapped with the end of the Gilded Age, and was characterized by attempts to enact social and political change. There were many critics during the Gilded Age, with some writing of the robber barons and wealth inequality, some about child labor, and others about politics and women's rights. The Progressive Era saw these concerns brought under a legislative light.

### ***Muckraking and Social Reform***

The beginning of the Progressive Era aligns well with the beginning of the age of mass media. At the time, the "big" forms of media were magazines and tabloids where gossip, news, and advertisements could be fed to the public in large quantities. With the increase in advertising across the nation, the cost of magazines fell, making it more accessible to every socioeconomic status. The biggest selling point for these magazines and journals were the articles written by muckrakers, journalists who highlighted the corruption of politics, the government, and the robber barons. Their entire career was based on highlighting scandals and sins of the wealthy capitalists and of the government, fostering feelings of doubt and mistrust in the nation's most powerful, previously unquestioned institutions.

*McClure's Magazine* was the most widely read and distributed muckraking magazine. It covered the sins of monopolies, big business, and political machines, but it also raised awareness for unfavorable living conditions of the poor, social injustices such as child labor and unsafe working conditions.

Perhaps the most well-known muckraker of them all was Upton Sinclair, with his most notable work, *The Jungle*. Sinclair actually intended for this piece to be an argument for socialism and immigrants' rights in the United States, but readers were far more engrossed by his disturbing descriptions of the filth and inhumane working conditions of the meat packing industry. His account of the meatpacking industry was nauseating: "The meat would be shoveled into carts, and the man who did the shoveling would not trouble to life out a rat even when he saw one—there were things that went into the sausage in comparison with which a poisoned rat was a tidbit. There was no place for the men to



wash their hands before they ate their dinner, and so made a practice of washing them in the water that was to be ladled into the sausage."<sup>17</sup> *The Jungle* provoked the administration of Theodore Roosevelt to reform food regulation within the United States because it elicited powerful and repulsed reactions from the public. Outcry over the contents of the book led to the government's passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Federal Meat Inspection Act of 1906. Evidently, the work of muckrakers was tantamount to the progressive efforts of this era.

Despite the success of the book, Sinclair ironically said that he "aimed at the public's heart, and by accident I hit the stomach,"<sup>18</sup> because *The Jungle* transformed food regulation as opposed to social justice issues.

### ***Overall Government Reform***

A main goal of the Progressive Era was to limit or eradicate corruption, and the government was not exempt from this, as seen through the extensive legislation passed. In order to efficiently collect and use taxes that were not shared with the states, the federal government ratified the 16th amendment in 1913, which allowed the federal government to collect an income tax from all its citizens. Income tax allows the federal government to execute certain duties such as enforcing laws and maintaining an army. In addition, the 17th amendment was adopted in 1913, and it provided for the direct election of senators by the voters within the state. It changed the existing mechanism which provided for the appointment of senators by state legislatures. While the passage of the 16th amendment reflected a desire for efficiency within the government, the passage of the 17th amendment highlighted the discontent with the corruption that characterized political systems and elections across the country.<sup>19</sup> These efforts showcase the desire to limit corruption at both the federal and state level by stopping legislatures from ignoring the wishes of the people. Cultural changes were also reflected at the national levels through the passage of other amendments. For instance, Prohibition was put into effect with the 18th amendment while women obtained the right to vote with the 19th amendment. The passage of these amendments represents the changing

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<sup>17</sup> "The Jungle." *Google Books*, Google, books.google.com/books?id=IDTuAAAAMAAJ&q=sausage+lad

<sup>18</sup> Grosso, Joseph (10 December 2020). "Spoiled Meat: the Beef Industry in the United States". *Counterpunch*. Retrieved 10 December 2020.

<sup>19</sup> "Seventeenth Amendment." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/topic/Seventeenth-Amendment.

mentality seen throughout the Progressive Era. This was a time in history where Americans started to stand up for what they believed was right rather than listen without question to the wealthy and powerful. This energy reverberated across the country and was seen in many forms, such as social and political change as well as the enactment of new government policy. The passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act and the creation of the FDA are other examples of this mindset that was held by people across America.

### ***Meatpacking Industry, Food Regulation, and the Birth of the FDA***

Toward the end of the 19th century, the railroad network expanded across the United States, and the Midwest became a hub of industry. In Chicago, the Union Stock Yards opened in 1865,<sup>20</sup> serving as a center for livestock slaughter and meat-packing. The establishment of the Union Stock Yards was indicative of the growth and conglomeration of the meat-packing industry. In an effort to secure more profits as the industry expanded, producers capitalized on the use of cheap labour and a lack of regulation. A majority of the workers within slaughterhouses were immigrants, and many were child laborers, but all worked in horrendous conditions. Not only were workers subjected to conditions that were unsanitary and unregulated, but they also had to cope with grueling long hours, unsafe machinery, and pitifully low wages. These poor working conditions amplified unionization and gave rise to many labour strikes in the prime decades of the meat industry.

Additionally, producers thrived due to the lack of food regulation. Meats were often contaminated, rotten, or infested with bacteria. Workers were not told to quality-check their products, and they were not ordered to wear protective clothing. Although it existed, refrigeration was an issue, as were basic hygiene concerns like dropping meat on filthy floors

and mixing bodily fluids like blood and bile with the meat. Evidently, the industry lacked substantial regulation, and its procedures were offensive to workers and onlookers alike.

Fortunately, the advent of muckraking spurred the government to pass improved consumer protection laws and create an overarching body, now known as the Food and Drug Administration.

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<sup>20</sup> *Meatpacking*, [www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/804.html](http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/804.html).

As mentioned previously, journalist Upton Sinclair's work *The Jungle* led to significant food reform, specifically the government's passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Federal Meat Inspection Act of 1906. The main purposes of these acts were to ban the traffic and exchange of contaminated and misbranded food and drug items and to set standards of purity levels for food.<sup>21</sup> Previous efforts to undertake food regulation were not enforced. For instance, in 1898, the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists established a Committee on Food Standards, and states attempted to incorporate these standards into their regulation of food.<sup>22</sup> However, these efforts were not pushed for at a national level, so they were often circumvented. In contrast, the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act were federal actions, and they brought food oversight to the forefront of political conversations, in turn ensuring better enforcement. At the time, the Bureau of Chemistry was made responsible to oversee the enforcement of such laws; however, its powers were transferred to a new body called the Food, Drug, and Insecticide Administration, now known as the Food and Drug Administration. The passage of the Food and Drug Act and Meat Inspection Act in 1906 mark the birth of the FDA.

### ***Antitrust Reform and Legislation***

During the Progressive Era, the government ensured that trust busting was its priority. Trusts, or monopolies disguised as multiple corporations, were common in the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era as capitalists were able to outpace tradesmen in oil, steel, tobacco, and sea shipment services.<sup>23</sup> Defenders of large corporations believed that trusts created jobs and efficiently produced and distributed goods and services at a lower cost. Furthermore, they claimed that property rights permitted businesses to advance their economic interests as they wished without government interference. This belief draws from the concept of the laissez-faire idea of capitalism, or the idea that one should let businesses act without the help of the government.

Outside of the corporate world, people attacked the practices of the "robber barons." Large corporations sold their products below their actual cost, drove their competitors out of business, and

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<sup>21</sup> "The Pure Food and Drug Act." *U.S. Capitol Visitor Center*, [www.visitthecapitol.gov/exhibitions/congress-and-progressive-era/pure-food-and-drug-act](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov/exhibitions/congress-and-progressive-era/pure-food-and-drug-act).

<sup>22</sup> Commissioner, Office of the. "Food Standards and the 1906 Act." *U.S. Food and Drug Administration*, FDA, [www.fda.gov/about-fda/histories-product-regulation/food-standards-and-1906-act](http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/histories-product-regulation/food-standards-and-1906-act).

<sup>23</sup> Moody. "International Mercantile Marine Company. 'The Shipping Trust'". *The Truth About The Trusts*. pp. 97–107.

compelled them to merge with their business. When dominant firms had eliminated their competition and monopolized the market, they became the only viable business in that market to turn to. As a result, they could set whatever prices and wages they wanted, often unfairly exploiting their consumers and laborers. Public criticism and government concern over the strength of certain trusts grew steadily in the late 1800s and it led to large-scale antitrust reform during the Progressive Era.

