The Oxnard Strike of 1903: Breaking Barriers of Racial Representation in the Labor Force

Yashas Mattur, Anthony Noce, Ankit Rath Junior Division Group Exhibit Student-Composed Words: 499

Process Paper: 494

## Process Paper

We are a group of students who love learning about the development of groups who fought for rights in history. That is why our initial historic question before researching our topic was, "How did the labor force evolve as workers' representation in society grew more and more important?" This was what we had started with, because although we had done a short Social Studies lesson on the development of labor unions in the late 1800s to the early 1900s, we were still intrigued about them. However, as we conducted more research, we found out that minority laborers barely had any labor representation during the early 1900s, but had significantly more representation towards the later half of the twentieth century. Because of this, our question became, "What barriers separated the minority groups in the United States, how did the state of minorities in the labor force change over time, and how did they gain ethnic representation as laborers?" However, as we researched further, we decided to focus on how those barriers of racial labor representation were broken, and how the impacts of this change affected the USA as a whole.

We used a variety of sources to conduct the research of our topic, including various books from our public library and e-books from online archives. In addition, we used newspaper collections (such as Chronicling America from the Library of Congress Archives) to acquire significant quotes, pictures, and political cartoons. We looked at letters that were exchanged between key characters of this strike to learn about the tension that divided racial groups of Oxnard, the economic position of this situation, and even the importance of the timing and key geographical setting of this strike. To conduct this research, we visited our local library (the Schaumburg Township District Library) in order to access many microfilm repositories, which

helped us track down newspaper articles that we used as evidence to prove our thesis. In addition, we gained access to many primary sources from outside of Illinois via interlibrary loans, from which many pieces of our evidence are from. This helped us gain a better understanding of how this strike broke barriers.

We chose an exhibit to display our topic, because we wanted to emphasize the national importance of this strike, and its further ramifications throughout the national stage. In addition, we wanted to display the efforts of the strike visually, so that our information could potentially be more aesthetically pleasing and interactive to a person learning from our project.

Our project integrates the NHD theme, "Breaking Barriers in History" because the strike broke barriers of labor representation by giving laborers better pay and representation as workers of race. In addition, it broke the racial barriers that held the Japanese and Mexican minorities of the USA apart by instigating them to cooperate and strike. Because this strike was the first to accomplish this feat, it led to many other strikes across the nation to start implementing these multiracial ideals.

Ankit Rath Anthony Noce Yashas Mattur Annotated Bibliography The Oxnard Beet Strike of 1903

## Annotated Bibliography

## **Primary Sources:**

"Armed Japanese Attend Funeral." *The San Francisco Call*, 28 Mar. 1903, p. 2, https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1903-03-28/ed-1/seq-2/.

This newspaper shows how the Japanese united with the Mexicans to fight for better rights. They fought together in the Strike of Oxnard Chinatown, showing that the two different races of workers were willing to fight alongside each other against the WACC until they won. This demonstrated their cooperation in striking, and how it was effective in making it a success.

Barajas, Frank P. Curious Unions: Mexican American Workers and Resistance in Oxnard, California, 1898-1961. Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2012.

This book was influential in our knowledge of the resistance in Oxnard, California during the strike. Its maps were informative, and they helped us understand many of the aspects of the striking. In addition, it helped us form our historical background by giving us sufficient historical background on what happened before the striking began in 1903 in the city of Oxnard.

Daniel, Cletus E. *Bitter Harvest, a History of California Farmworkers*, 1870-1941. University of California Press, 1982.

This book gave us lots of historical background and information that led up to the Oxnard Strike of 1908. This helped us strengthen our historical background and helped us understand why the people did what they did. It also provided lots of information on the long-term and short-term effects of the strike, which helped us understand the legacy of this event.

- Daniels, Roger. *The Politics of Prejudice: the Anti-Japanese Movement in California and the Struggle for Japanese Exclusion*. University of California Press, 1977.
- This book showed us how prejudice against the Japanese built up throughout the first half of the twentieth century. It gave information on the white perspective of the biases being built on the Japanese, and how although the nineteenth century brought hatred between Mexicans, the commencement of the twentieth brought promises of collaboration between the two ethnicities. This helped us develop historical background.
- Ichioka, Yuji. *The Issei: the World of the First Generation Japanese Immigrants*, 1885-1924. Free Press, 1988.
- This book gave us lots of historical background on the discrimination against the Japanese-Americans of California. It showed why the Mexicans and Japanese of Oxnard, California were discriminated against and what this racism meant for the oppressors and the prejudiced. It also provided many pieces of evidence to prove our claims, giving useful, applicable
- "Japanese Laborers Fight with Mexicans." *The Salt Lake Herald*, 24 Mar. 1903, p. 1, https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85058130/1903-03-24/ed-1/seq-1/.
- The San Francisco Call newspaper describes brutality against Mexicans. This provides numerous examples of massacres and acts of violence against Hispanics, as well as legal cases. Clearly this newspaper transmits violence and hatred to other races. This really allowed us to appreciate the period of time and the extent of racism.
- "Japs and Mexicans Unionized." *Corvallis Gazette*, 03 Apr. 1903, p. 1, https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn93051660/1903-04-03/ed-1/seq-1/.
- This newspaper article helped us understand the implications of the breaking of the barriers, and how the Los Angeles Government Board favored them. The newspaper also expressed itself in an amazed tone, because it mentions that it was the first time that a labor union of non-Asiatic ethnicity had accepted Japanese-Americans. This newspaper was written after the strike but before the JMLA's success, so it describes the strikers' journey to success.
- "Men Fight in Showers of Bullets." The San Francisco Call, 24 Mar. 1903, p. 1, https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1903-03-24/ed-1/seq-3/.
- This newspaper from the San Francisco Call, shows violence against mexicans. It shows many examples of shootings and violent acts against Mexicans, and legal cases. This newspaper clearly broadcasts the violence and hate towards other races. This helped us really understand the time period and the level of discrimination.

