

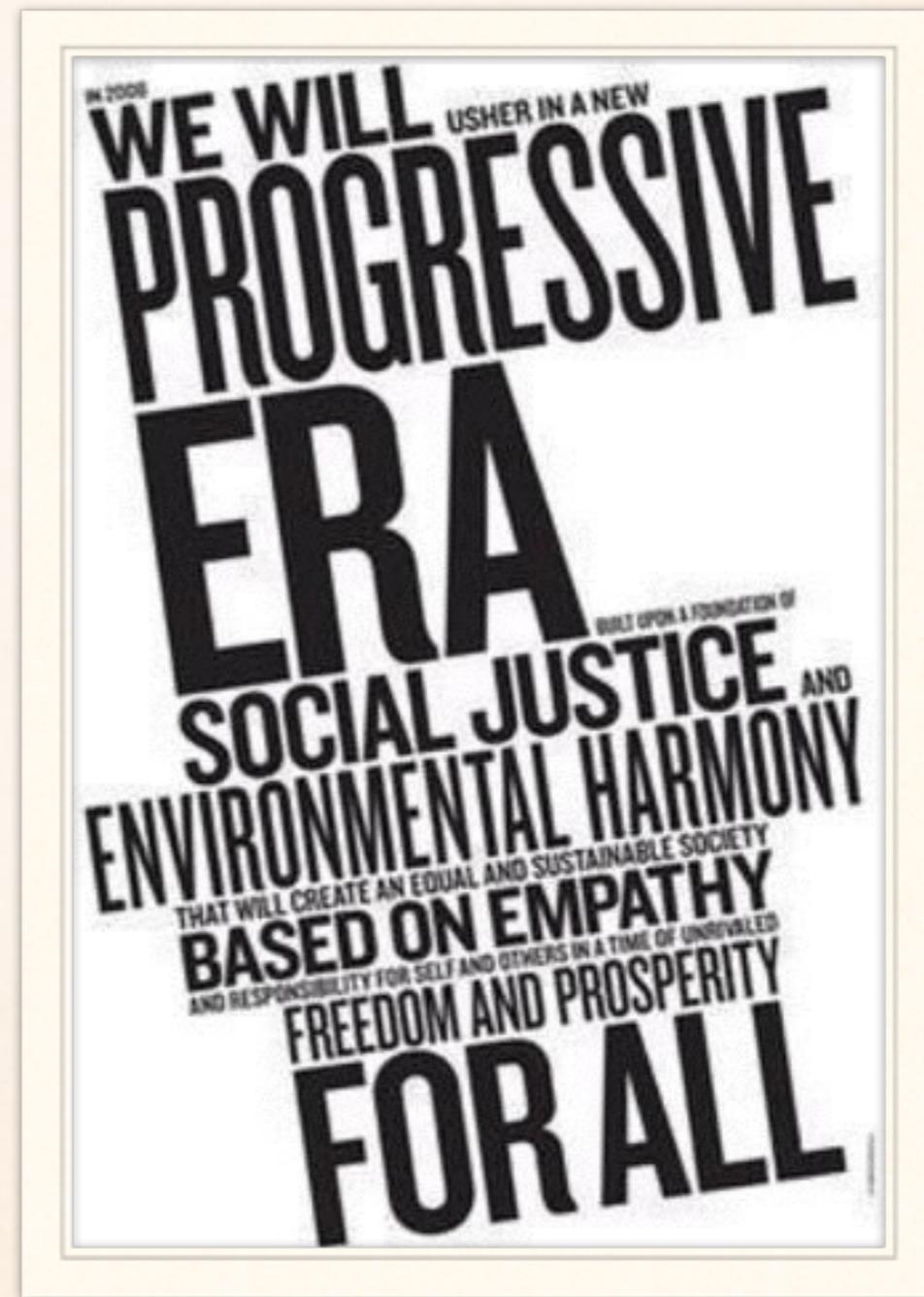
THE PROGRESSIVE ERA



THE ORIGINS OF PROGRESSIVISM

CONCERNS OF PROGRESSIVES

- ❖ Early 1900s, middle-class reformers address problems of 1890s
- ❖ Different reform efforts collectively called **progressive movement**
- ❖ Reformers aim to restore economic opportunity, correct injustice by:
 - protecting social welfare,
 - promoting moral improvement
 - creating economic reform,
 - fostering efficiency



PROTECTING SOCIAL WELFARE

- ❖ Social Gospel, settlement houses inspire other reform groups
- ❖ **Florence Kelly**, political activist, advocate for women, children
 - helps pass law prohibiting child labor, limiting women's hours



PROMOTING MORAL IMPROVEMENT

- ❖ Some feel poor should uplift selves by improving own behavior
- ❖ **Prohibition**—banning of alcoholic drinks
- ❖ Woman's Christian Temperance Union spearheads prohibition crusade



CREATING ECONOMIC REFORM

- ❖ 1893 panic prompts doubts about capitalism; many become socialists
- ❖ Muckrakers—journalists who expose corruption in politics, business

