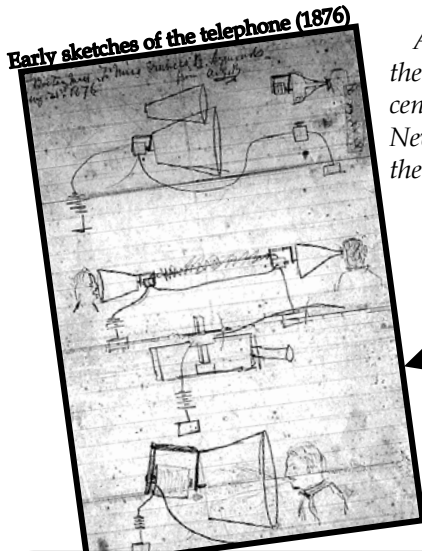


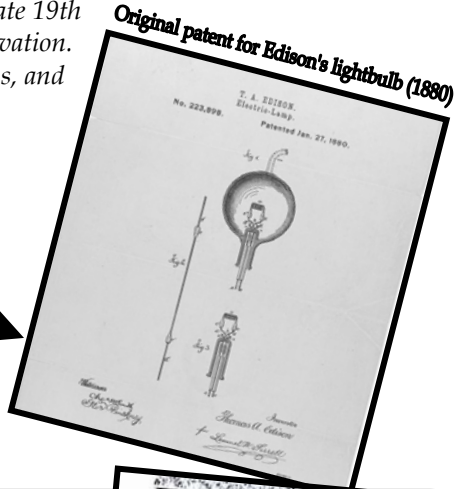
Innovation & Reform

During the late 1800s, a number of new inventions helped move the world into a modern age. The telephone and the electric light bulb are a couple of those inventions, and they can be seen here in their early stages.

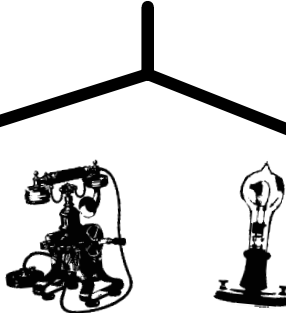
Alexander Graham Bell's design sketch of the telephone, ca. 1876. Alexander Graham Bell Family Papers. Library of Congress, Manuscript Division. Reproduction No.: A8 (color slide; front); LC-MSS-51268-6 (B&W negative)



Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison led the charge, and their contributions in the late 19th century created a "snowball effect" of innovation. New inventions led to other new inventions, and the nation quickly entered into a new era.



Thomas Edison's Patent Drawing for the "Electric Lamp," 27 January 1880. Records of the Patent and Trademark Office (Record Group 241). National Archives, Washington DC.



Near the turn of the 20th century, millions of immigrants flocked to the United States with hopes of finding work in the big cities (New York, Chicago, etc).

These major cities grew rapidly during this time, both in population and design. To the right is a headline from 1900 advertising a "Great Structure in New York City." Notice that the building "will be twenty stories high and cost four millions." Today, some buildings reach five times that height and cost hundreds of millions to build!

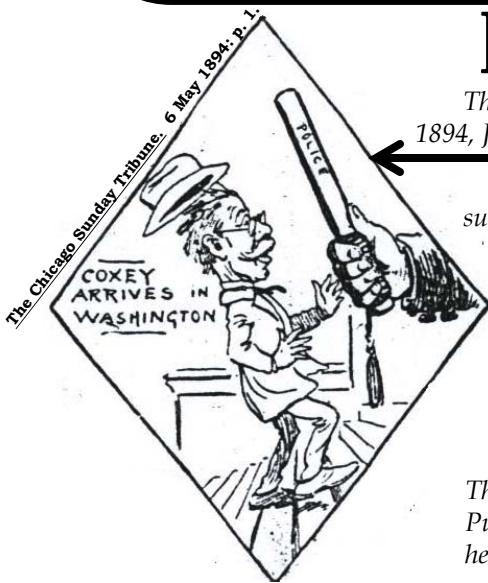
San Francisco Chronicle. 1 January 1900: p. 4.



Labor Reform

The first major protest pushing for labor reform in America was known as "Coxey's Army." In 1894, Jacob Coxey and several hundred unemployed American workers marched into Washington, DC.

