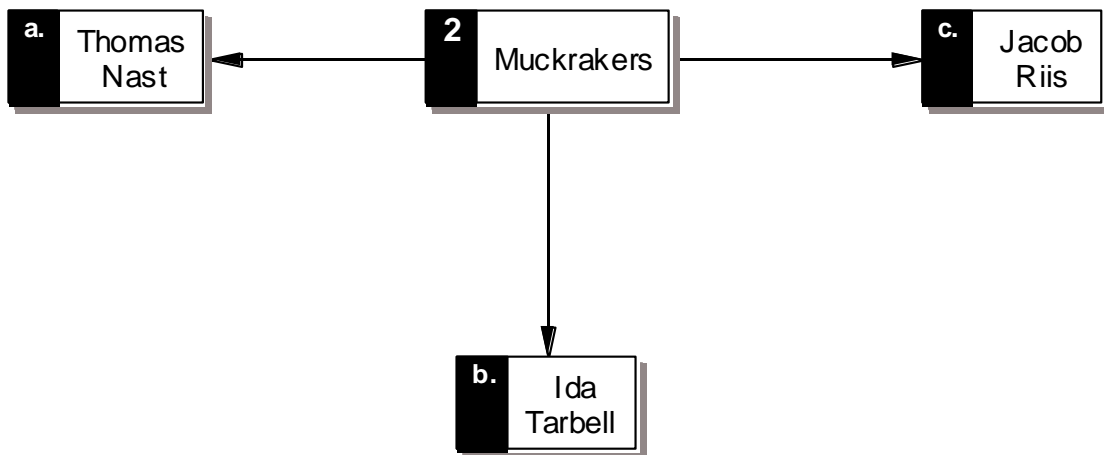


**PROGRESSIVE ERA REFORMERS**



## **Presidents**

**Theodore Roosevelt** fought for and passed many reforms. Roosevelt's plan called the Square Deal was mainly concerned about 3 areas: Conservation, Fighting Monopolies and Cleaning up the Food Industry. Roosevelt was able to pass laws such as the Hepburn Act which ended railroad monopolies. Also the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act were passed which cleaned up our problems with food. Lastly, he was able to pass conservation laws such as the Antiquities Act which protected places like the Grand Canyon and Niagara Falls.

**William Howard Taft** was known as a Progressive as well. Taft directed the breakup of John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Trust and the American Tobacco Company which had a tobacco monopoly. Taft upset many Progressives however, by not enforcing Conservation laws.

**Woodrow Wilson** called his reform plan The New Freedom. Wilson was able to pass many economic reforms such as the Federal Reserve System which strengthened our banking system. Also under Wilson, the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18 Amendments were passed.

## Muckrakers

**Thomas Nast** was a cartoonist who worked for Harpers Weekly magazine in the late 1800's. Nast believed that he could use his cartoons to make society better. The target of many Nast cartoons was "Boss" William Tweed a New York City politician. Nast drew cartoons of Tweed, who stole millions of dollars from New York, as a vulture. While many, many New Yorkers couldn't read, they could look at the cartoons and understand exactly what was happening. Because of Nast's cartoons Tweed was forced to escape to Spain where he died in prison—someone had noticed him from the cartoons.

**Ida Tarbell** broke new ground as one of the first women to be an investigative journalist in this country. The target of Tarbell's articles was John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company, the most powerful Monopoly in the world. Tarbell exposed the unfair methods Rockefeller used to put small companies out of business. Tarbell's articles for McClure's magazine eventually led to public demand to control the huge monopolies that dominated American business.

**Jacob Riis**, much like Thomas Nast, knew the power of images. Through the photographs in his book *How the Other Half Lives*, Riis shows America exactly how bad the situation is in the tenements and city slums. By taking pictures of the living conditions and the children and families themselves, Riis was able to provide vivid views of the horrors of slum life.