

Chapter 10 – Trouble in Town (Discussion Questions)

1. What were some problems facing the City of Milwaukee at the turn of the 20th century?
2. What were some types of pollution and what caused them?
3. Why was the river considered a nuisance, and what did the city do about it? What was the problem with the city's solution?
4. Who was Milwaukee's mayor in the 1890s and early 1900s? What was he like? What kinds of things did he do?
5. What was "dirty" about Milwaukee politics? How was the Common Council corrupt?
6. Why was there a big meeting at Turner Hall in 1903? What did they accomplish?
7. Why did Socialism become popular in Milwaukee? What did people expect to happen?
8. Who was Victor Berger? What did he do? Did he win the election for mayor?
9. What was special about the election of 1910? Who became mayor? Who became a congressman?

Chapter 10 – Trouble in Town (vocabulary)

1. Puritan clergyman, May 1891 – scathing indictment of perils of the city: wealth, poverty, socialism, intemperance, foreign immigration, ignorance, Romanism.
2. Class conflict, social unrest
3. Life expectancy – 27.6 years. Many children died.
4. Pollution: coal from smokestacks, garbage disposal, contaminated water from garbage and manure
5. Tunnel connected Lake Michigan and Milwaukee River.
 - a. Flushing station (on Lake Drive, now Alterra Cafe)
6. Dirty water, dirty air, dirty politics
 - a. Mayor David S. Rose – wanted conventions, celebrations, a “live” town.
 - b. Common Council – corrupt
7. “Mass Indignation Meeting” in Turner Hall
 - a. “throw the rascals out”
 - b. upset with graft and corruption
 - c. led to Grand Jury Investigation, indictments
8. Socialists: German liberals, 48ers, industrial workers wanting reforms.
9. Milwaukee Idea – Socialist and Labor party worked together to win elections.
 - a. Victor Berger – socialist leader – “sewer socialists”
 - b. 1904 – socialists got 20% of mayoral vote
 - c. 1908 – got even more votes
 - d. 1910 – socialist landslide - mayor Emil Seidel, congressman Victor Berger.

hindsight – looking back in time

effluvia, contamination (nouns)

vile, noxious (adjectives)

Intestinal flu

Indignation, indignant

Red-baiting – saying bad things about socialists or communists

Diligent, creative, incorruptible