MUCKRAKE ('mʌk, reɪk)
c.1600, "one who rakes muck,"
from **muck** (n.) agent noun from **rake**
(v.). *Muckrake* in sense "person who
hunts scandal" is attested from 1872.
Popularized by Theodore Roosevelt in
his 1906 speech "The Man with the
Muck Rake." Related: *Muckraking*

FOSTERING EFFICIENCY

- ❖ Many use experts, science to make society, workplace more efficient
- ❖ Louis D. Brandeis uses social scientists' data in trial
- ❖ **Scientific management**—time and motion studies applied to workplace
- ❖ Assembly lines speed up production, make people work like machines
 - cause high worker turnover



REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- ❖ Reformers try to make government efficient, responsive to voters
- ❖ Some cities adopt government by commission of experts
- ❖ Many use council-manager: people elect council that appoints manager



REFORM MAYORS

- ❖ Hazen Pingree of Detroit tackles taxes, transit fares, corruption
- ❖ Socialist Tom Johnson of Cleveland fights corrupt utility companies



Hazen Pingree

REFORM GOVERNORS

- ❖ Governors push states to pass laws to regulate large businesses
- ❖ **Robert M. La Follett** is 3-term governor, then senator of Wisconsin
–attacks big business

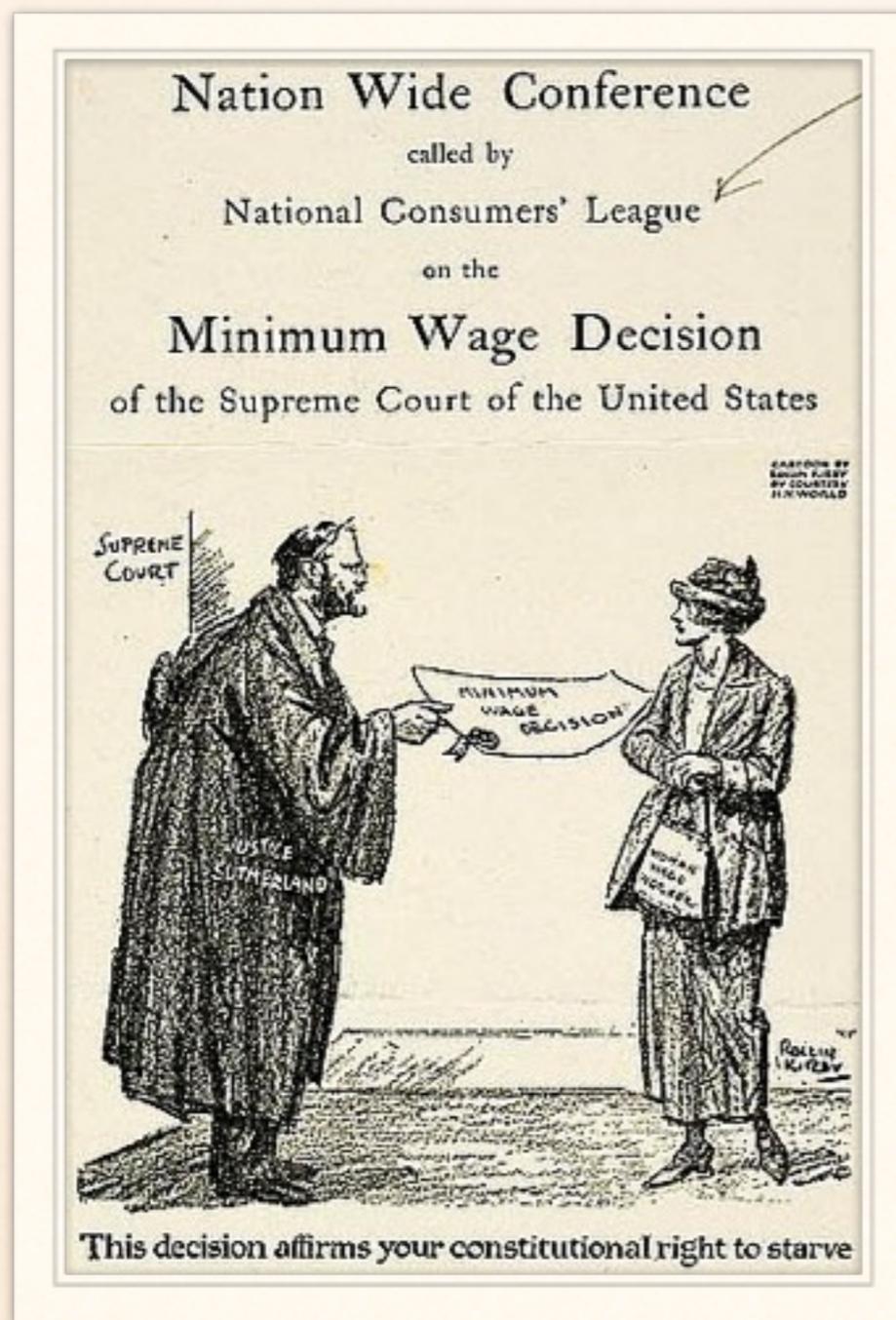


PROTECTING WORKING CHILDREN

- ❖ Child workers get lower wages, small hands handle small parts better
 - families need children's wages
- ❖ National Child Labor Committee gathers evidence of harsh conditions
- ❖ Labor unions argue children's wages lower all wages
- ❖ Groups press government to ban child labor, cut hours