- "Mob Threatens But Disperses." *The San Francisco Call*, 27 Mar. 1903, p. 2, https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1903-03-27/ed-1/seq-2/.
- This article was very informative in helping us gain perspective about the Strike as portrayed by the media. Although Southern California newspapers such as the Oxnard Courier and the Los Angeles Times portrayed the Strike as an unnecessary riot created by non-white people, other newspapers had less bias against the strikers. This gave us information on how the strikers broke barriers, which helped in developing our thesis.
- "New Labor Departure." *The Morning Astorian*, 27 Mar. 1903, p. 1, https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85042400/1903-03-27/ed-1/seq-1/.
- This newspaper was very informative in giving us the different perspectives of the Oxnard Strike of 1903. It showed how although the non-Japanese and non-Mexicans tried to put the strikers in the worst light possible, they had to admit that the white reaction to their striking was unwarranted and violent. This shows how the strikers maintained nonviolent policies, which helped gain sympathy from others and inevitably triumph.
- Street, Richard Steven. *Beasts of the Field: A Narrative History of California Farmworkers*, 1769-1913. Stanford University Press.
- This book showed the agricultural history of Southern California, including farm laborers from Native Americans to Mexican-Americans to Japanese immigrants. This book helped us understand how people became farm laborers, and why stereotypes against immigrants from Mexico and Japan formed. This helped us develop our historical background.
- "Western Agricultural Contracting Co." Oxnard Courier, 12 Feb. 1902, p. 2, https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85042400/1903-03-27/ed-1/seq-1/.
- This newspaper article gave us insight on how the WACC functioned, and also provided a clipping of a WACC note saying that the sugar beet trimming season was near, and that the contracting company was ready to provide labor for that. In addition, it showed us how Oxnard was before the rioting, which gave us a really good perspective of the white Americans and helped us understand the many aspects of our historical background better.
- Wroblewski, Matthew Scott. Violence, Vice, and the Media: A Labor History of Oxnard, 1898-1913. San Diego State University Press.
- This book helped us understand the short term causes of the Oxnard Strike of 1908, which helped us develop the main ideas of our historical background and the background portions of our thesis. In addition, this book helped us comprehend the long-term effects of the Oxnard Strike, and how it was portrayed by the media at that time, which helped us understand the white perspective of the strike.

## **Secondary Sources:**

- Araquel, Christine, et al. *Prof. G. Omatsu's ClassWeb Magazine*, http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc/classweb/winter02/aas197a/apaplabor\_fp.html.
- This helped us gain more historical background on the Oxnard Strike of 1903. In addition, it helped us develop our thesis by providing information on how the Oxnard Strike broke racial and discriminatory barriers by being the first strike to include cooperation between two races who were usually against each other.
- Blakemore, Erin. "The Brutal History of Anti-Latino Discrimination in America." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 27 Sept. 2017, https://www.history.com/news/the-brutal-history-of-anti-latino-discrimination-in-america.
- This website helped us understand why white Americans were prejudiced against Mexican Americans, and how stereotypes against Mexicans began. This was influential in our understanding of the background of the strike because it shed light on to the situation of the discrimination against the Mexican-American workers, and why they and the farm owners were against each other in the Oxnard Strike of 1903.
- Castañeda, Oscar, and Maria Quintana. "Asians and Latinos Enter the Fields." *Asians and Latinos Enter the Fields Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project*, https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/farmwk ch4.htm.
- This website helped us understand how the Oxnard Strike of 1903 broke barriers in being the first interracial strike in America. This showed what the workers were fighting for in the strike. In addition, it shed light onto how other unions (such as the UFW) would be inspired by this to implement these practices by disregarding racial barriers.
- Chavez, Cesar. "UFW." United Farm Workers, 30 Jan. 2020, ufw.org/.
- The website of the United Farm Workers of America made by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta as an activist organization. This organization has helped us realize how helpful and impactful Cesar Chavez and his associates are. He is still making an impact today in his work and activism. It really helps us understand the impact and the way he could transform the working conditions for farm workers all around.

- Collins, Corey. "Roots of Cooperation." *Roots of Cooperation*, 7 July 2009, https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/roots-of-cooperation.
- This magazine from the 1900s helped us understand how daily life was in Oxnard before the Oxnard Strike of 1908. The people of Oxnard were living in prosperity because of the abundance of crop yield; in fact, Oxnard began producing so many sugar beets and lima beans that it became a rich town. This helped us understand what happened leading up to the strike, and helped us develop our historical background.
- Denshō. "Over More than a Hundred Years of Farm Labor History, Japanese and Mexican Americans Have Been Both Allies and Adversaries." *Denshō*, https://densho.org/japanese-mexican-americans-agricultural-allies-adversaries/.
- This website gave us more information as to the historical background of the sugar beet farms, and technical information including what the workers were called such as specifically providing what the Mexicans and Japanese workers did. It also provided some short term effects of the strikes. In addition, it provided evidence of how the people broke barriers by providing official photographs of the people of the Japanese-Mexican Labor Association.
- Dubrow, Gail, et al. "Preserving California Japantowns Bibliography." California State Library, http://www.californiajapantowns.org/PCJ-Bibliography.pdf.
- This document is very helpful to us by providing information about the events and the Oxnard strike's effects in labor unions afterwards. It includes many primary and secondary sources that we can utilize for our tri-board and to continue our extensive research on our topic. Overall this bibliography of sources on the Oxnard Strike has many good sources.
- Hardy, James. "Resistance, Radicalism, and Repression on the Oxnard Plain: The Social Context of the Betabelero Strike of 1933." History Cooperative, The History Cooperative, 18 Oct. 2019, https://historycooperative.org/journal/resistance-radicalism-and-repression-on-the-oxnard-plain-the-social-context-of-the-betabelero-strike-of-1933/.
- This article helps us understand how the Mexican residents were greatly affected by their wages. It affects their lifestyle, their living conditions and how they survive. This article emphasizes the importance of the Oxnard Strike and how it improved the lives of Mexican residents.

