

AFD Ep 316 Links and Notes - Hazen Pingree, John Altgeld, Thomas Marshall

- Hazen S. Pingree, Mayor of Detroit and Governor of Michigan
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazen_S._Pingree
 - A New England (Maine) Yankee combat veteran of the Civil War who looked like King Edward VII and significantly aided the Republican Party by bringing in continental European ethnic constituencies in northern cities, despite himself being [a very rich shoe manufacturing tycoon](#) of English stock
 - *Warning repeatedly against the dangers of monopolistic corporations, he launched nationally visible crusades against Detroit's streetcar, gas, electric, and telephone companies. He successfully forced rate reductions that won him widespread popularity. He won public approval for a citizen-owned electric light plant and became a national spokesman for municipal ownership and public regulation of utilities and street railways.*
 - *When the nationwide Panic of 1893 caused a severe depression, Pingree gained support by opening empty lots to garden farming launching Pingree's "Potato Patch Plan," initially financed by Pingree, who sold his prize horse to pay for the farming tools and seeds. Pingree was a Republican, whose policies competed for support of the Populist Party voters and labor union members.*
 - *Pingree had never been active in politics. As a citizen reformer he was elected mayor of Detroit in 1889 on a platform of exposing and ending corruption in city paving contracts, sewer contracts, and the school board. He soon turned to fighting privately owned utility monopolies. He challenged the electric and gas monopolies through municipally owned competitors.[5] His largest struggle, however, was with Tom L. Johnson, president of the Detroit City Railway, over lowering streetcar fares to three cents. Pingree again attempted to create a competing municipally owned company, but was barred from creating a railway by the Michigan Constitution.[7] When the company sought a thirty-year contract with the city, Pingree opposed it, leading a major shareholder, James McMillan, to express vehement disapproval.[8]*
 - *During the severe nationwide depression of 1893, Pingree expanded the public welfare programs, initiated public works for the unemployed, built new schools, parks, and public baths. He gained national recognition through his "potato patch plan", which allowed poor people to use 430 acres (170 ha)[8] of vacant city land for growing food.*
 - Detailed info on the Potato Patch scheme:
<https://communityofgardens.si.edu/items/show/29> - *During the first year, Pingree and his allies were able to garner enough support to acquire 430 acres of land to temporarily use for cultivation on the outskirts of the city. The Agricultural Committee plowed and harrowed the land, and staked it off into numbered parcel that ranged from one quarter to a half acre. To ensure participation, many were compelled to apply for the program under the threat of not receiving charity relief from the city if they did not participate. Two thirds of the lots were generally planted with potatoes, but the gardeners also raised beans, squash, pumpkins, string beans, cabbage, cucumbers, corn, and beets. While by no means reaching all of the unemployed, the program was a relative success. In 1894, 975 families raised \$14,000 worth of crops on 430 acres of land. By 1897, the program in Detroit reached its peak, with 1563 families participating,*

before tapering off by 1901 as economic conditions improved. More than any other achievement, Pingree's idea for vacant lot gardens defined his legacy and drew national attention. Delegations from Buffalo and Boston visited Detroit as early as 1895 to learn about the plan and similar project spread to cities across the United States.