Under the presidencies of Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Taft, over 100 companies were targeted for their monopolistic nature.<sup>24</sup> John Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company, for instance, was broken into three separate companies after the Supreme Court agreed in 1911 that it violated the Sherman Antitrust Act, a notable piece of legislation passed in 1890 that desired free competition in commerce. The rise of trusts within the early 1900s, however, provoked the government to pass the Clayton Antitrust Act in 1914. The Clayton Antitrust Act advanced American antitrust goals as it gave the government more authority to intervene and break up large businesses.<sup>25</sup> Unlike the Sherman Act, which was unclear as to what business practices were unethical, the Clayton Act clarified that specific business actions like price discrimination were problematic. The Clayton Antitrust Act was well received by both the government and the working class, as it also served as a basis for legislation that benefited union workers and laborers.

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<sup>24</sup>Boundless. "Boundless US History." *Lumen*, courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-ushistory/chapter/the-politics-of-progressivism/.

<sup>25</sup>"The Clayton Antitrust Act." *US House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives*, history.house.gov/HistoricalHighlight/Detail/15032424979.

## Statement of the Problem

In 1905, Upton Sinclair wrote a book called *The Jungle* that exposed the horrors of the meat-packing industry. He emphasized the unsanitary working conditions and their effects on the workers and on the meat products sold to US citizens and abroad. The expansion of mass media facilitated American outrage, leading to demands for change. This was during the Progressive Era, a time where people stopped holding back their anger against the government and the robber barons and used this momentum to force the government to step in and do something about their demands. Through the power of labor unions, muckrakers, and Congress, the Pure Food and Drug Act was passed in 1906 in conjunction with the Meat Inspection Act, and created what is now known as the Food and Drug Administration. There had been previous attempts at regulating food safety, such as Harvey Wiley's Committee on Food Standards in 1898 and the Biologics Control Act in 1902, but no substantial change had followed these laws.

The American desire for reform across all industries, including food, was palpable during the Progressive Era. The 1905 Report of the Secretary of Agriculture by Harvard University sheds light on the need for food oversight: "It is becoming more and more evident, however, that for the complete control of evils of this kind interstate regulation of commerce in such articles is necessary. For this reason the officials of various states, as well as the food manufacturers and consumers, are almost a unit in demanding that Congress enact legislation looking to control interstate commerce in adulterated foods, drinks, and drugs. Such an act would tend to unify the state laws and bring them into harmony, to give greater effect to the food standards which have been proclaimed under the authority of congress, and to control in the most efficient manner the evils of food adulteration."<sup>26</sup>

Alongside food regulation, the Progressive Era interacted with social justice issues, labor policies, and anti-corruption desires. Delegates must consider the role and intersection of all these factors as they navigate the role and function of the newly created Food and Drug Administration.

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<sup>26</sup> States., United. "Report of the Secretary of Agriculture / United States Department of Agriculture. 1905." HathiTrust, <hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044089523286?urlappend=;seq>.

## ***Food Standards and Inspection***

In 1904 there were regulations in place for American food imports and exports but there were no clear improvements to the standards of food produced in the US. By 1905 it was known that many commonly-used preservatives were harmful to consumers and the Department of Agriculture said that their use should be limited, if not banned.<sup>27</sup> There was also no clear way of regulating food quality, such as a committee or section of the government, so following through with any of this protocol was difficult. States also had held autonomy in how they handled food, drink, and drug inspection, leaving a lot of room for error. The Bureau of Chemistry did hold legal power to conduct food quality inspections, but it was not effective enough.<sup>28</sup>

Swine diseases were common across the US and by the time of the creation of the FDA, scientists were in the early stages of vaccine development to treat it. Vaccines were not new, as the first one was created in 1798,<sup>29</sup> but bacterial vaccine development was still in its infancy. There were a variety of bacterial infections and diseases throughout the farms and factories, but none of them could be as quickly healed as in the modern day. Tuberculosis was still common and studies were still being conducted as to its causes and effects and seemed to be an issue primarily in cattle, which would affect both beef and dairy products. On paper, there were inspections of cattle both before and after their slaughter, but most of the meat inspected was either imported or planned to be exported; in terms of meat that stayed within the country, regulations were sparse.<sup>30</sup>

## ***New Societal Norms***

The Progressive Era saw a large change in the social dynamic. The middle class was the driving force behind the progress of the era, as they had the money and education to lead the movement as well as the numbers and respect that the rich capitalists lacked. The middle class took the anger and rage

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<sup>27</sup>States., United. "Report of the Secretary of Agriculture / United States Department of Agriculture. 1905." *HathiTrust*, [hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044089523286?urlappend=;seq](https://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044089523286?urlappend=;seq).

<sup>28</sup>States., United. "Report of the Secretary of Agriculture / United States Department of Agriculture. 1904." *HathiTrust*, [hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044089523294](https://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044089523294).

<sup>29</sup>"A Brief History of Vaccination." *Immunisation Advisory Centre*, 8 Jan. 2020, [www.immune.org.nz/vaccines/vaccine-development/brief-history-vaccination](http://www.immune.org.nz/vaccines/vaccine-development/brief-history-vaccination).

<sup>30</sup>States., United. "Report of the Secretary of Agriculture / United States Department of Agriculture. 1905." *HathiTrust*, [hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044089523286?urlappend=;seq](https://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.32044089523286?urlappend=;seq).

they had against the upper class and their crimes and used it to propel America forward. They felt that the upper class was too individualistic and selfish, so they advocated for communication and harmony between the social classes.<sup>31</sup> This divide was fostered by the Industrial Revolution and the stark separation between the rich who built factories, the middle class who worked specialty and service jobs, farmers, and the poor who had to work in factories. Social class became more defined by jobs and wealth than ever before.

Victorian values were also pushed aside by women. Divorce rates increased as women began to fight against the typical social structure that had dominated America and the world previously. Women started obtaining higher education and working jobs outside of the house, pushing families further apart. However, women were still seen as responsible for taking care of the home, which limited their progress.

### ***Labor Unions and Labor Policy***

Labor unions were formed due to the harsh working conditions created by the Industrial Revolution and the Gilded Age. Both of these time periods saw rapid growth in cities and factories, but this growth was unaccompanied by safety, health, or wage regulations. This allowed factory owners and managers to pay very little, have unsafe and unclean facilities, and have no one to stop them. Eventually, labor unions were formed by workers to try to help improve the working environment of the lower and middle classes.

For the beginning years of their existence, labor unions were composed of skilled laborers and did not really cater to the needs or concerns of industrial workers. While trade unionism was semi-effective in treating workers' immediate needs, it didn't cause any long term change or labor reform until the Progressive Era.<sup>32</sup> In 1886, the American Federation of Labor was formed, and was headed by Samuel Gompers, a notable union man in America. This would be a launching pad for many more unions to come.

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<sup>31</sup> Wiebe, Robert H (1967). *The Search For Order: 1877–1920*. New York: Hill and Wang. p. 111.

<sup>32</sup>History.com Editors. "Labor Movement." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 29 Oct. 2009, [www.history.com/topics/19th-century/labor](http://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/labor)

## ***Conclusion***

As committee begins, the structure and policies of the FDA are being curated, and the setting is as follows: The Pure Food and Drug Act prohibits interstate trade of poor-quality and misbranded food and drink items, and the Meat Inspection Act prohibits the use of poisonous preservatives and dyes used in food. Passing these acts is not enough; it is up to you, as the new members of the Food and Drug Administration, to outline how these laws will be enacted and enforced, as well as how the department of this new government office will look.



# Character Biographies

## 1. Willard D Bigelow, Food Scientist

Willard Bigelow is a native Kansas resident with a tornado of a personality. He was born into a big family but didn't let the lack of the spotlight stop him from achieving a lot during his lifetime. After graduating from Amherst College, Willard (often called Bill or Willy) continued his studies in Germany and solidified his interest in chemistry. Seeing as it had been the previous hub of the scientific revolution, he was thrilled to learn of the history and meet with chemists and various scientists who had studied under "the greats."

When he returned to the United States, he pursued a career in chemistry. He first worked in labs to build up his resume and eventually began to write books. He always had an interest in food, as his early papers were about food, food control, apples, and wine. He also studied the effects of European food regulation on American exports, another factor that made him well suited to serve on the FDA. Bigelow is sure to help propel America forward in terms of food and drug regulations, whether big businesses like it or not. He would be happy to give the government and his committee a strong hand in regulating food and drug production within the United States and will do what he can to keep the people and the economy thriving.