- History Matters. "A Foretaste of the Orient': John Murray Criticizes the AFL." *The U.S. Survey Course on the Web*, http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5564/.
- This website helped us by giving us lots of information on how, after the Oxnard Strike of 1903, the JMLA (Japanese-Mexican Labor Association) wanted to join the AFL (American Federation of Labor) after helping gain a workers' victory in Oxnard. However, they were rejected because the AFL didn't want to accept people of Asiatic race, despite their claims of accepting people of all ethnicities. This helped us in our project by giving us information for the long term effects of the strike.
- Kim, Eugene. *The Oxnard Strike of 1903*. Dartmouth, 1999, http://www.dartmouth.edu/~hist32/History/S03%20-%20The%201903%20Oxnard%20Strike.htm - The 1903 Oxnard Strike.htm.
- This website gave some insight on how the Oxnard Strike happened, and provides a reflection on the event in which the effects and legacy of the striking are discussed. In addition, this document gives statistics on how many workers were in the WACC, the names of important people of the corporations, and many more important details that helped us gain more knowledge on the short-term and long-term effects of the strike.
- McBane, Margo. "Whitening A California Citrus Company Town: Racial Segregation Practices at the Limoneira Company and Santa Paula, 1893-1919." *Indiana University Press*, San Jose State University, 2011, https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/racethmulglocon.4.2.211?seq=1#metadata\_info\_tab\_contents.
- This website helped us in finding information, because it gave us more examples of practices of racial segregation and how people overcame those barriers in striking to get what they wanted. This shows how other strikers were inspired by the Oxnard Strike of 1903, and having taken their example, they struck and were successful. This information helped us develop our long term effects section.
- MFSM. "History." Migrant Farmworkers Social Movement, http://migrantfarmworkers.web.unc.edu/history/.
- This article from the Migrant Farmworkers Social Movement gave us the effects of the strikes while also showing us important working conditions. We can clearly see the effects and the awareness brought to discrimination in today's world. In addition, the timelines give information about farming and domestic agriculture from the 1650s to today, and go into detail about Cesar Chavez and his strategies for better rights.

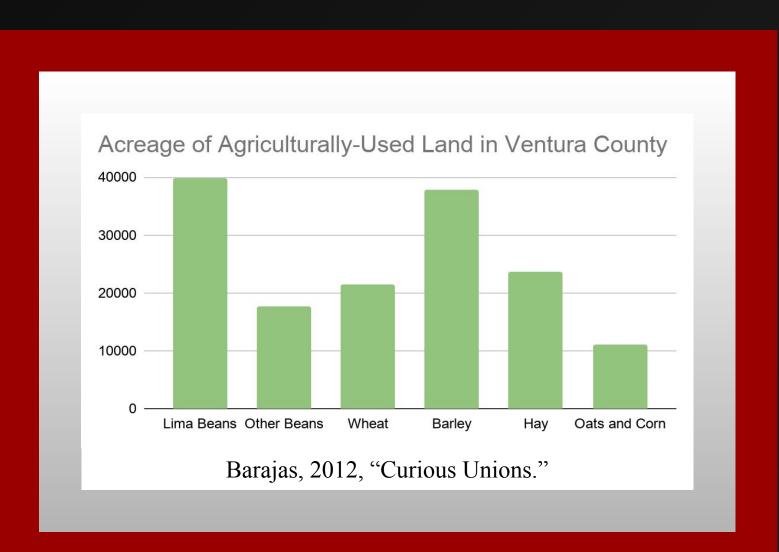
- NCRR. "1903 Oxnard Beet Strike." *Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress*, http://www.ncrr-la.org/DORarchive/DOR2004/oxnardbeet.htm.
- This secondary source from archive gives us a chronological order of events to show how each event impacted each other. It shows the racial divide even in the AFL. It shows how Asain people were not accepted and they were widely discriminated against. This is shown even more when the AFL didn't accept them because they are supposed to be accepting of everyone
- NPS. "Five Views: An Ethnic Historic Site Survey for California (Mexican Americans)." *National Parks Service*, U.S. Department of the Interior, 17 Nov. 2004, https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\_books/5views/5views5h21.htm.
- This article gives the historical background of the city of Oxnard, California, and recounts the fatal events that occurred in 1903. The racial divide, even in the AFL, was apparent, and how Asian and Mexican people were not accepted and were widely discriminated against. They were shot at and heavily despised. This is when the AFL didn't accept them because they are supposed to be accepting of everyone. Later on, the article states the short-term impact, and some of the JMLA's failures.
- Preserving California's Japantowns Oxnard, https://www.californiajapantowns.org/oxnard.html."Roots of Cooperation."
- This article gave a concise summary of the history of The American Beet Sugar Company, and gave background information about the JMLA, WACC, and important figures such as Kusaburo Baba, the leader of the JMLA. In addition, the website gave pictures of the conditions of the Japanese, and data on production amounts, number of workers, and dates of events. This helped us form a long-term effect of other strikes, and how action was taken.
- PRI. "How Japanese and Mexican American Farm Workers Formed an Alliance That Made History." *Public Radio International*, https://www.pri.org/stories/2016-08-15/how-japanese-and-mexican-american-farm-worker s-formed-alliance-made-history.
- This website helped us understand the prospect of breaking barriers by introducing different perspectives of this event. In addition, it provides context to different strikes in which people broke racial and segregatory barriers. It also showed how the Mexican-Americans and Japanese-American laborers were often pitted against each other, and how when only one of them tried to fight for better working conditions and pay, it was easier to control.