- *In 1896 Pingree was nominated as the GOP candidate for Governor of Michigan. He campaigned on a platform of pluralism, inviting the Germans and other ethnics to join a grand coalition that would bring prosperity to everyone, unlike the false prosperity promised by the silverites. He carried the state both for himself and Republican presidential candidate William McKinley.[9]*
- *After taking office on January 1, 1897, he intended to also fill the last year of his term as mayor of Detroit, which would have lasted until elections in November 1897. However, his right to hold the two offices simultaneously was contested, and after the Michigan Supreme Court ruled against him, Pingree resigned as mayor.[5]*
- *During his four years in office, Pingree promoted the regulation of railroad rates, equal taxation, and municipal ownership of public utilities. He also supported the direct election of U.S. senators; an eight-hour workday; an income tax; primary elections; the power of "referendum," the abolition of child labor, and compulsory arbitration of labor disputes. Opposition from Democrats and business-oriented Republicans blocked most of his proposals. Pingree expressed the Progressive fear of corporate power, saying, "I do not condemn corporations and rich men," he said, "but I would keep them within their proper spheres. It is not safe to entrust the government of the country to the influence of Wall Street." [10]*
- John P. Altgeld, progressive/left Governor of Illinois and German-American (born in [Niederselters](#) in Germany – [Duchy of Nassau](#) – but moved to America immediately a few months later by his parents as the Revolutions of 1848 kicked off):
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Peter_Altgeld [watch out for editing/accuracy problems on this Wiki page!] <http://projects.vassar.edu/1896/altgeld.html>
 - Altgeld was a Granger movement Democratic politician who spent one year as a prosecutor in Missouri and resigned quickly after becoming immediately convinced that the criminal justice system and penal system were worsening the problem of crime and producing hardened criminals, not rehabilitated members of society. In 1884, he published "Our Penal Machinery and Its Victims."
 - Campaigning in 1884 as an Illinois Democrat, he nearly won a Congressional race in a solidly Republican district in Illinois on this anti-tough on crime platform, dramatically outperforming the previous Democratic nominee who was much better known than Altgeld. In 1886 he was elected as a Superior Court judge in Cook County, Illinois, on both the ballot lines of the Dems and the short-lived local United Labor Party – an impressive feat given the level of public turbulence that year over the Haymarket bombing and trial. He unsuccessfully sought the legislature's indirect election to US Senate in 1890.
 - Nominated for Governor in 1892, he was popular among downstate Illinois voters and media outlets (maybe because of his time in Missouri) and among German-Americans and left sympathizers in Chicago, despite English language press vilifying him in all but one paper. He was called "The Poor Man's Friend" during the 1892 campaign, although he was by that point a millionaire from real estate and owned several buildings in Chicago. He attacked the Republican

incumbent for using prison labor on state projects. He was elected, becoming the first immigrant governor of Illinois and the first Chicago resident to win the governorship. He nearly died of poor health right after the election but survived.

- Wiki: *As governor, Altgeld spearheaded the nation's most progressive child labor and occupational safety laws, appointed women to important positions in the state government, and vastly increased state funding for education.*
- In June 1893, Altgeld [pardoned](#) [full text] the remaining (not yet executed) people convicted falsely for the Haymarket bombing. The actual pardon order contains a very, very long and extremely detailed examination of the facts surrounding the case and reviews the trial itself, so as to prove that the pardon was clearly justified. Nevertheless, this was all boiled down into the notion that he was a radical monster who loved murderous anarchist terrorists. That perception was spread not only locally but nationally, vaulting him from obscurity to infamy.
- Altgeld vociferously opposed President Cleveland's use of federal troops and sweeping attorney general orders to break the Pullman strike, unlike most of his peer governors. Altgeld did deploy state militias during the crisis, I think to allow non-striking workers to move trains unimpeded and in some instances violently clashing with worker crowds, but he barred them from being used to guard private property from destruction and would not allow them to be used as scab workers. Despite this he was routinely denounced in the local and national press (and by political opponents) as a murderous "anarchist" or "the ambitious and unscrupulous Illinois communist" as Harper's Weekly phrased it during his 1896 re-election bid. Others simply attacked him with comparisons to John C. Calhoun for his federalist or states-rights approach to the Pullman strike and his fruitless insistence that the President could not deploy US troops domestically.
- Altgeld was swept out of office (after helping to break Democratic unity by publicly opposing Cleveland during and after the strike) in the 1896 Republican wave year that saw McKinley elected president. Teddy Roosevelt, who four years later would be elected Vice President on McKinley's 2nd ticket, came to Illinois specifically to tear apart Altgeld's re-election bid and campaign for McKinley in the state. (Roosevelt [may also have hinted in one speech in 1896](#) that Altgeld and William Jennings Bryan would need to be shot by a firing squad like the end of the Paris Commune of 1871 in order to prevent a Social Revolution in the United States, although it is not completely clear which ten or twelve people he had in mind.) Altgeld had somewhat inadvertently helped William Jennings Bryan [obtain the presidential nomination at the Democratic national convention in Chicago](#) by championing the "Silver" cause nationally and ensuring the convention would be filled with anti-Gold Standard delegates, although Altgeld was backing Missouri Congressman Richard P. Bland, the favorite at the convention's start. Altgeld commented to Clarence Darrow, "That is the greatest speech I ever listened to. I don't know but its effect will be to nominate him." Altgeld retained the Illinois delegates for Bland for several ballots but eventually had to yield them to Bryan after the delegation as a bloc was ready to flip. (Altgeld was himself never eligible for the presidency due to his foreign birth.)
- He later tried unsuccessfully twice to run for Mayor of Chicago as a "Municipal Ownership" 3rd party candidate against the incumbent conservative Democrat with the hope of splitting the vote and allowing a "less offensive" Republican in.