## 2. Samuel Hopkins Adams, New York City Muckraker

Samuel was born in New York to a minister, but he was never really the Church-going type. Since no one opens the door for a native New Yorker, he had to open doors to a career himself. He worked his way up the ladder and attended Hamilton College where he found that his main hobby was the opposite of "treat others the way you want to be treated": Adams loved journalism, specifically the sect called muckraking. His father never approved, but the apple fell far from the tree as Samuel had already been married, had two kids, and divorced by the age of 36.

Samuel's career began at the *New York Sun* as a reporter, but he knew he could do better. He eventually got hired by *McClure's Magazine*, a prime muckraking hub that made 'Samuel Hopkins Adams' a household name. In 1904 he became an editor and worked with others such as Ida Tarbell

and Ray Stannard Baker. What separated him from the rest, however, was his 1905 series of articles entitled "The American Fraud." These articles exposed the false advertising and claims made by patent companies which were damaging the health of the American public. Alongside *The Jungle*, this was one of the influential pieces that led to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906.

Freshly divorced and needing something to spice things up, Adams joined the FDA. After all, Adams has a clear passion for unveiling the failures of big corporations (what would later be known as "big pharma") and he had already contributed to the organization's formation through his work at *McClure's*. Adams strongly supports regulation of the food and drug industry and is happy to throw anyone, or anything, under the bus to make sure the public knows the truth about the industry.

### **3. Themistocles Zammit, Scientist**

Besides having the best name known to man, Sir Themistocles (Temi) Zammit was a true jack of all trades. He grew up in the country of Malta where he was interested in archeology, history, medicine, research, and writing. Somehow, he managed to entangle all of these into his career. He finished his medical schooling at the University of Malta where his specific interest in bacteriology emerged. His most notable and impressive work thus far was written in 1905 when he discovered that it was through contaminated milk from goats that humans were able to contract Brucellosis melitensis, a bacterial infection. This was also known as the Mediterranean Fever, or Malta Fever, and his discovery of its cause earned him knighthood in Malta.

Despite being across the Atlantic at the time, this discovery caught the American eye. With all of the turmoil caused by the new passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act, the FDA was looking for individuals of all expertises to help create the agency that would protect the American people and regulate interest and Sir Zammit seemed like an obvious choice. He would, of course, be most interested in the dairy and dairy-producing animal sector of the food and drug industry since that's where his early successes were from, but he is also knowledgeable about bacterial infections in general and may have an interest in dealing with disease control in livestock.

#### **4. Robert Koch, Nobel Prize Winner for Tuberculosis Research**

Robert Koch (ko-sh) has been a prodigy since birth. Despite being born to a mining family, by the age of 5 he taught himself to read using a newspaper, with little to no assistance from his parents. His accomplishments did not end there, however. At 19, he went to study medicine in Germany and took an interest in infectious disease. Before diving into research, he spent time working in hospitals, passing his medical exams, and helped the medical team during the Franco-Prussian War.

He went on to study anthrax, a disease among farm animals, and confirmed like many before him that it was transmitted via the blood of an infected animal. He eventually became a Professor of Hygiene at the University of Berlin and also headed its Institute of Hygiene. Koch remained close to his colleagues even after he left the school to pursue studies in South Africa, London, and many other places around the world. He always maintained his interest in disease, but his focus at this point in his life was tuberculosis and other bovine diseases. In 1905, he received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for his work and discoveries about tuberculosis. His studies and previous accomplishments have made him passionate about reducing the spread of diseases from animals to humans. Given that tuberculosis was still an issue in the US, he was a good fit for the FDA. Koch still remains in touch with many of his former colleagues around the world, and has a continued interest in animal disease and infection.

#### **5. Edward Fitzsimmons Dunn, Mayor of Chicago**

Edward was born in Ireland and raised in America, and he was a true Irish-Illinoisian for the entirety of his life. His parents emigrated from Ireland to Peoria, Illinois, when he was only an infant, and he and his 3 sisters were raised there throughout their childhoods. After graduating highschool, Dunn went to college in Dublin per his father's request, but had to come back a year before graduation when his father had a financial crisis. After finishing college in Illinois, he settled down, married, and started a successful law firm. Peace would be hard to come by, however, since he and his wife had 13 children.

In 1905, Dunn ran in the Chicago mayoral election and won. His platform was focused on social issues, something highly praised by reformists throughout the country at the time. His primary campaign focus was having the state take over the ownership of the streetcar lines following a large

public issue in Chicago regarding the franchising of streetcar ownership. Whether or not he will be successful is yet to be seen. Dunn is a strong negotiator and businessman, however quite pro-state in his leanings when it comes to hot topic social issues. He has strong connections with past coworkers from his law firm days, as well as with his 13 children. He's seen the horrors of the meatpacking industry in Chicago and is eager to work on solutions to this issue.

## **6. Philip Danforth Armour, Meatpacking Plant Owner**

Meat is an American staple, and Philip Danforth Armour took advantage of this and the limited guidelines in the industry. A businessman from the start, Armour first made money in the California gold rush and continued to profit by starting a soap business back on the east coast. He grew up in New York, so he was familiar with getting his using a little elbow grease to get work done (ironic given his soap company). He then moved to the midwest, and the rest of his work primarily took place in Chicago.

You could say he "hogged" the market. He introduced bringing live hogs into the city instead of slaughtering them in the country, the assembly line process for hog disassembly, and used as much of the hog as possible to reduce waste. Once refrigerated rail cars were invented, the market was his as he branded his own rail cars and soon became the largest fleet of refrigerated railcars in the country. In the 1890s, Armour & Co. was one of the largest meatpacking plants in the US.

By 1905, he was known as a philanthropist, however many critics argued against this. He was a capitalist working to cut costs and maximize profits. Part of this was done through his waste reduction system that produced things besides meat with the other parts of the animal. However, despite his methods he still faced a number of worker and union strikes and had to deal with the aftermath. He is concerned with meeting his workers demands while maintaining his prestige in the meat industry in the midwest and throughout the country.

## **7. John Fitzpatrick, Leader of Chicago Federation of Labor**

John was born in Ireland and immigrated to America when he was 11 and settled down with his family in Chicago. After he finished schooling, his main passion became horseshoeing. He joined the

International Journeyman Horseshoer's Union (IJHU) and remained affiliated with the organization for the next 30 years. He was a union man, and it didn't stop with horseshoes. He served as a representative for the IJHU to the American Federation of Labor (AFL). This led him to become the organizer for the Chicago Federation of Labor in 1902. In 1906, he was elected as President of the organization. Labor movements were prevalent across the country, and seeing as Chicago had the primary meatpacking plants and major issues with labor laws, he was in a powerful position. The passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act was a step in the right direction, but there was more change that needed to come. Fitzpatrick lived an average American life and has experienced the real way Americans live, not the luxury life lived by senators and capitalists. He's been exposed to the failings of labor laws first hand, and will advocate for the people and American jobs at whatever cost to corporation owners.

## **8. Joseph Gurney Cannon, Speaker of the House**

Cannon's early years were mostly spent in Indiana with his family. He went to college in Cincinnati and studied law, and eventually passed the bar exam. However, looking to expand his clientele, he hopped on a train to Chicago but was kicked off for not having a ticket well before reaching his destination. Somehow, he managed to make his way to being a state's attorney for the 27th district of Illinois. When Lincoln was elected as President, he was appointed as a regional prosecutor, and shortly after he was elected to the United States House of Representatives for Illinois.

Cannon was an underdog no more, and was elected to be Speaker of the House in 1903 after four failed previous campaigns; he's resilient! Cannon was known for his antic speaking style and unprecedented ability to control debate. At the time, the Speaker was also in charge of the Rules Committee, which dictates how, when, and under what conditions proposed legislation can be discussed. Nothing entered the House floor without Cannon's permission, and given that he had beef with Teddy Roosevelt, this made for an interesting house dynamic. Cannon was a Republican, but the party was divided between the "Old Guard" (Cannon) and the "Progressives" (led by Roosevelt). He used his power to hold discipline among the Republicans, which made him both loved and hated.

When the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act passed, Cannon ascended to the height of his political career. No such debater had been seen before, and his ability to sway a conversation was uncanny. As a powerful government official, he had a different perspective that would benefit the Food and Drug Administration.