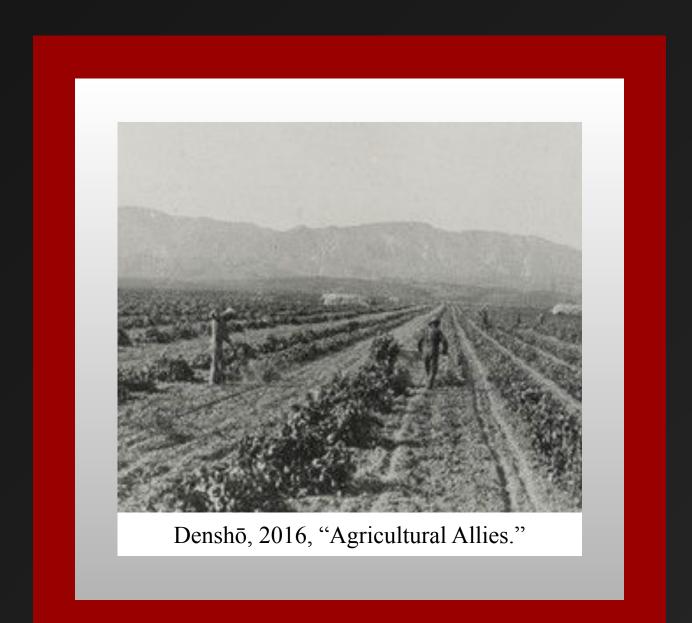
- Salsman, T.R. "Rise of the Beet: Irrigation, Labour, and Agricultural Intensification in the California Beet Sugar Industry, 1850-1903." UC Merced: The Undergraduate Historical Journal at UC Merced, UC Merced, 2018, escholarship.org/content/qt9866b1sn/qt9866b1sn.pdf.
- This document gave historical background from 1850 pertaining to the sugar beet industry in California. This helped us understand the basis and the previous events to our topic. Its background knowledge was very helpful in our understanding of the "current" events for our topic. Making our research stage quicker and more efficient. Overall this source gave extra sources for our background and also enhanced our knowledge and understanding of the strike.
- Sherman, Jocelyn. "Immigration: Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019." UFW, 14 Dec. 2019, ufw.org/immigrationact/.
- This article about the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019 shows us the major impact of Cesar and the organization of UFW. They have continued to help and greatly impact farm workers since even before the Oxnard Strike. The UFW in general is a great way to show us how impactful Cesar and his work is. Overall this article enhances our knowledge and understanding of the major impact of Cesar.
- Smith, Al. "JMLA, Okies, Bracero." Al Smith MJC, AI Smith, 3 June 1988, alsmithmjc.weebly.com/jmla-okies-bracero.html.
- This website helped us identify the events of the Oxnard Strike of 1903 by giving us many pieces of evidence to support our point. In addition, it helped us develop an understanding of the Oxnard Strike by displaying quotes of the leaders and important people of the event. In addition, it thoroughly explained the short term effects of the strikes, which helped us describe the effects of the strike in our project.
- UFCW. "1903 Oxnard Beet Sows the Seeds of Diversity." *A Voice for Working California*, 9 Feb. 1903, https://ufcw324.org/1903-oxnard-beet-sows-the-seeds-of-diversity/.
- This website informed us on how cultural and racial diversity was important in labor movements, because it gives information on how important it was that the Japanese and Mexicans worked together in striking. In addition, the article gives information on how the town of Oxnard grew, which helped it attract workers of different races.

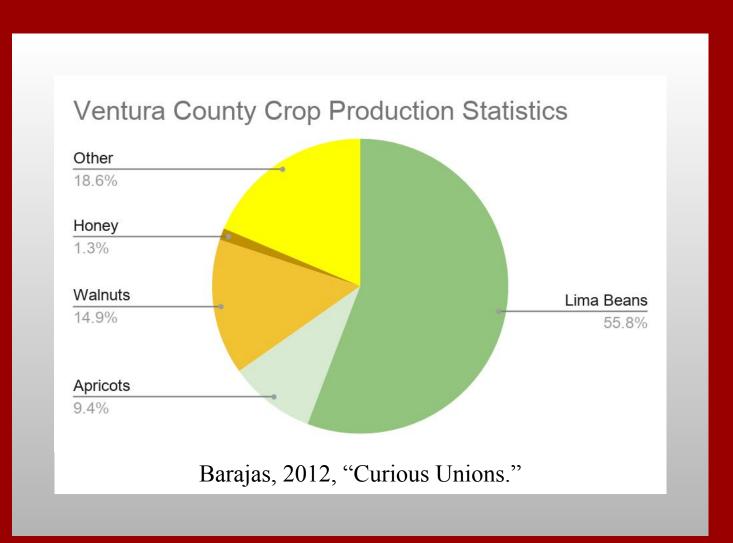
# The Oxnard Strike of 1903:

Breaking Barriers of Racial Representation in the Labor Force

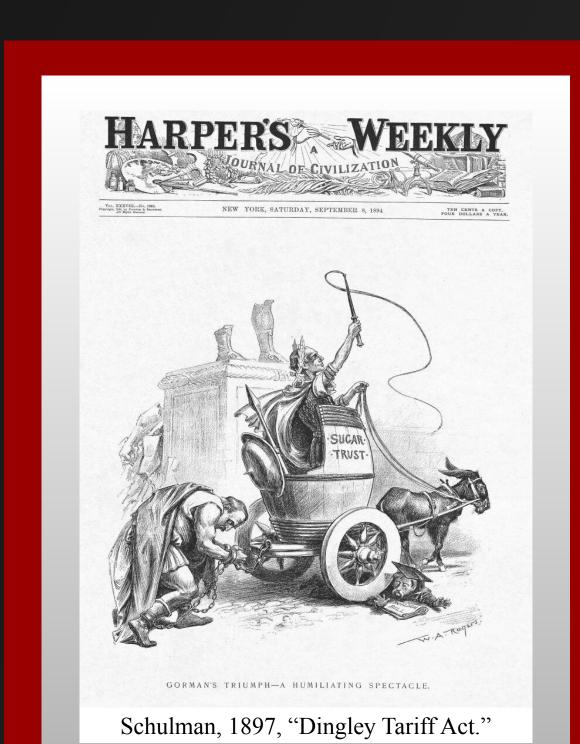
# Historical Background

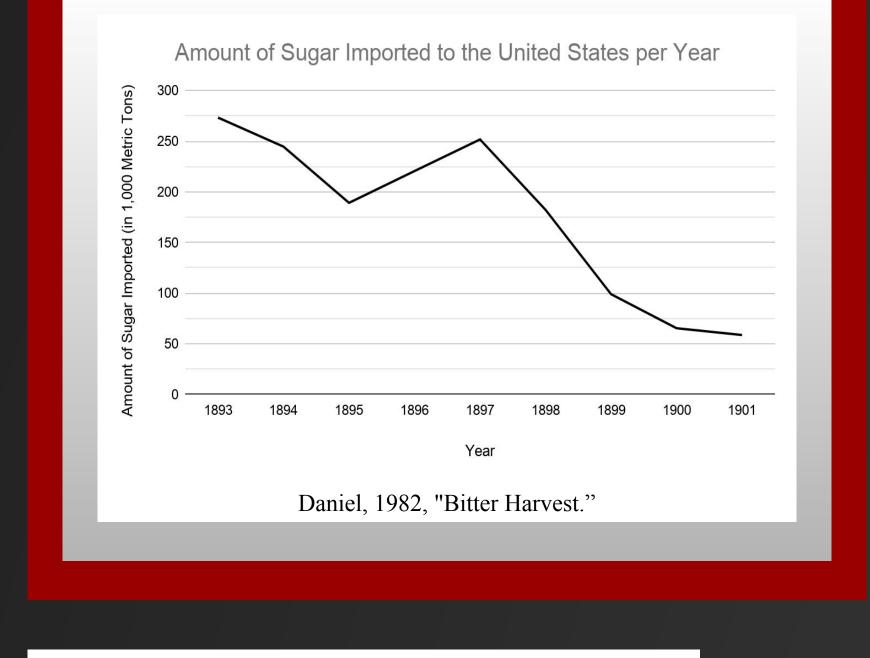






The agriculture industry of Ventura County (a Californian region by the Santa Clara River) was booming.



