

Problems of Urbanization and Daily Life in the North

Urbanization

- **Urbanization** - Tremendous growth in urban areas, partly as a result of mill girls moving from farms into towns.
- An increase in immigrants also impacted urbanization.
- Such rapid **urbanization** led to deadly fires, disease and pollution.

Immigration

- In the mid-1800s, more than half of Ireland's population came to the United States due largely to the so-called Potato Famine, a massive crop failure that left the Irish people starving.* Nearly all of them arrived penniless, unable to move out of the cities where their boats landed.
- Germans also immigrated for various political and economic reasons, but by contrast, they could often afford to move inland to Midwestern cities like Cincinnati, St. Louis and Milwaukee.

Labor Issues

- Workers had few rights or protections from their employers, so they began banding together in unions.
- When everyone refused to work, the employers would sometimes relent to their demands. But unskilled workers were easy to replace thanks to the plentiful immigration.
- **Nativists** were anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic Americans who resented this competition in the job market.