Texas History for Teachers

Primary Source Excerpts

Excerpt 1: *The Growth of Oil in East Texas*

"Spindletop's development was the **incentive** for drilling at other points in southeast Texas…and proving beyond question that the **petroleum deposits** are not confined to any one locality, but are scattered over a wide area in this region."

"That the experienced oil operators from the northern fields are satisfied on this point is proven by their investment of millions of dollars in **refineries**, pipe lines, tank cars, tank steamers and steel storage tanks….

"In all respects the location of the various **pools** is **ideal**. They are convenient to railroad transportation and, what is most important, are comparatively close to deep water. The Spindletop field is only fifteen miles from Port Arthur, Texas, where sea-going **tank steamers** are loaded with crude and refined oils for shipment to **domestic** and **foreign** ports."

- "Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide for 1904." *The Portal to Texas History.*

Incentive: Motivation or encouragement

Petroleum deposits: Oil beneath the ground

Refineries: Factories for processing oil for human use

Pools: Large areas of oil

Ideal: Perfect

Tank steamers: ships powered by steam to transport oil

Domestic: In your country

Foreign: Outside your country

Excerpt 2: Segregation & Jim Crow

"The informer, speaking for the colored citizens of Houston and the **patrons** of the colored public schools, objects **strenuously** and **vociferously** to any **iron-clad edict**…that forces colored public school children to sing only one class of music;"

"With "Jim-crow" public school buildings, "jim-crow" street cars and busses, "jim-crow" railroad accommodations, "jim-crow" living conditions and institutions, we should **balk** and call a **halt** when it comes to "jim-crow" music in the public schools of Houston."

- The Houston Informer (Houston, Tex.) Saturday, December 18, 1926. *The Portal to Texas History*

Patrons: Supporters

Strenuously: Strongly

Vociferously: With a loud voice

Iron-clad edict: A law, rule, or order that cannot be changed

Balk: Hesitate or be unwilling

Halt: Stop

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Excerpt 3: ***Progressivism*** *and the Labor Movement*

"TEST OF PROGRESSIVISM. Whether a man is a true Progressive or not may be judged largely by his attitude toward ***labor unions****. Roughly speaking our laws have done nothing for labor…. No one with the slightest knowledge of economic history has any doubt but that the union, with its power to* ***strike****, has been the one force that has stood between labor and absolute slavery in the last century…."*

"[The workman] still gets a bare ***subsistence****; he still hovers on the verge of extreme want; at any moment an accident may deprive him of a livelihood; and he is always liable to* ***dismissal*** *in hard times. He gets none of the* ***amenities*** *of life, and he can not raise a family in decent comfort. So long as labor is regarded as a* ***commodity****, so long will these conditions, hardly better than slavery, exist."*

- "The Austin Statesman (Austin, Tex.) Friday, August 4, 1916." The Portal to Texas History

Progressivism: A movement in American history to make improvements and reforms to society

Labor Unions: Organizations of workers that advocate for worker's rights

Strike: Refusing to work in order to get better conditions.

Subsistence: Just surviving

Dismissal: Being fired

Amenities: Helpful, special, or luxurious things

Commodity: Something that can be bought and sold

Excerpt 4: *Women's Suffrage*

"'WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE.' There is just one way that a nation can progress, and that is by having a government that is really and truly representative; not of the wealth and business alone, but of all the people from the poorest and humblest citizen to the billionaire. There is only one way to get better conditions and that is to go to the ***ballot box*** *and vote intelligently. The ballot is the first great step to freedom; it is the* ***key-stone*** *to all democracy…."*

*"****A 'fine lot' of*** *freedom can exist where one half* ***disfranchises*** *the other half. Certain big things have to happen before the world can go forward. In Europe, they have got to fire their kings and get rid of king worship. In this country, we have got to give women political freedom."*

- "The Savoy Star. (Savoy, Tex.) Friday, November 17, 1916." The Portal to Texas History

Ballot box*:* Where people go to vote

Key-stone: The foundation; the most important thing

A 'fine lot' of: Not much

Disfranchises: Prohibit someone from voting

Excerpt 5: *The Mexican Revolution*

"Captain Robert H. Peck, … accompanied the **battalion** to Fort Crocket Monday afternoon to give the militiamen an opportunity to see the coast defenses…."

"Among the **militiamen** from San Antonio is Fred Perez, an **aviator** who saw service in Mexico. He is planning a number of **exhibition** flights and will make a trip to Galveston during his stay. Perez was in the City of Mexico when **Madero** was murdered. He saw four battles in the Mexican revolution, and for some time was engaged in securing cattle for General Blanco's forces at Matamores *[sic]*. He is now a member of Company B, Second Infantry."