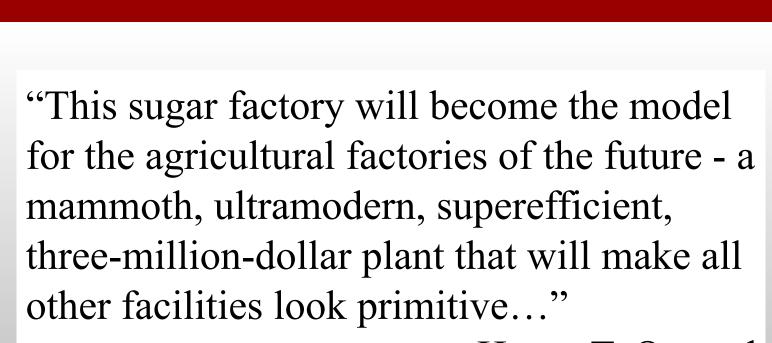


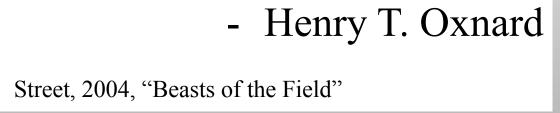
The 1897 Dingley Tariff

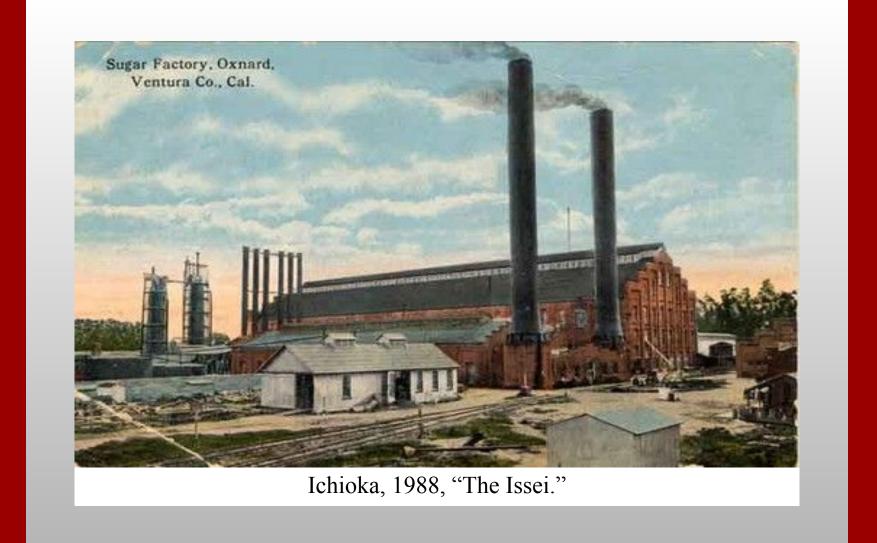
Act taxed foreign goods,

raising demand for sugar.

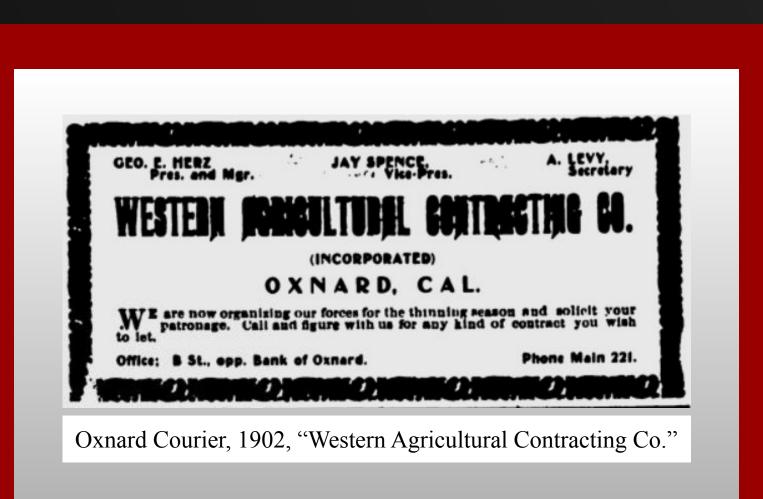
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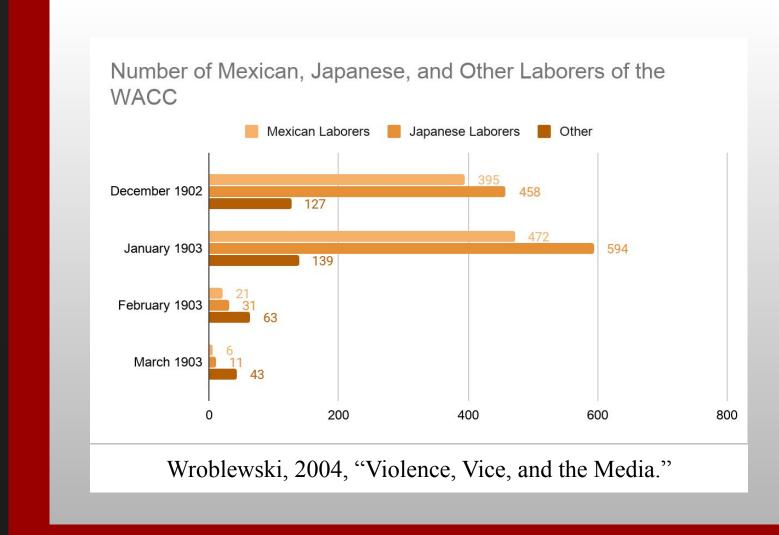






Sensing profitable opportunities, Henry Oxnard built a sugar-beet company in Ventura County; business prospered, and the town "Oxnard" was established.





