Mining ("Boom") Towns--Now Ghost Towns

Regional Population Distribution by Race: 1900

- Whites of native parentage (N = 40,986,065)
  - South
  - West
  - North

Regional Population Distribution by Race: 1900

- American Indians (N = 240,260)
  - 15.3%
- Chinese and Japanese birth or parentage (N = 114,737)
  - 18.4%
  - 3.3%

Black "Exoduster" Homesteaders

Blacks Moving West
The Buffalo Soldiers on the Great Plains

A Romantic View

THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS & THE INDIAN WARS

The Bronc Buster
Frederick Remington

the cowboys

Black Cowboys
The Cattlemen & the Sheep herders

The Cattle Trails

Rain Follows the Plow!

The Cattle Kingdom vs. Agriculture

The Farmers
Last but not least, barbed wire shaped the frontier. Though perhaps overshadowed by political and social movements of the time, it revolutionized the West by allowing ranchers to mark their lands on the treeless plains and eventually helped terminate the existence of the Long Drive.
Frontier Settlements: 1870-1890

Homesteads From Public Lands

What is the Message of this Picture?

The Realty—A Pioneer’s Sod House, SD
Railroad Practices:
• corruption and suspicious loomed in the railroad business
• general practices included:
  – Pools
  – “Stock Watering”
  – Bribing Officials
  – Rebates and Kickbacks for Frequent Shippers
  – Charging More for Short Hauls than Long Hauls
• heightened farmers’ economic disadvantage

Granger Laws:
• The Grange (National Grange of the Patrons of Husbands)- organization founded by farmers to improve the lives farmers
• Granger Laws combated excessive rates charged for railroad shipment and grain storage
• First attempted cooperative storage
• Then entered politics; passed Granger Laws regulating railroad practices passed in 18 states

Bloc Voting:
• Voting strategy in which members of a community with a common interest agree to vote on certain candidates who will fulfill their needs; disregards party lines
• Utilized by the Grange to elect candidates who would enact legislation to improve the situation of the farmer (Granger Laws)

Munn v. Illinois (1877)
• Big business and railroad owners challenged the Granger Laws, but the Supreme Court ruled that individual states could control interstate commerce that affected the public welfare

Wabash v. Illinois (1887)
• Supreme reverses decision made in Munn v. Illinois, ruling now that individual states cannot legally control interstate commerce

Interstate Commerce Act of 1887
• Outlawed rebates and pools
• Made the publication of railroad fares mandatory
• Condemned the lower rates granted to shippers
• Prohibited charging more for a short haul than a long haul
• Establish the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) to implement the new regulations
• Not that effective, but ideologically it represented the first major attempt made by the federal government to regulate business and commerce.
Credit Mobilier
- Construction company created in 1872 within the Union Pacific Railroad company that collected profits dishonestly
- Prime example of the sort of corruption that existed

Sherman Anti-Trust Act
- First Congressional act against business monopoly and trusts
- Outlawed conglomerates and organizations that caused "restraint in trade"
- Ineffective -- lacked enforcement
- Act manipulated to challenge labor unions which were claimed to inhibit trade

Price Indexes for Consumer & Farm Products: 1865-1913

Farmers AGAIN
- Agribusiness displaces Family Farm
- Farmers borrow from bankers to buy new machines, more land, and become Cash Crop farmers
- This makes them tied to the MARKET and its constant ups and downs
- 1892 corn drops from $2.50 per bushel to 50¢ per bushel

ATTEMPTS TO ORGANIZE
1. 1868 Patron’s of Husbandry (The Grange)
2. 1878 Greenback Labor Party
3. 1880 Farmer’s Alliance
4. 1890 Populist Party

Founder of the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry (1867)
The Grange Movement
- First organized in the 1870s in the Midwest, the south, and Texas.
- Set up cooperative associations.
- Social and educational components.
- Succeeded in lobbying for “Granger Laws.”
- Rapidly declined by the late 1870s.

The Farmers Alliances
- Begun in the late 1880s (Texas first—the Southern Alliance; then in the Midwest—the Northern Alliance).
- Built upon the ashes of the Grange.
- More political and less social than the Grange.
- Ran candidates for office.
- Controlled 8 state legislatures & had 47 representatives in Congress during the 1890s.

The Populist (Peoples’) Party
- 1890 Election:
  - So. Alliance → wanted to gain control of the Democratic Party.
  - No. Alliance → ran 3rd Party candidates.
- 1892 → 800 met in St. Louis, MO
  - majority were Alliance members.
  - over 100 were African Americans.
  - reps. of labor organizations & other reformers (Grange, Greenback Party).

Populist Leaders:
- Tom Watson
- “Pitchfork” Ben Tillman
- “Sockless Jerry” Simpson
- “Coin” Harvey
- Mary Elizabeth Lease

Gift for the Grangers: The Farmer Pays for All!

United We Stand, Divided We Fall
- In 1889 both the Northern and the Southern Alliances merged into one—the Farmers’ Alliance.
Platform of Lunacy

Omaha Platform of 1892

1. System of “sub-treasuries.”
2. Abolition of the National Bank.
3. Direct election of Senators.
4. Govt. ownership of RRs, telephone & telegraph companies.
5. Government-operated postal savings banks.
6. Restriction of undesirable immigration.
7. 8-hour work day for government employees.
8. Abolition of the Pinkerton detective agency.
10. Re-monitization of silver.
11. A single term for President & Vice President.

The Populist (Peoples’) Party

- Founded by James B. Weaver and Tom Watson.
- Omaha, NE Convention in July, 1892.
- Got almost 1 million popular votes.
- Several Congressional seats won.

James B. Weaver, Presidential Candidate
&
James G. Field, VP