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California Progressives

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Progressivism in Northern California was a kind of unified phenomenon which was made up of a number of ¹efforts that sought to use the legislative process to ameliorate problems that were brought up by urbanization, immigration, and rapid industrialization. There were some divisive factionalism and class antagonists who were trying to prevent the unified opposition from industry, labour, and agriculture. California politics have been seen to have a great negative impact on the progressivism of the state. Political parties have not been able to advance coherent public policy programs. Legislation has been seen to derive well from the properly financed, real estate, organized labour, agribusiness and well-organized special interests including oil.

Progressiveness has been seen to have different kinds of approaches in different states and countries. ² “In California, progressives may have destroyed effective party organizations, but they provided the electorate with the tools of direct democracy”, p.195¹. Direct democracy means that the people of the state are to act on and purify the politics of their nation and also improve the government quality and ruling. This was made with the notion that the residents of California are wise enough and that they can govern themselves. In the year 1909, the state assembly of California described the progressiveness in San Francisco as a legislature of cranks. This was due to the local prohibitions which were going on in San Francisco.

Examples of these local prohibitions which occurred included pool selling, wagering, any form of bookmaking. It led to the closure of over a thousand saloons. The government of San Francisco was unsavoury municipal which was wicked. There existed a worldwide bawdy reputation against San Francisco. ‘*San Francisco had an unsavoury municipal government (a “California Tammany”) and wicked demimonde*’². There were reform crusades later on in the year

¹ Franklin Hichborn: Major Problems in California History- The Ambiguities of Political and Moral Reform. Chapter 8. Boston - Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 1997. This shows that California progressiveness had an advantage to the citizens where it provided direct-democracy to the electorate sector.

² Franklin Hichborn: Major Problems in California History- The Ambiguities of Political and Moral Reform. Chapter 8. Boston - Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 1997. This text shows explains how San Francisco had both unsavory municipal of ruling and a wicked demimonde.

1913. There was also a mayor known as Ralph who was fighting for the personal liberty of the citizens of the state. During this time, many states such as Los Angeles also tried to prohibit drugs, alcoholism and even nightlife, but in San Francisco, everything remained calm. Some reformers in San Francisco favored the city's moral reforms. With time the population of San Francisco citizens grew rapidly. The population growth was followed by gold discovery. San Francisco was able to accomplish new ways of giving affordable health and housing services.

In Los Angeles, the progressivism story was different. It became the toughest in the west. In the year 1850, there were less than 6,000 residents of Los Angeles. Many of them supported prostitution, alcoholism, and gambling. With time there was the construction of many churches compared to any other city in the United States. There were people who were trying to advocate for law enforcement and control of vice or bad operations. Many reform efforts were done by the leaders of the town or a good time. Prostitution and gambling were outlawed in the year 1902. After the passing of these laws, they continue to fight against the vice. Later on, the police were able to enforce laws, civic reformers protected the commercial vice and some disreputable pleasures were worked on and reduced.

In southern California, progressiveness was viewed in terms of cultural development. There were exhibitions of different cultures which featured songs, art as well as foreign-born cultural foreign dances. This was done purposely to teach the natives and even the immigrants the worth of coming up with a national consensus which was to be shared by all the citizens. The citizens were taught to act against any form of Americanization program that could emerge. ¹ *The California women who supported Americanization did so because they perceived their primary political task as maintaining "interdependence"-social order, unity and peace' p.225. After*

gaining Americanization this would earn them social harmony and also attain them responsibilities and a nice place in America.

Works Cited

Franklin Hichborn: Major Problems in California History- The Ambiguities of Political and Moral Reform. Chapter 8. Boston - Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 1997.

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