JAPANESE LABORERS

Oxnard's main labor-contracting company - WACC (Western Agricultural Contracting Company) - consisted largely of Japanese and Mexicans laborers.

"Instead of paying each worker a ten-hour-day's wage of \$1.50 as they had been promised, the WACC gave them a piecework rate returning them considerably

- John Murray

Murray, 1903, "A Foretaste of the Orient."

"All efforts that we made in opposing the WACC were truly ineffective... because we acted separately. Had we collaborated before, they [the WACC] would have conceded to our demands long ago." - Kosaburo Baba, President of the Japanese-Mexican Labor Association

Street, 2004, "Beasts of the Field"

Farmers heightened Japanese-Mexican opposition by racially separating boarding, which prevented potential collaborative strikes while keeping wages artificially low.

FIGHT WITH MEXICANS

Oxnard, Cal., March 23.—Two hundred shots were exchanged today in a labor fight between Japanese and Mexicans.

## 

During the late nineteenth century, immigrant workers faced racial labor representation barriers. However, the Oxnard Strike of 1903 (the first successful interracial strike) broke these barriers, inspiring future multiethnic walkouts. This became significant in the nation's history of instigating change for laborers.

# Breaking Barriers

"The most effective method of protecting the working man and his standard of living is by the universal organization of the wage-worker regardless of his race or his national distinction." - Los Angeles City Council of Labor Los Angeles County Council of Labor, 1903, "In Response to the Events in Oxnard."

"The significance of this particular skirmish, in the great class war, lies in the fact that workers from the Occident and Orient, strangers in tongues, manners and customs, gathered together in a little western village [Oxnard, California], should so clearly see their class interest rise above all racial feelings of distrust." - John Murray Murray, 1903, "A Foretaste of the Orient."

> The laborers broke significant ethnic barriers by interracially

Denshō, 2016, "Agricultural Allies."

Two Hundred Shots Are Fired

and Five Persons Are

Wounded.

Streets Are Thronged With Armed

Laborers and More Serious Trouble

Is Expected From Clash of

Opposing Unions.

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"The Japanese and Mexican strike established better racial and labor representation for the laborers of the sugar beet fields..."

- The San Francisco Examiner The San Francisco Examiner, 1903, "Revelation of Oxnard."

## New Labor Departure

and other alien laborers in Los Angeles The Los Angeles Times, 1903, "New Labor Departure."

The laborers' triumph over labor representational barriers proved that interracial unity was effective.

# February 11, 1903

700 laborers formed the Japanese-Mexican Labor Association (JMLA) to strike against WACC for

paying less than promised.

The JMLA celebrated increasing membership by parading. WACC resented this, heightening tension.

"Japanese and Mexicans, side by side, dumb through lack of a common speech, yet eloquent in expressions of fraternity, marched through the streets of Oxnard.. [yet] tension grows in Sugar Town between strikers and employers..." - Ventura Daily Democrat

"Owing to the many false statements printed in the

Los Angeles Times and other daily papers about

our organization and the murderous assault made

Lizarras, 1903, "A Statement to the Public."

"Charles Arnold, after his life was threatened,

surrounded by muttering, half-drunk natives.

The officers... [being] the defenders of civilized

The Oxnard Courier, 1903, "Trouble Intensifies in Oxnard."

Although prejudiced newspapers

portrayed the union scathingly, the

union overcame media-imposed

discriminatory barriers.

March 6, 1903

fled to the office of the Justice of the Peace,

where a number of white men kept guard,

society, protected Arnold against these

- J. M. Lizarras

- The Oxnard Courier

upon the union men last Monday afternoon..."

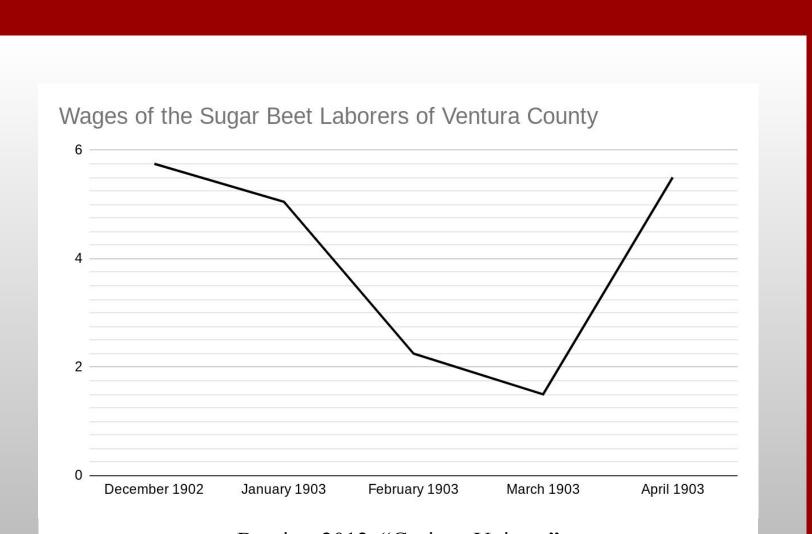
## March 23, 1903

WACC deputy Charles Arnold killed two JMLA members; however, he remained unpunished. The incensed

JMLA performed the mens' funerals

and redoubled its efforts.

The JMLA now controlled Oxnard's entire workforce, forcing WACC to increase wages; a victory for the JMLA.



## Short-Term Events

"At this juncture, the Los Angeles County Council of Labor passed resolutions favoring the organization of all Asiatics now in California. Because of this success, the JMLA considered joining the American Federation of Labor

Murray, 1903, "A Foretaste of the Orient."

[However], your union will, under no circumstance, accept membership of any Chinese or Japanese." - Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor Gompers, 1903, "A Letter to Secretary J. M. Lizarras."