- The Provost Guard (Texas City, Tex.), Friday, August 28, 1914, newspaper, August 28, 1914. The Portal to Texas History

Battalion: A large unit of soldiers, typically infantry

Militiamen: volunteer fighters in a militia

Aviator: A pilot

Exhibition: A public display or performance

Madero: Francisco Madero supported democracy and served as president of Mexico from 1911-1913 after the overthrow of former President and dictator Porfirio Díaz. Military generals overthrew and executed Madero in 1913.

Excerpt 6: *World War I*

èThe presence of a German submarine **flotilla** near American territorial waters, of¸cials fear, may raise **perplexing** questions of **neutrality**, and, in fact, a most serious issue would be raised if the operations of the **submersibles** were carried on so near American ports as practically to constitute a blockadeÑ ê

èIt was openly declared here that Sundayés operations mark the opening of an organized campaign in the waters **adjacent to** America against all commerce of **the allies** in general and especially vessels carrying **munitions** of war. It is expected [German] attacks also will be directed at transports carrying troops from Canada and at British and French warships on patrol duty off the coastê

- The Daily Herald (Weatherford, Tex.), Monday, October 9, 1916. The Portal to Texas History

Flotilla: A fleet or group of ships or boats

Perplexing: Confusing

Neutrality: Not taking sides in a conflict

Submersibles: Submarines

Adjacent to: Next to

The allies: Countries united against Germany during World War 1, including the U.S.

Munitions: Military equipment

Excerpt 7: *The Spanish Flu*

Washington, Oct. 5í Spanish **influenza** continues its rapid spread both among the **civilian** population and in army camps. Reports today to the public health service showed the disease had become **epidemic** in many more cities, while 12,975 new cases were reported among soldiers training in this country

Public health service of¸cials employed today say the best way to combat the disease is to prohibit public gatherings. In Washington today churches were asked not to hold religious services until the disease is stamped out, while all dance halls and **army hostess houses** were ordered closed.

- Orange Daily Leader (Orange, Tex.), Vol. 14, No. 196, Ed. 1 Saturday, October 5, 1918."

Influenza: The flu

Civilian: Non-military

Epidemic: A widespread outbreak of disease

Army Hostess Houses: Boarding houses established for wives visiting their husbands who were stationed at forts around the U.S. during World War One

Excerpt 8: *The Impeachment of Governor James Ferguson*

"SENATE SUSTAINS **IMPEACHMENT** CHARGES. GOVERNOR FERGUSON IS OUSTED. Removed as Governor of Texas by Overwhelming Vote of Senate.

Article 11, Sustained, 27 to 4. That in this investigation of James E. Ferguson by the committee of the whole house of representatives said James E. Ferguson testified that during the regular session of the thirty-fifth legislature and shortly thereafter received from **parties** certain **currency** in varying amounts, the total of which was about $156,500. That said transaction is unusual and questionable, and that the said James E. Ferguson, when questioned as to who loaned him this money, declined to answer.... That he is **thus** not only **in contempt of** the house and its committee, but he insists that he is not required to give before the representatives of the people of Texas an **accounting** of said $156,500 in currency which he received during sessions of the legislature or shortly thereafter, and the receipt of such sums in currency, and the failure to account for same constitutes official **misconduct**."

- "Austin American (Austin, Tex.), Sunday, September 23, 1917." The Portal to Texas History

Impeachment: A process to convict a government official of a crime and remove them from office

Parties: People

Currency: Money

Thus: As a result

In contempt of: Disrespecting the authority of

Accounting: Explanation

Misconduct: Inappropriate behavior

Source 9: *The Galveston Hurricane*

Figure 1: Volunteers prepare to remove debris on Twenty-first Street in Galveston after the Hurricane. The Portal to Texas History

Source 10: *Texas Political Divisions*

è**Mrs. Ferguson** would be decidedly better for the State than to have **Felix Robertson**, and although none of us voted for either of them in the ¸ rst **primary**, we shall support and vote for Mrs. Ferguson in the run-off primary Aug. 23.ê

èThe one vital issue involved in this campaign is whether free government shall survive or our State Government be delivered into the hands of a secret oath-bound organization. We believe the nomination of Felix Robertson would be **equivalent to** substituting government by the Ku Klux Klan for government by the legally constituted authoritiesÑ . In any event, we believe there is in¸ nitely less danger in this direction than in the election of Felix Robertson, whose chief advisers would be certain well-known klansmen.ê

- "The Whitewright Sun (Whitewright, Tex.) Thursday, August 14, 1924." The Portal to Texas History.

Mrs. Ferguson: 1925 candidate for governor, Miriam Ferguson

Felix Robertson: 1925 candidate for governor

Primary: An election to choose each political party's candidate for office

Equivalent to: The same as; Equal to