### **9. Charles William Elliot, Harvard University President**

Charles Eliot was born in Boston to the wealthy Eliot family. He completed his entire education there, graduating from high school and later Harvard University. Eliot, although wealthy, did not have a promising career ahead of him. Eliot taught chemistry at Harvard but subsisted on a teacher's wage. Furthermore, his dream job was offered to a fellow colleague and the financial failures of his father left Eliot in hot water. Many assumed he would go into business, but Eliot continued to stay in academia and studied educational systems of the Old World in Europe. Although this field of study sounds unprofitable, it's what allowed Eliot to find success.

During the 1800s, colleges in America, controlled by the clergy, pushed for only classical education which was not beneficial to students given American industrialization. Businessmen, who were reluctant to send their children to school, began to back the creation of schools and programs in science, technology, and research. Amidst this crisis, Eliot had returned from Europe, and he published an article in *The Atlantic* on how to reform American higher education, supplemented with the extensive knowledge he gained in Europe. The article impressed businessmen in charge of Harvard, and soon after, Eliot was made the youngest president of Harvard University!

Under Eliot, Harvard has become a large university, accepting students around America using standardized exams. The university hires academics from America and abroad to foster diversity of thought. Harvard's infrastructure has dramatically improved with laboratories, classrooms, and libraries. The revamped school draws in many donations from the wealthiest people, allowing Eliot to transform Harvard from a small college to America's leading research university. Education reform remains a priority, but given Eliot's extensive experience as a chemistry professor not only at Harvard but also at MIT, he is interested in discussions regarding medical advances and food regulation. As the president of the most prestigious university, Eliot is empirical and research-oriented. He has strong connections with his colleagues, businessmen, and academics abroad.

## **10. James Wilson, US Secretary of Agriculture**

James was one of 14 children born in his family in Scotland, so he's no stranger to competition. His family eventually moved to Iowa where he got a taste of farm life working with his family. His political career started with his election to the Iowa House of Representatives in 1867, but he changed his mind about the work a few years later and became a professor of agriculture at Iowa State. He was appointed to the Board of Trustees for Iowa's higher education, thus showing his love for education and especially for agricultural studies.

He ended up back in government in 1872 when he was elected as one of Iowa's Representatives, but returned home in 1877. He always seemed to migrate towards agriculture, and since no political career thus far had scratched that itch, it seemed a place in Washington was not for him. He served as Professor/Dean of Agriculture at Iowa State from 1890-1897. Wilson was tossed back into Washington once again when newly inaugurated President McKinley nominated him to be his Secretary of Agriculture. Finally finding something in politics that suited his interest, he accepted and went to Washington once more. He was appointed again as Secretary under Roosevelt, who had just been re-elected for another term.

While he's come to be known for modernizing agricultural methods and greater food inspection, he often worked against government control and regulation of the food industry. Wilson was not in favor of the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act, and will work towards limiting how much power the government can possess over businesses. He actively opposes grassroots movements like those spurred by Harvey Wiley, a prominent Chief of Chemistry who is well-known and respected in Washington, and head of the new FDA.

## **11. Ira Remsen, Chemist and President of Johns Hopkins University**

Chemist Ira Remsen was born in New York City in 1846. After earning his medical degree in New York, Remsen left for Germany to study chemistry, where he received his PhD. After returning to the United States, Remsen initially became a chemistry professor at Williams College; however, his talents were quickly recognized by Johns Hopkins University. Remsen founded the chemistry

department at Johns Hopkins, created the American Chemical Journal, and oversaw his own laboratory.

In 1879, Constantin Fahlberg, a researcher working with Remsen, accidentally discovered saccharin in Remsen's lab. He shared this information with Remsen, and together, they published their findings. Given their joint publication and Remsen's role as head of the lab, Remsen was incensed by Fahlberg's move to patent saccharin alone.

Nevertheless, Remsen was a wonderful teacher and maintained an esteemed reputation. In 1901, Remsen was appointed the president of Johns Hopkins. In this position, he established the School of Engineering and transformed JHU into a research university.

Remsen is still president of JHU in 1906. His chemical background and love for science means that he is actively interested in all the uproar surrounding food and drug regulation. Remsen's contacts within the academic world and business world, as well as resources like his very own laboratory, allow him to contemplate contributing to the issues of this time.

## **12. Alice Paul, Women's Rights Activist**

Alice Paul was born and raised in New Jersey to Quaker parents. Growing up, her parents advocated for women's education, gender equality, and the general betterment of society. Alice's mother was a suffragist and was a member of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). She even brought Alice to meetings with her, which inspired Alice to become a suffragist later in her life. She went to Swarthmore College for her secondary education, a Quaker institution founded in part by her grandfather. While she was there, she was a member of the student government, which further sparked her interest in political activism. After graduating from Swarthmore in 1905 with a degree in biology, she decided to do a fellowship year in New York City. She worked at a settlement house, which was a place of social activism and action by bringing together the rich and poor over common desires. Being in New York showed her how deeply she cared about social movements and social justice. Paul is a major women's rights activist, and will advocate for the rights of women and minorities in light of the Food and Drug Administration's creation.



### **13. Ida Tarbell, Women's Rights Activist and Muckraker**

Born in Pennsylvania in 1857, Ida Tarbell grew up to be a renowned investigative journalist. After graduating from college, Tarbell briefly taught and wrote but eventually moved to Paris. There, she enrolled in the Sorbonne and supported herself financially by writing for American magazines. *McClure's Magazine*, the most widely read and distributed muckraking magazine, hired Tarbell in 1894. The magazine wanted to expose the ills of American society and were looking for a new subject to zoom in on. Although the sugar and steel industries were considered, Tarbell and her fellow editors chose to follow Standard Oil for multiple reasons. First, Tarbell's childhood in the Pennsylvania oil fields after the outset of the oil boom offered her a personal association with the topic. Second, it was easier to target Standard Oil for unethical practices as the company was represented by a single individual—Rockefeller. *McClure's* thought that reporting on one person would make it easier for readers to understand the magnitude of power held by trusts in this time. Her notable investigative piece *The History of the Standard Oil Company* was sensational and contributed to the eventual breakup of Standard Oil and the passages of laws like the Clayton Antitrust Act. Naturally, the force of Tarbell's work inspired other writers and editors to pick up muckraking, ushering in an era of growing investigation and exposé of hidden troubles in America.

In 1906, Tarbell is still interested in social issues and trusts in America but she has left *McClure's* to save enough money to purchase *The American Magazine*. After acquiring the magazine, Tarbell hopes to write about what is right in America instead of what is wrong!

### **14. James Horan, Chicago Fire Marshall**

James Horan was born and raised in Illinois. As a child he loved boxing and grew up to be a sports enthusiast with a soft spot for the Chicago Cubs. Affectionately called Big Jim and Sunny Jim by those around him, Horan was Chicago's most popular fire chief in the early 1900s. He had started as a water boy in 1881 and had climbed the ranks to become an energetic and admired chief. Not only was he childhood friends with Chicago's mayor at the time, Fred Busse, but he was also favored by businessmen and insurance underwriters for his efforts to prevent fires. To add to that list, Horan grew up with Charles Comiskey, the founder of the Chicago White Sox. Horan was also passionate

about renovating the fire department. Over four years, multiple new firehouses were built, as well as Engines 101 through 117.

Because he has spent his whole life in firefighting, a public service job, Horan supports unions and advocates for better working conditions for all laborers. He hopes that government officials meet workers' demands across the country to rectify some of the union strikes. Furthermore, Horan acknowledges that he has friends in sectors entirely different from his own like politics and business. This advantage allows him to get the inside scoop on political and economic issues.

### **15. LM Shaw, US Secretary of the Treasury**

Leslie Mortier Shaw was born in Vermont and liked to think of it as the dairy capital of America. Aside from cheese, he grew up reading books and educating himself as he was never the outdoorsy type. While his friends and siblings were out canoeing and fishing, he was reading news articles and fulfilling his paper route. After he finished highschool, he went to Cornell College in Iowa where he studied law and investment. After graduating, he became both a lawyer and a banker and was the 17th governor of Iowa from 1898-1902, thus beginning his career in politics. Due to his background in finance, he was appointed to be Secretary of the Treasury under Theodore Roosevelt in 1902 and still holds this position. He is very pro-government action in terms of money, advocating for the introduction of treasury funds to serve the market when it's in crisis. With the intention of providing a more elastic currency, Shaw bought back government bonds from commercial banks, increased the number of depository banks, and told regional banks to stop holding cash reserves. This was the highest level of government intervention in the money supply ever seen in the United States; how long it will last and how it will be received is still unknown. In terms of food and drug regulation, Shaw is in favor of government intervention if it makes the market safer, so he will likely want to give power to the FDA and the government over the corporation owners.

