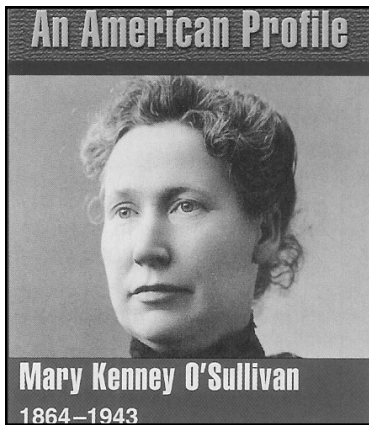


The Rise of Organized Labor Homework
American Nation pages 590-595

1. Describe the changes in the new factory workplace.? How did it differ from the pre Civil War factory?
2. Explain the differences between the lives of children today and the lives of children who worked in factories in the early 1900's ?
3. Describe some of the workplace hazards associated with these early factories?



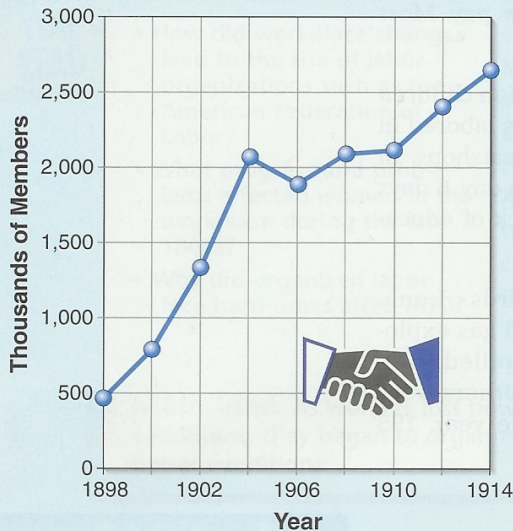
Poverty forced Mary Kenney to leave school in Hannibal, Missouri, at the age of 14. She worked first as a dressmaker and later in a printing plant. Then, she moved to Chicago. Shocked by the city's sweatshops, child labor, and low wages, she helped form a women's bindery workers union. At the same time, she fought the terrible conditions in Chicago's slums. Kenney helped write a report for the state of Illinois exposing slum conditions. In 1892, she became a union organizer. She kept up a hectic pace even after she married and raised three children.

How do you think Mary Kenney's early life affected her view of workers' rights?

CHART
Skills

A growing number of workers joined unions in the late 1800s and early 1900s

Growth of Labor Unions



Source: Historical Statistics of the United States

1. Comprehension
 (a) How much did union membership increase between 1898 and 1914?
 (b) What years showed a decrease in membership?

2. Critical Thinking
Drawing Conclusions
 In which time period on this chart do you think a recession hit the economy?

4. How did changing factory conditions promote the rise of labor unions in the late 1800s??

5. Definitions:

- Knights of Labor:
- American Federation of Labor:
- sweatshop:
- Trade union:
- Anarchist:
- Triangle Fire:



Primary Source

The Triangle Fire

The day after the fire, this story appeared in The New York Times: "Cecilia Walker, 20 years old, . . . slid down the cable at the Washington Place elevator and escaped with burned hands and body bruises. She was on the eighth floor of the building when the fire started. Running over to the elevator shaft she rang for the car, but it did not come. As she passed the sixth floor sliding on the cable she became unconscious, . . . and does not know what happened until she reached St. Vincent's Hospital, where she is now.

"A girl and I, . . . were on the eighth floor, and when I ran for the elevator shaft my girl friend started for the window on the Washington Street side. I looked around to call her but she had gone."

*—The New York Times,
March 26, 1911*

Analyzing Primary Sources
How do you think the public reacted to stories of the fire?

6. Why did the labor movement suffer a number of major defeats after 1870?