"The union [JMLA] may enter the AFL...

the AFL told the JMLA to expel its

Many criticized these conditions, because the JMLA's ideals revolved around interracial unity. The JMLA

"We therefore petition the AFL to grant us a

refuse any other kind of charter, except one

charter under which we can unite all the laborers

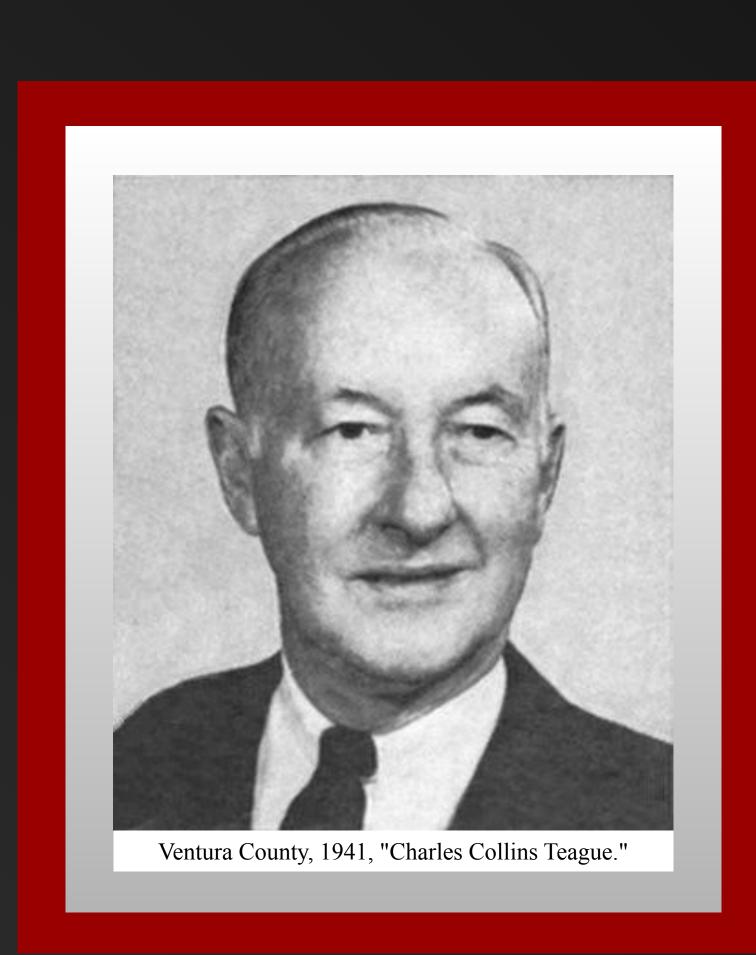
which will wipe out race prejudice and recognize

our fellow workers as being equal to ourselves."

Lizarras, 1903, "A Letter to the AFL."

- J. M. Lizarras

of Oxnard without regard to their race. We will



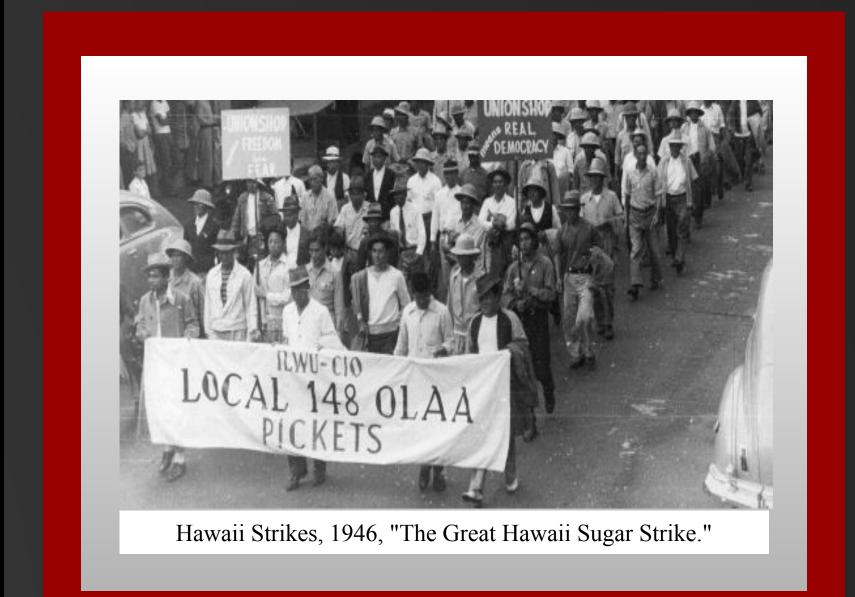
"I'm not one of those so-called 'big shots' ... I merely want to see Oxnard's government serve all the people, all the - Charles Collins Teague, Politician

Ventura County, 1941, "Charles Collins Teague."

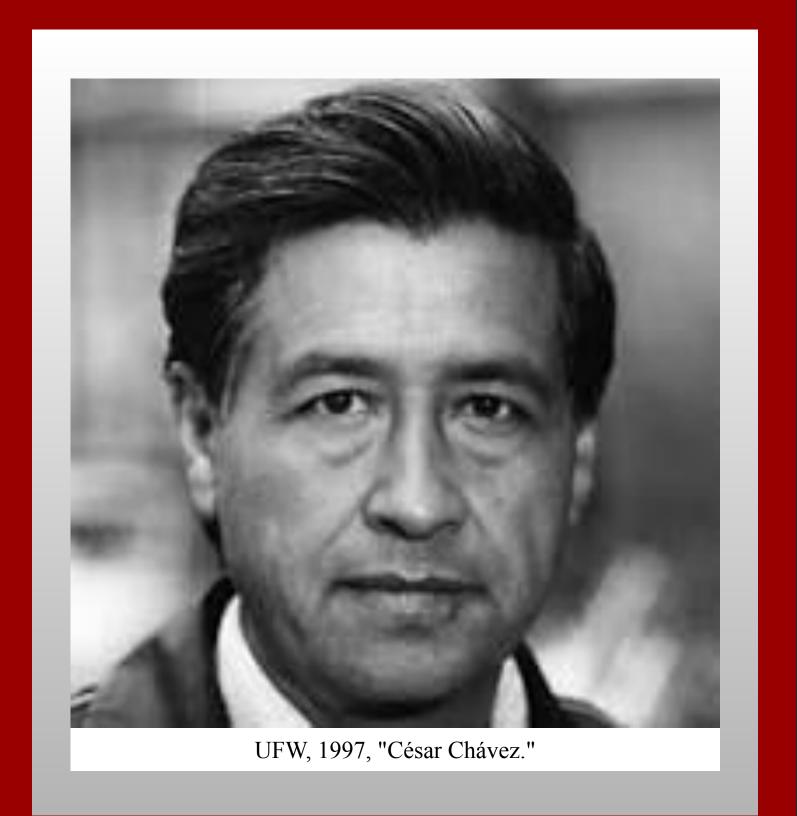
Local racial representation improved after subsequent interracial events forced Oxnard's politicians to support racial equality (fearing strikes' detriment to the economy).