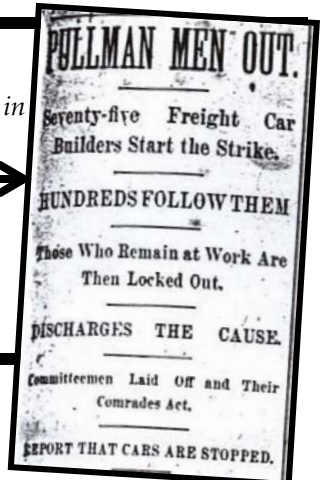
As can be seen in the political cartoon shown here, Coxey and his followers did not have much success. The police did not let them enter the Capitol Building to talk to high-ranking politicians.



The Chicago Sunday Tribune. 6 May 1894: p. 1.

Soon after the protest of "Coxey's Army," over 3,000 workers for the Pullman railroad car company went on strike in May 1894. This headline appeared in the Chicago Tribune the day after the strike.

The strike continued for several months and ended in a riot. Thousands of U.S. soldiers were needed to restore order. The Pullman strike showed that there was a need for labor reform heading into the 20th century.



"Pullman Men Out." The Chicago Daily Tribune. 12 May 1894: p. 1.

By the turn of the century, several newspapers like the National Labor Tribune (shown here in 1897) boldly pushed for better working conditions.

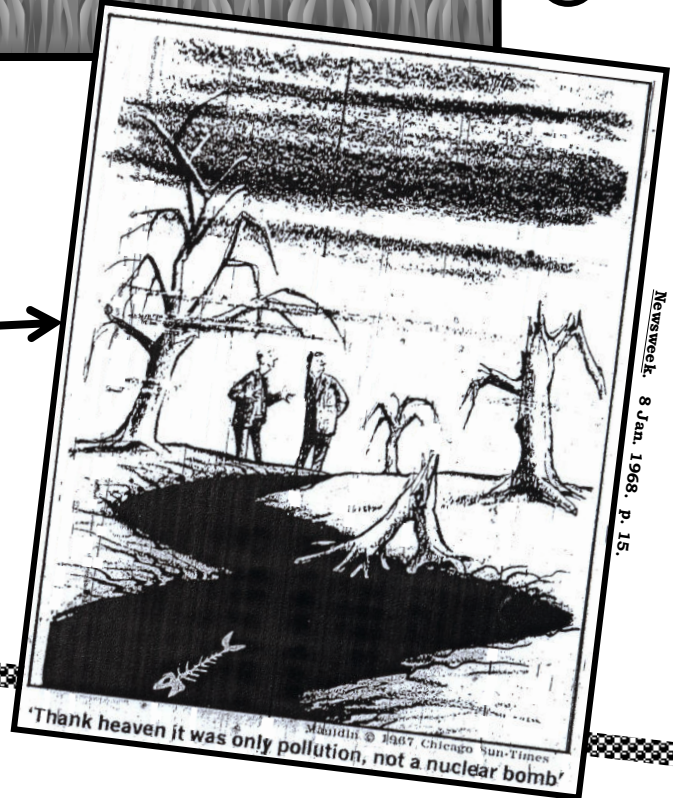


The Environment

The Beginning...

The 1960s brought about the start of the Environmental Movement, and with it an increased awareness about the state of the planet. People now realize that the actions of humans can have an impact on the earth itself (for example, humans can create pollution, smog, toxic waste, etc.).

The political cartoon shown here (from 1968) points out that the affects of pollution could be worse than a nuclear bomb.



Gaining Momentum...

EPA Logo



A major victory for the Conservation Movement came in 1970, when President Richard Nixon formed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

For over thirty years, the EPA has regulated and monitored nearly everything that has an impact on the environment. The agency currently employs over 18,000 people, with dozens of offices and labs around the country.

Shown here is the logo for the EPA, along with its mission statement.

EPA Mission Statement

To protect and improve the natural environment for present and future generations, taking into account the environmental, social and economic principles of sustainable development.

Today...

The environment has never been a hotter topic than it is today. Much of the discussion centers around "Global Warming," which has the scientific community divided (while global warming is an actual phenomena, what is not known is the extent to which humans contribute).

With growing industry around the world, there is also a growing concern about the human impact on the health of the earth. While technology has created environmental problems, it may also have the answer. "Green" technology is in high command, along with alternative fuel sources. Shown here is an electric car, which is currently available (although not particularly cost effective).



Electric Car