10. Food and Drug and Safety

Perhaps no muckraker caused as great a stir as **UPTON SINCLAIR**. An avowed Socialist, Sinclair hoped to illustrate the horrible effects of capitalism on workers in the Chicago meatpacking industry. His bone-chilling account, ***THE JUNGLE***, detailed workers sacrificing their fingers and nails by working with acid, losing limbs, catching diseases, and toiling long hours in cold, cramped conditions. He hoped the public outcry would be so fierce that reforms would soon follow.



The clamor that rang throughout America was not, however, a response to the workers' plight. Sinclair also uncovered the contents of the products being sold to the general public. Spoiled meat was covered with chemicals to hide the smell. Skin, hair, stomach, ears, and nose were ground up and packaged as head cheese. Rats climbed over warehouse meat, leaving piles of excrement behind.

Sinclair said that he aimed for America's heart and instead hit its stomach. Even President Roosevelt, who coined the derisive term "muckraker," was propelled to act. Within months, Congress passed the **PURE FOOD AND DRUG ACT** to mandate nutrition facts and ingredient listings on food and medicine, and the **MEAT INSPECTION ACT** which allowed the government to inspect slaughterhouses for cleanliness



**10: Food and Drug Safety**

1. **Who was Upton Sinclair**
2. **What did the Jungle tell a story about?**
3. **Was the Jungle effective?**

**Pure Food and Drug Act –**

**Meat Inspection Act -**