- Wilson's Vice President (and former Indiana Governor) Thomas R. Marshall
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_R._Marshall
 - *During his term [1909-1913], Marshall focused primarily on advancing the progressive agenda. He successfully advocated the passage of a child labor law and anti-corruption legislation. He supported popular election of U.S. Senators, and the constitutional amendment to allow it was ratified by the Indiana General Assembly during his term.[41] He also overhauled the state auditing agencies and claimed to have saved the government millions of dollars.[39] He was unsuccessful in passing the rest of the progressive platform agenda items or persuading the legislature to call a convention to rewrite the state constitution to expand the government's regulatory powers.[42]*
 - *Marshall was a strong opponent of Indiana's recently passed eugenics and sterilization laws, and ordered state institutions not to follow them.[43] He was an early, high-profile opponent of eugenics laws, and he carried his opposition into the vice-presidency.[44] His governorship was the first in which no state executions took place, due to his opposition to capital punishment and his practice of pardoning and commuting the sentences of people condemned to execution.[45] He regularly attacked corporations and used recently created antitrust laws to attempt to break several large businesses.[46]*
 - *Rewriting the state constitution became Marshall's central focus as governor, and after the General Assembly refused to call a constitutional convention he sought other ways to have a new constitution adopted. He and Jacob Piatt Dunn, a close friend and civic leader, wrote a new constitution that increased the state's regulatory powers considerably, set minimum wages, and gave constitutional protections to unions.[48] Many of these reforms were also in the Socialist Party platform under its leader, Terre Haute native Eugene V. Debs. Republicans believed Marshall's constitution was an attempt to win over Debs' supporters, who had a strong presence in Indiana.[41][46] The constitution also allowed direct-democracy initiatives and referendums to be held. The Democratic controlled assembly agreed to the request and put the measure on the ballot. His opponents attacked the direct-democracy provisions, claiming they were a violation of the United States Constitution, which required states to operate republican forms of government.[46][49] The 1910 midterm elections gave the Democrats control of the Indiana Senate, increasing the constitution's chances of adoption. Marshall presented it to the General Assembly in 1911 and recommended that they submit it to voters in the 1912 election.[50] [It was blocked from the ballot by the courts after Republicans filed suit.]*
 - He was added to the 1912 ticket as Woodrow Wilson's running mate to balance the ticket somewhat and to help deliver the key state of Indiana. (He joked, "Indiana is the mother of Vice Presidents; home of more second-class men than any other state.") As Vice President they repeatedly clashed or simply parted ways (or he was left out of the loop) – partly because Wilson and his clique were convinced they were “progressives” but Marshall was arguably much more progressive and they believed for whatever reason that he has actually been a conservative governor – but he loyally campaigned for the ticket both times and supported World War 1 efforts once war had been declared (he was not very supportive beforehand) and he ran a few cabinet meetings during the Versailles conference while Wilson was in Europe, before deciding he didn't want to do that

either, after which the Secretary of State more or less assumed de facto cabinet leadership in Wilson's absence. Marshall also failed to persuade Wilson to accept some compromises to obtain Senate consent for his postwar agenda. During the 1919-1920 crisis of Wilson's stroke and incapacitation in the second term, Marshall was unwilling to push the clique around Wilson to acknowledge he was unable to serve, and they blocked Marshall from visiting the president in person. The cabinet and Congress were at one point basically united in arguing that Marshall should assume the role of Acting President based on then-vague Constitutional provisions for "Inability to discharge" presidential duty, but he never did, and the 25th Amendment had not yet been adopted to make an official process for such a scenario.

- https://www.senate.gov/about/officers-staff/vice-president/VP_Thomas_Marshall.htm
- <https://millercenter.org/president/wilson/essays/marshall-1913-vicepresident>