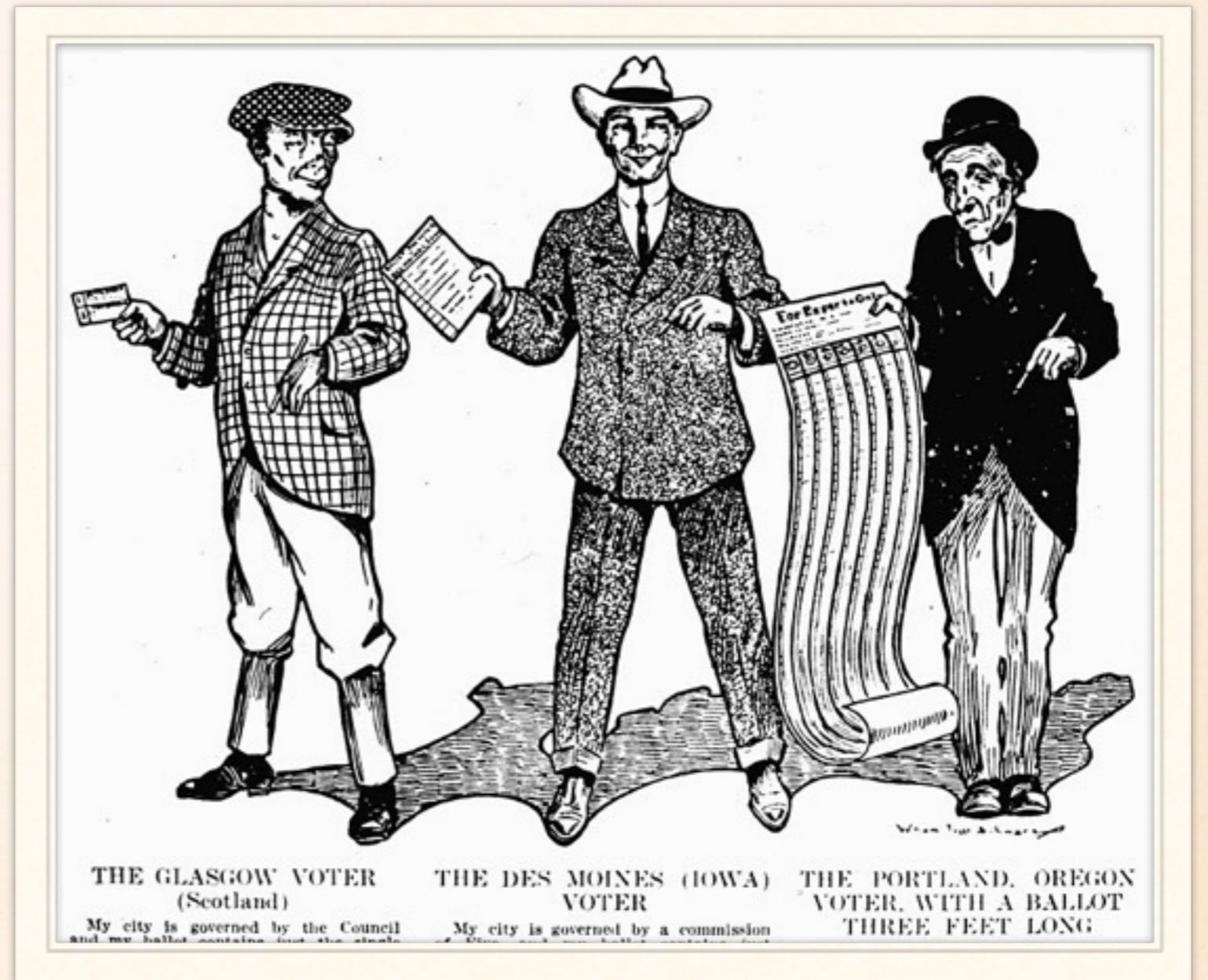
EFFORTS TO LIMIT WORKING HOURS



- ❖ *Muller v. Oregon*—Court upholds limiting women to 10-hour workday
- ❖ *Bunting v. Oregon*—upholds 10-hour workday for men
- ❖ Reformers win workers' compensation for families of injured, killed

REFORMING ELECTIONS

- ❖ Oregon adopts secret ballot, initiative, referendum, recall
- ❖ **Initiative**—bill proposed by people, not lawmakers, put on ballots
- ❖ **Referendum**—voters, not legislature, decide if initiative becomes law
- ❖ **Recall**—voters remove elected official through early election
- ❖ Primaries allow voters, not party machines, to choose candidates



DIRECT ELECTION OF SENATORS



- ❖ **Seventeenth Amendment**: permits popular election of senators