### **16. Oscar S Straus, US Secretary of Commerce and Labor**

German-born American immigrant Oscar Straus was a scholar from birth. He attended Columbia College, then Columbia Law School, and then practiced law for the next eight years. After retiring from law in 1881, he became a merchant. He served as a minister to the Ottoman Empire twice, once

from 1887-89 and again from 1898-99. Straus is currently the frontrunner to be the Secretary of Commerce and Labor under President Roosevelt and he is likely to be appointed at the end of the year. His role in the FDA is largely concerned with methods of transporting food, drug, and beverage products as well as labor rights. He's a big government guy and will advocate for putting as much power in the hands of the government as possible. He has a lot of connections with richer businessmen from his days in law, so he's compassionate for the firms who will lose profits over the new regulations.

### **17. Charles W Morse, Steamship Businessman**

Charles Morse (not to be confused with the founder of Morse Code) was born into business. His family possessed a lot of power in the towing business in Maine, where he was born and raised. He attended Bowdoin College, and by the time he graduated, he already had a lot of capital in the family business. He went into the ice and timber shipping industry with his father and cousin, called C.W. Morse and Company. As the business grew, Charles moved to New Jersey and then to New York City in 1897.

After moving to the Big Apple, he shifted his focus to just the ice industry and organized the Consolidated Ice Company. In 1899, he merged with several other companies to form the American Ice Company, which essentially gave him a monopoly in the ice business in New York and earned him the title of "The Ice King." Looking to maximize profits, he attempted to raise the price of ice in 1900 using his monopoly powers, which backfired. The press was on top of it and revealed that he had been given special privileges from Tammany Hall to run his business in exchange for giving New York City's mayor substantial shares in the company. This corrupt behavior was dubbed "the ice trust," and Morse quickly manipulated some stocks and left the industry with \$12 million in profits.

This didn't stop Morse; in 1901 he consolidated three steamship lines to form the one Eastern Steamship Company. He continued to add more smaller lines to his steamship company, and is still consolidating further. He is probably aiming to take control of this industry, whether morally justified or not, since the profits from monopolized industries are high. While he hasn't been involved in the meat industry, the passing of the Pure Food and Drug act alongside many recent antitrust reforms are a threat to his chance at staying on top of the steamship market. He is a typical capitalist, against

government reform and oversight, and he likes to be left to his own devices to work the system and profit.

### **18. Florence Kelley, Social and Political Reformer**

Florence Kelley was born in Philadelphia and she dedicated her life to social reform. After graduating from Cornell University, she spent a year working with women in Philadelphia before she left for Europe. When she moved back to America, she lived in Jane Addams' Hull House in Chicago. During her time in Chicago, Kelley conducted investigations into life in the slums, sweatshops, and tenements of Chicago. Her published work reported on the difficult working conditions faced by women and children. Eventually, her work resonated with people and led to the passage of a law in Illinois that instituted limited working hours and the regulation of factories. Kelley also obtained a law degree from Northwestern University during this time. After a few years, Kelley moved to New York City where she organized leagues like the National Consumers League to promote federal legislation on better working conditions for children and women.

Kelley's interests guided her work and her membership in associations like the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Kelley is interested in advocating for all the various social issues she cares about in committee when discussing the establishment of the FDA, a department that will likely oversee the constituents she works with. She is pro-regulation and hopes that her passion and connections will ensure reform occurs.

### **19. Gustavus Franklin Swift, Chicago Meatpacker**

Born in Sandwich, Massachusetts in 1839, Gustavus Swift was destined to enter the meat industry. Swift grew up on a farm where his family raised and slaughtered cattle, hogs, and sheep. From these experiences, Swift was inspired to pack meat. Swift hated school and dropped out at the age of 14 to work at a butcher shop. A few years later, Swift opened his own butcher shop, but it took years for him to control the market.

In 1872, Swift partnered with James Hathway, a meat dealer from Boston. When the hub of the cattle market shifted to Chicago, Swift packed his bags, but he still felt that it would be more

profitable to sell meat if it was possible to ship fresh meat across the country instead of sending cattle to be slaughtered. This desire pushed Swift to hire an engineer and design the first refrigerator car which was ice-cooled. This invention revolutionized the meat packing industry but also increased Swift's profits.

In 1906, though Swift had brought most of the meat industry under control, he competed with a few other industrialists. However, Swift's plants are notorious for producing unsafe meat. Rumors are circulating that his plants use everything but the squeal! Given his capitalist nature, Swift hopes to maximize his profits. The passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act and antitrust reforms are threats to his power, and he hopes to deter government influence over his firms.

## **20. Sherman Bostick, Unionman**

Sherman Bostick is a Chicago native. He grew up in the southern side of the city in a family of 7 and knew the satisfaction of a hard day's work from childhood. He attended public school through highschool but was unable to pursue higher education because of the high cost. He started working first in a canning factory and then in a meatpacking plant. He quickly realized how horrendous the conditions were, but was too afraid to speak out against it for fear of losing his job. In 1897, he joined the Amalgamated Meat Cutters, a large union chartered by the American Federation of Labor to consolidate many Chicago unions. The Union had 56 departments, each representing a different worker in the meatpacking industry. The union was in fact so large and divided into different bodies that there would be times some workers were striking while others stayed on the job in the same city.

Bostick became passionate about the Union's work and climbed the ranks to a small leadership position. He helped lead the infamous strike in 1904, where 18,000 Chicago workers walked off the job demanding higher wages. This caused a lot of division among Unions and the city, as head of the AFL Samuel Gompers was against the strike, and many Chicago workers continued to work. The strike ended two months later, with the Union getting the short end of the stick. This strike was not for naught, however; Upton Sinclair alluded to this strike in *The Jungle* and it had a major role in informing the general public about what Sherman and his fellow workers had been experiencing working in the meatpacking industry. With the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act along with

the Meat Inspection Act, Bostick is optimistic about the future of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters in being able to cause forward motion in the workplace. While they still haven't received higher wages, helping establish the FDA gives Bostick an opportunity to speak for the meatpackers of America in hopes of achieving this goal, along with improving health and safety standards.

## **21. Mother Jones, Unionist**

Mother Jones, born Mary Harris Jones in Ireland, transformed her life of tragedy into one of advocacy. When she was a child, her family fled the Irish Potato Famine and settled in the United States. Later in life, when she lived in Memphis, she married, but an outbreak of yellow fever killed her husband and all her children. Her grief pushed her to move back to Chicago, a place she had lived in as a child, where she worked as a dressmaker for a little while. Tragedy struck again when the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 destroyed her home.

Losing her home was the straw that broke the camel's back: Mother Jones fueled her sadness and anger into labor activism. She worked with the Knights of Labor and gave inspiring speeches to workers on strike. She also traveled to mines and railroads to help the workers, and her kindness inspired them to call her Mother Jones. Mother Jones became an active campaigner for the United Mine Workers Union, and Jones helped establish the Industrial Workers of the World, known as the Wobblies, in 1905.

Mother Jones' activism makes her one of the most 'dangerous' women in America. She is certainly progressive and pro-regulation. She cares immensely for unions (having founded her own) and labor rights. She has a large following and hopes to drive change by mobilizing all the people she has influenced.

## **22. Felix Adler, Chairman of National Child Labor Committee**

Felix Adler was born in Alzey, Germany and was the son of a rabbi. Adler moved to New York when he was six years old so that his father could take the position as head rabbi at Temple Emanu-El. Adler graduated from Columbia University and continued his studies at Heidelberg University in Germany to become a rabbi himself. However, Adler was more interested in the moral aspects of

Judaism than the religious side. For this reason, after giving his first sermon at Temple Emanu-El where his father also preached, Adler was informed it would be his last because the congregation was shocked that he did not mention God. Once Adler's dreams of becoming a rabbi vanished, his father's friends helped him enter the teaching profession.

