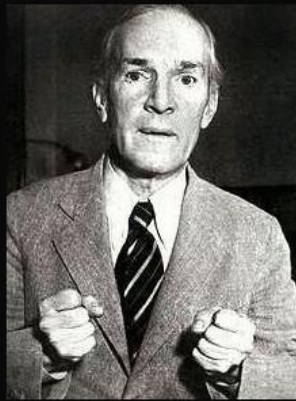


The Progressive Era was a time of great energy in America. Middle and Upper Class reformers worked hard to correct problems like filth, disease and poverty. Upton Sinclair went undercover in a Chicago meat packing plant and documented his experience in the classic novel “The Jungle”.

“There was never the least bit of attention paid to what went into the sausage. There would come all the way back from Europe old sausage that had been rejected, and that was mouldy and white—it would be dumped into the hoppers, and made over again for home consumption. There would be meat that had tumbled out on the floor, in the dirt and sawdust, where the workers had tramped and spit tobacco. There would be meat stored in great piles in rooms; and thousands of rats would race about on it. It was too dark in these storage places to see well, but a man could run his hand over these piles of meat and sweep off handfuls of the dried droppings of rats. These rats were nuisances, and the packers would put poisoned bread out for them; then they would die and the rats, bread, meat and anything else on the floor would go into the sausage together.”

--Upton Sinclair, The Jungle, 1906



I aimed at the public's heart, and by accident I hit
it in the stomach.

(Upton Sinclair)

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1. Give examples of at least three unhealthy things going on at this particular meat packing plant (from the reading).
2. What do you think was the economic result of “The Jungle”? (Think money)
3. What do you think was the political result of “The Jungle”? (Think laws)
4. Why do you think Sinclair chose “The Jungle” as the title of his book?
5. Video Question: What happened to injured or jobless workers in the meat packing plants?
6. Video Question: What did author William Bloodworth compare the workers to?
7. Video Question: What did Upton Sinclair mean by his quote “I aimed at the public’s heart and by accident hit it in the stomach.”?