Although Adler is remembered for his interesting relationship with religion, he is esteemed for his efforts to end child labor. Adler was the founding chairman of the National Child Labor Committee which was established in 1904. The NCLC initially worked at the state level to eradicate child labor before pushing for reform at the federal level. Its efforts were essential in limiting working hours for older children, putting children back into the educational system, and showcasing the relationship between better economic opportunities and education.

Adler is still chairman of the NCLC in 1906 which allows him to have connections with notable progressives, political representatives, and businessmen. Sweeping federal changes regarding child labor have yet to occur. As a result, Adler hopes that the establishment of the FDA, a department that will regulate industries that exploit children, can determine the future of working children. His friendship with notable progressives has also motivated Adler to take an anti-trust stance. Adler hopes that his position and connections with political representatives can be of use in regulating the capitalist and exploitative power of monopolies.

### **23. Alice Lakey, Pure Foods Movement Activist**

Leading activist of the Pure Foods Movement, Alice Lakey was born in Shanesville, Ohio in 1857. Lakey moved throughout her childhood, and eventually studied vocal studies across cities in Europe like Florence, London, and Paris. Unfortunately, her singing career did not take off because she fell ill for most of her thirties. As she got better, she began teaching, but her dad was picky about food which stimulated her interest in food and health.

Lakey became an active supporter of Harvey Wiley's campaign for a national food law. She even asked the National Consumers League to support her ambitions—they created a food investigation committee known as the Pure Food Committee and appointed her as the head. The committee's main goal was to find out about the food condition and working conditions of those producing it.

Lahey is credited with lobbying extensively and being instrumental in passing the federal Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906. In fact, she met with President Roosevelt who agreed to help pass the bill. She mobilized over one million women across women's groups to write letters in support of the Pure Food and Drug Act.

Lahey is still head of the Pure Food Committee in 1906. She continues to advocate for her beliefs through letters and public speaking events, but she feels that establishing the FDA is the best way to ensure food regulation is maintained. She is pro-government as she feels federal actions drive long-lasting change. Additionally, she cares about working conditions within factories and hopes to make gains for those people.

#### **24. Jacob Riis, Author and Muckraker**

Jacob Riis is a Danish-American muckraker. Born in Denmark to a family of 15 (excluding parents), money was tight and he struggled to find a job, thus leading him to leave Denmark for the United States. Riis became one of millions immigrating to the United States in the 1870s, and he saw first-hand the poor living and working conditions faced in America. After years of turmoil, poverty, and hardship, Riis eventually got his career in journalism rolling. He began as a police reporter, which exposed him to the most crime-ridden and run down parts of New York City. This, along with his own experiences in America and the introduction of flash photography, inspired him to curate a piece showing the "day and night" differences of the slums compared to the rich parts of America called "The Other Half: How It Lives and Dies in New York."

Riis attempted to have his work put in a magazine, but after the editor liked the pictures but not the writing, Jacob decided the best way to show his work was to go to the public himself. He ended up writing an 18 page article entitled "How the Other Half Lives" and had it published alongside 19 photographs in *Scribner's Magazine* in 1889, which he then turned into a book in 1890. It sold well and was quoted often, leading him to write an autobiography called "The Making of an American," published in 1902. It didn't receive nearly as much praise as his previous work, but it did show how hard it was to be an immigrant, to be in poverty, and to make a life for oneself in America. It gave him a leg to being a social reformer in the United States since he had experience with how the



majority of the country lived, not just what the magazines showed of the rich capitalists. His work was recognized by Roosevelt, who called him “the most useful citizen of New York.”

Riis is an avid social activist, fighting for better housing, wealth distribution, and better sanitation policy in but not limited to New York City. Despite many of his critics' beliefs, he doesn't hate the rich, only the corruption and exploitation that seems to surround them. Riis is close with Roosevelt, making him somewhere in the middle in terms of government intervention. Overall, he will advocate for better living circumstances for the lower and middle classes.

## **25. Charles Evans Hughes, Governor of New York**

Charles is a smart cookie. He started his college career at Madison College (later Colgate University) at the age of 14, and transferred to Brown two years later. He then graduated at age 19 third in his class, took a year off to teach, went to Columbia Law School and graduated top of his class, and passed the bar exam with the highest score ever awarded by New York. Quite a lot to accomplish by age 22.

He took a job on Wall Street in 1883 with Chamberlain, Carter and Homeblower, and over the next ten years he would become a partner (changing the name to Carter, Hughes and Cravath), leave the firm to teach at Cornell Law School, then return to the firm. He took on a case where he was able to prove that a wealthy gas company was evading taxes and purposefully “cooking the books.” This made him popular, and he was appointed to Armstrong Insurance Commission which uncovered fraud and bribery within the life insurance industry in New York. Many high-up Republicans were frustrated with how much he was uncovering, so they elected him for Mayor of NYC, but he refused. His investigations resulted in the firing of many top insurance company officials and a reframing of regulations surrounding insurance companies.

In 1906, Hughes is running for governor of New York. His platform is progressive. He is advocating for an 8-hour work day on public works projects and an end to child labor. He actively attacks corruption of certain companies but is a capitalist and acknowledges the importance of private firms to exist in the economy. He has a lot of connections around New York, but hasn't been super

involved in the meat-packing industry. He is familiar with capitalists looking to make a profit and bending the rules to their benefit, and has legal experience exposing and busting them.

## **26. H.J. Heinz, Founder and President of Heinz & Company**

Henry John Heinz was born to two immigrant parents and is the embodiment of what it means to make a name for oneself in America. From childhood, he was interested in growing and selling food, and when he was 16, he had hired employees to help him cultivate the gardens he built and deliver the produce to grocers in Pittsburgh. When he was 25, he co-founded a horseradish business called Heinz Noble & Company, but it was small scale and didn't survive the market setbacks in 1875. Heinz didn't lose faith, and the second time was the charm as he consolidated and founded F&J Heinz with his brother and cousin. Little did he know, it would become a nationally known company by the end of the century. In 1888, he bought out his brother and cousin and renamed it the H.J. Heinz Company. By 1905, it was the largest producer of pickles, vinegar, and ketchup in the United States, giving him the nickname "the pickle king." The company was incorporated in 1906, and Heinz is its first president.

Heinz was a huge advocate of the Pure Food and Drug Act, and was one of the few who helped convince Roosevelt to pass it. Heinz & Company teamed up with Harvey Wiley, the chief chemist of the US Agriculture Department, to advocate for its passage. Despite being a home-grown businessman who wanted his company to succeed, he recognized the importance of food safety and quality products. The passage of the Act made it much easier for Heinz to compete in the market. Since he was already producing pure products, there was nothing about his production process that needed to change, unlike his competitors who had to change most aspects of their production. Heinz was dedicated to openness, and he was one of few producers to allow visitors inside the walls of his factory. It was clean, polished, and unlike any of the filthy meat packing plants across the country. Now that the act has been passed, Heinz wants other capitalists to follow the new guidelines that will be created, and he is an excellent person to be contributing to what these guidelines are due to his experience in the industry.

## **27. Anna Howard Shaw, President of NAWSA**

From birth, Anna Howard Shaw's character was defined by persistence. Shaw was born in England in 1847 but moved with her parents to the United States in 1851. A few years later, Shaw's father sent Shaw's mother and all the children to live on a desolate patch of land in Michigan. Shaw's ailing mother suffered a nervous breakdown which compelled Shaw to clear the land, plant crops, and care for her family all alone. When she was 15, she got her first job as a teacher in a schoolhouse, but the Civil War changed many things and greatly affected her family—one sister died and her brother was wounded.

After the war, Shaw became active in the Methodist church, and she delivered her first sermon when she was 23. She became licensed to preach a year later. She studied temperance and religion at Albion College and later Boston Theological Seminary where she graduated as the only woman in her class. Shaw tried to preach at a church in Massachusetts but the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church rejected her application on account of her being a woman. Eventually, with her persistence and persuasion, Shaw was granted her ordination.

In 1885, however, Shaw gave up preaching to dedicate more time to women's rights, suffrage, and temperance. Shaw became the vice president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1892 and president in 1904.

In 1906, Shaw is still president of NAWSA. She is a notable figure in public demonstrations, conferences on women's rights, lectures, congressional hearings, and other public speaking platforms. She is a champion of women's rights and hopes that the establishment of the FDA and its guidelines considers the effects it will have on women around the country.

## **28. S. S. McClure, Founder of McClure's Magazine**

Born in Ireland but raised in the United States, S. S. McClure created the first literary syndicate and embraced the concept of muckraking. McClure grew up in poverty but his incredible work ethic made him succeed in college and kick off his career. In 1882, he became the editor of the *Wheelman*. He was not content with the restrictive nature of *Wheelman* or *Century Magazine*, his next place of

work. For McClure, a syndicate that could circulate stories and articles to numerous publications for a small charge rather than to one publication for a large fee made more sense. McClure left his job at *Century* and talked to leading writers like Rudyard Kipling about his ideas.

In 1893, McClure expanded his plan further by issuing *McClure's Magazine* which quickly became the most distributed muckraking magazine of the Progressive Era. McClure hired journalists like Ida Tarbell and Lincoln Steffens to carry out the muckraking agenda of the magazine. Nevertheless, organizational issues and differing perspectives on social reform have caused many writers to leave *McClure's* in 1906. McClure needs to redesign his editorial quickly to fit the needs of his writers and the American people, and he hopes to do so by publishing gripping content. The recent demands for food regulation, better food standards, quality checks, and drug standards have interested McClure. He hopes by publishing the investigative reports of his journalists, he can reestablish his editorial as a prominent one. As a result, McClure will contribute to the discussion of food regulation at the FDA's creation by offering data collected by his reporters to save not only his publication but the health of Americans!

### **29. JJ Shuffer, President of the Colored Farmers' Alliance and Cooperative Union**

JJ Shuffer is an African American who has laid low most of his life. It was easy for him to slide under the radar and keep a low profile while he grew up on a farm in North Carolina. He enjoyed farm life and the family dynamic his family's farm had, but was not sheltered from the evils of the world. As he grew up, he gained interest in advocating for African American rights as well as for the rights of farmers across the country. There were a variety of Black-operated groups, such as unions, self-defense groups, churches, and businesses, but there wasn't yet a farmers alliance. While African Americans had been granted more autonomy in the late 19th century, they were still targeted for exploitation. This fear and desire for reform led to the creation of the Colored Farmers' Alliance and Cooperative Union in 1886. The goal of this group was to protect Black farmers in the south from market ills—such as falling farm prices, rising costs, and high interest rates—whose negative effects would most affect the smaller farms. In 1889, the group started a weekly newspaper called the *National Alliance* with the goal of spreading awareness beyond the local level. This is when JJ Shuffer was elected as the first President of the CFA.

Shuffer continues to be a major advocate for African American and farmer's rights, and will bring a unique perspective to the creation of the FDA. While farmers were not the primary target of the Pure Food and Drug Act, they are still a part of the supply chain and will thus be affected by stricter rules and regulations in food production.

*Note: "colored" is a term that is not allowed in committee due to its offensive history. It is included here only for the purpose of historical accuracy in naming a Union.*

### **30. Samuel Brubaker Hartman, Doctor**

Samuel Hartman was born in 1830 near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he spent most of his childhood and adolescence. He attended the Farmers' College near Cincinnati and later the Western Reserve Medical College in Cleveland to study medicine. During this time, he exhausted most of his money, and it was hard to make ends meet, so Hartman sold trees for three months in Kentucky. With the money he earned from that job, he established himself as a physician in Ohio. After working with a partner for a few years, Hartman opened up his own practice and became known throughout his country for his medical abilities. He was particularly adept with conditions for the eyes, ears, and bones.

Many of Hartman's patients in the 1880s complained that pharmacists were mixing his post-treatment medicine incorrectly. This complaint motivated Hartman to create factories in Ohio where his brother looked over the production of the first batch of Hartman's medicine, Peruna, in 1885. Hartman patented Peruna and claimed later that catarrh (inflamed mucous membranes in the body) was the source of all disease and medical conditions for which Peruna was the cure-all solution. Hartman began selling Peruna in 1885, and at its peak, earned \$100,000 a day from its sales. Even politicians endorsed it publicly!

By 1906, Hartman has established himself as a renowned physician and a wealthy man, but a scandal is threatening his image. Muckraker Samuel Hopkins Adams has written a series of articles for *Collier's* that have exposed many false claims made about patent medicines. Truthfully, many of these medicines are fake and are harming the health of American citizens rather than helping them. American politicians and the public are investigating the actual value of such medicines, including

Hartman's Peruna. Hartman would like to preserve his image but he realizes he has to contribute to the discussion surrounding drug regulation, morally or immorally.

### **31. Lafayette Power, Farmers' Alliance Representative**

Lafayette Power was born in Michigan in 1877, a few years into the flourishing agrarian economic movement known as the Farmers' Alliance. It succeeded the Granger movement, of which Power's parents had been a part. Growing up on a farm had taught him a lot about agriculture and the farmer's way of life—Power was adept at growing and handling crops, herding cattle, and obtaining a profit from selling his family's products. Power did not attend school but he is proud of the practical education he gained from laboring on the farm.

With the farmer's crisis emerging in the late 1800s, Power felt strongly for the cause. He took up public speaking and advocated for the desires of his fellow farmers. The movement hoped to protect farmers from the capitalist and industrial powers of monopolies, especially that of railroads, and from public officials. The Farmers' Alliance also demanded the regulation of interstate commerce, government ownership of the intercontinental railroad lines, limited working hours, and the unlimited coinage of silver. Power spoke out about all these issues, and soon found himself as a leading figure in the Populist Party, which came out of the Farmers' Alliance moving into politics in 1890. Although the Populist party collapsed in 1896, it is reviving itself steadily under Power because of his persuasion and connection to farmers in the Alliance. In fact, Power was a nominee for president in the 1904 election. For a third party nominee, he secured a significant number of votes, establishing the presence of the Populist Party to counter corporate and private interests.

In 1906, Power is still campaigning for better treatment of farmers and more government regulation. He hopes that the creation of the FDA is an opportunity to return power from financiers to farmers and those who govern the people.

### **32. Jacob Henry Schiff, Financer**

Schiff was born and raised in Germany; he moved to the United States in 1865, settled in New York, and became a naturalized citizen five years later. A few years later, he married the daughter of Solomon Loeb, then head of Kuhn, Loeb, and Company, and joined the company, taking over it when his wife's father died.

American financier Jacob Schiff led an interesting life. As head of Kuhn, Loeb, and Company, an investment banking firm, he became a leading railroad banker in the United States and played an essential role in the development of transcontinental railroad lines in America.

Although Schiff was known for financing railroads and taking control of them, he was significant for his role in national loans. In 1904 and 1905, Schiff extended loans to the Japanese Empire in the amount of \$200 million dollars to fund Japan's war efforts in the Russo-Japanese War. Schiff offered the loans to Japan because he supported the underdog status of Japan and because he wanted to punish the anti-Semitic actions of the Russian Empire. Schiff was Jewish, and he felt that the Russian empire was oppressing his fellow Jewish people. News of the loan became global, and Japan won the war in part due to Schiff's financial support. For his help, the Japanese Empire awarded Schiff the Order of the Sacred Treasure in 1905, the first received by a foreigner.

Schiff is a powerful man. Not only does he wield substantial control over the railroad industry, but he also has enough money to execute actions on behalf of the government. His connections and position in society allow him to hold attention when contributing to discussions in the Progressive Era. Nevertheless, as a businessman, his first priority is his own profit which he hopes to grow consistently.

### **33. Grace Abbott, Immigrants' Rights Activist**

Grace Abbott, like all notable figures, has plans to attend the renowned University of Chicago next year. In the meantime, though, there is much work to be done. Grace's commitment to social work and activism began in her hometown of Grand Island, Nebraska. Though perhaps "Grand," Grace feels like she can do better work in a real place of grandiosity. Abbott's family was already making

waves in the world of activism. Her father, following a stint in the Union army, became the first lieutenant-governor of Nebraska. Her mother, a Quaker, was an active participant in the Underground Railroad and the women's suffrage movement. Finally, her sister, Edith Abbott, was the first woman to get her PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago in 1905 and has since received a Carnegie Fellowship and continued her studies at the London School of Economics. Grace hopes to follow in the footsteps of her family. Through her studies at Grand Island Baptist College, and as a high school teacher in Grand Island and Broken Bow, she has seen firsthand the benefits of education. She hopes to bring more people into the fold and recognizes that when everyone receives rights and an education, society is better off.

### **34. Lewis Hine, Photographer**

What does a photographer have to do with workers' rights, you may wonder? Well just ask Lewis Hine, a sociologist (who studied at the University of Chicago!) and muckraker photographer. Hines understands the power of a photo. Starting in 1904, he has, so far, taken hundreds of pictures of immigrants arriving at Ellis Island. Pictures are able to capture life as-is. It is no surprise, then, that factory owners do not like him very much. Factory owners do not want people to see factories as they actually are. If people knew the conditions workers actually faced in factories, including children, then maybe they would be galvanized to take action. And if people are up in arms, lawmakers are soon to be behind them (if they want to stay in office). So what is the purpose of a photographer you may wonder? Well, it is to reveal things others mean to keep hidden, and Lewis will make sure to continue his work as the FDA is created.

### **35. Samuel Gompers, Head of US Federation of Labor**

Samuel "Gomp" Gompers has long been a champion of workers' rights. In 1875 he was elected as president of Local 144 of the Cigar Maker's International Union in New York City. Not too long after, he was instrumental in the creation of the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions. When the FOTLU was reorganized as the American Federation of Labor, Gompers became its first president, still serving in this role today. Well before *War for the Planet of the Apes* came out, Gompers recognized that people working together was more effective than an individual working on their own. Through unions, and federations of unions, workers have greater bargaining power and



can work together to establish their rights in the workplace. However, Gompers also recognized the need for legislative support following an incredibly damaging lawsuit against union workers for lost wages. Through a combination of political, social, economic, and legal activism and support, Gompers is confident that lasting labor rights can be established.

### **36. Dale Carnegie, American Writer, Lecturer, Salesman**

Dale has often been called “New York City” incarnate. He grew up in the Bronx, and even though throughout his life he was told to ‘fuggedabout’ his New York past, he never let that happen. Early on, Dale’s parents struggled to find work, so Dale often worked after school. He was close with a neighbor of his who owned an antiques store, so Dale would help his neighbor by selling antiques on the corner, keeping twenty percent of the money made for himself. Soon, Dale learned to love his job, and would dedicate far more time than he should have thinking about it. It led to him never being able to focus in school; he left school with only the ability to read and write. When he finally grew up, Dale had worked himself to the point of great sales prowess. He was scouted by a major paper company to head up their national sales division, where he was able to make a sizable living. His sales techniques were so brilliant that he was even asked to give lectures to other local branches of the company.

In 1905, Dale was head-hunted by a meat-packing company, who wanted his expertise to improve their sales. Dale began a writing campaign, seeking to promote the company in various publications, through all sorts of ways—Dale was always very convincing, even when telling half-truths! Invited to help create the FDA, Dale will make sure to consider the needs of his employer, and sell, sell, sell!

### **37. Alice Ames Winter, President of General Federation of Women Club**

Alice Vivian Ames was born in 1865 to a reverend and a philanthropist. She was one of three children, and her lineage can be traced back to the Mayflower. Growing up, Alice always sought to express her creative side. Whether that was at church reading a passage or in school or elsewhere, Alice always made sure her voice was heard. She studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and continued her studies at Wellesley College in 1889, having accrued two degrees. She ultimately settled in Minnesota with her husband Thomas Winter.

In Minneapolis, Alice was a teacher who sought to inspire women wherever she went. She was a founder and president of the Minneapolis Woman's Club, and she achieved national recognition as the president of the General Federation of Women Club. Entering into the FDA committee, Alice wants to ensure any and all labor and food regulations decided upon by the FDA are enforced fairly and equally between men and women. In committee, she has ties to both the Minneapolis Women's Club and the General Federation of Women Club.

### **38. Ida B. Wells — Muckraker about Standard Oil**

Ida B. Wells was a legend in the journalism world. Born in Pennsylvania in 1857, she took to writing at an early age. Her choice of writing material may well have been influenced by the time of her birth, as she arrived at the onset of the oil boom. In 1904 she published her most famous book, *The History of the Standard Oil Company*, in which she laid bare all of the monopolistic tendencies of the Standard Oil Company in an easily digestible manner. She is well known for many other biographies and investigative journalism pieces published both in *McClure's Magazine* and *The American Magazine*, a publication Ida owned after leaving *McClure's* after several years. Ida's works helped usher in a number of new laws and regulations, meaning her pen has and will continue to make those in power shiver. At the core of her work is the idea that the truth and motivations of powerful human beings can always be discovered, often in such a way to produce meaningful social change.

Entering the committee, Ida seeks to use her knowledge and investigative ability to ensure the best possible FDA is being created—one that will allow no human to exert undue influence or control over another, one that ensures the best interests of the public are being served. Ida need only threaten to touch her pen to ink to strike fear in the hearts of those without the best interests of the people at heart.

### **39. Ray Stannard Baker, Muckraker**

A Michigan native, Ray grew up on a farm. He was never one for excessive labor—his siblings tended to help out with farm duties. Even so, Ray left home at the age of 17 to study at Michigan State Agricultural College, where he refined the writing practice in which he had taken an interest. He went from Michigan State to the University of Michigan Law School, where he graduated in 1891.

Though holding a law degree, Ray's passion did not lie in practicing the law. Instead, in 1892, after less than a year at a law firm, he launched a career in journalism. He covered major events such as the Pullman Strike and Coxey's Army, making sure to highlight the needs and desires of the workers in each case. In 1898, Ray's work led to his getting an offer at *McClure's*, where he continued to write muckraking stories, along with dabbling in fiction stories for children. As he enters the committee, Ray wants to make sure that all of the happenings at the Creation of the FDA are made public to the world to cast light on any potential hidden injustices.

#### **40. Upton Sinclair, Author**

Upton was born and raised in Maryland to a vice-ridden father and a prohibitionist mother, leading to an interesting home dynamic. Sinclair's parents were poor, but his grandparents were rich, and he often bounced between the two homes. This gave him a unique perspective on how both the poor and the rich lived in 19th century America. Upton didn't start school until he was 10 years old, but he was an avid reader his whole life.

After studying at but not graduating from Columbia University in New York, he wrote four books within a year, none of which were popular or well-acclaimed. However, this did not discourage Upton. His work really started in 1904 when he went undercover in Chicago meat packing plants for seven weeks, leading to him writing his most famous novel, "The Jungle." His book quickly gained traction, and led to protests against the meatpacking industry, worker strikes, and a lot of bad press about the industry. This put pressure on the government to do something about food regulations, leading to the creation of the Food and Drug Administration. Sinclair holds strong opinions against the Chicago meatpacking plants and is in favor of supporting the blue collar workers.

## Glossary

**Clayton Antitrust Act:** A part of United States antitrust law that aims to add further substance to US antitrust law regime by preventing anti-competitive practices in their incipiency

**Gilded Age:** Beginning in the 1870s, a period of rampant economic growth that masked materialism and blatant political corruption in the United States, ultimately giving rise to important novels of social and political criticism

**Laissez-faire:** Abstention by governments of interfering in the free market

**Muckrakers:** Any group of American writers who identified with pre-World War I reform and exposé writing; they provided detailed, accurate journalistic accounts of the political and economic corruption and social hardships caused by the power of big business in a rapidly industrializing United States

**Political bosses:** A person who controls a faction or local branch of a political party

**Political machine:** A political group in which a leader or small group commands the support of a corps of supporters and businesses, who receive patronage as reward for their efforts; the power of a machine is in its ability to get votes for its candidates on election day.

**Progressive Era:** A period of widespread social activism and political reform across the United States that spanned the 1890s to the 1920s

**Robber barons:** A person in the late 19th century who became rich through ruthless and unscrupulous business practices

**Sherman Antitrust Act:** Passed in 1890, the first Federal act that outlawed monopolistic business practices

**Second Industrial Revolution:** Also called the Technological Revolution, a phase of rapid standardization and industrialization from the late 19th century into the early 20th century

**Transcontinental Railroad:** A railroad finished in 1869 that connected the eastern and western parts of the United States, allowing for rapid western expansion

**Trust busting:** The practice of enacting legislation that breaks up trusts

**Trusts:** A monopoly or cartel associated with the large corporations of the Gilded and Progressive Eras who entered into agreements—legal or otherwise—or consolidations to exercise exclusive control over a specific product or industry under the control of a single entity

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