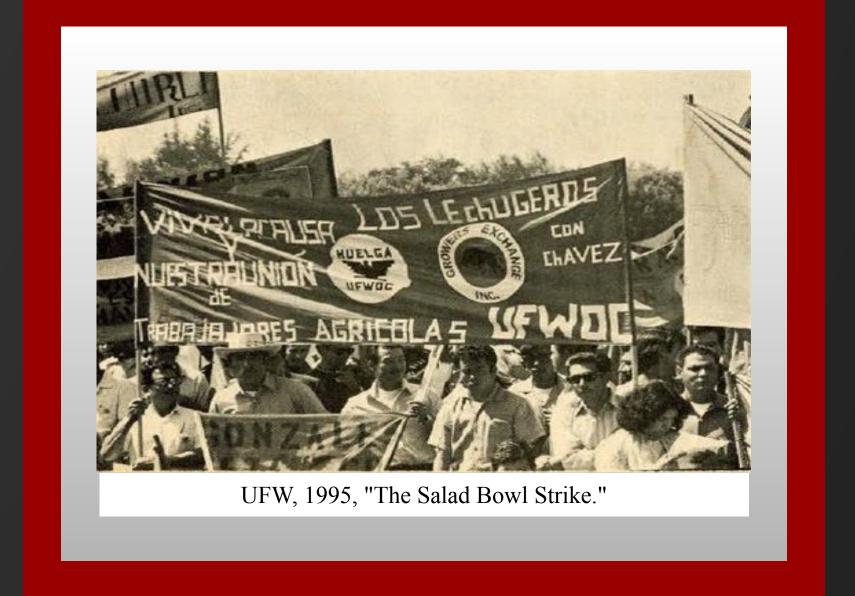




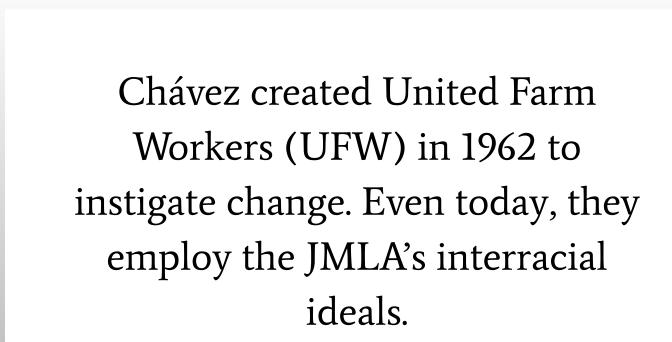
The Oxnard Strike inspired Hawaii's 1946 Sugar Strike, uniting several races in striking for better pay.







Oxnard's interracial ideals inspired activist César Chávez (who was raised there) to implement them in the 1965 Delano Grape Strike and 1970 Salad Bowl Strike.

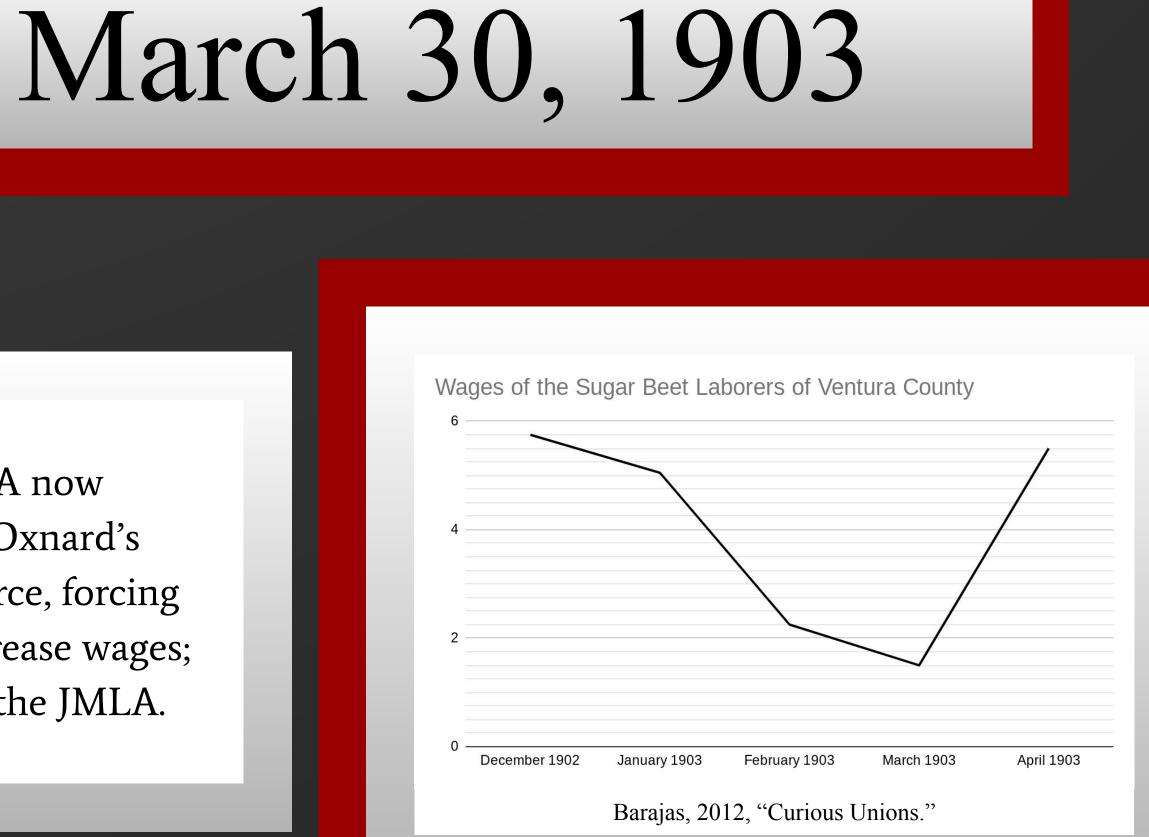






## Conclusion

During the late nineteenth century, immigrant workers faced racial labor representation barriers. However, the Oxnard Strike of 1903 (the first successful interracial strike) broke these barriers, inspiring future multiethnic walkouts. This became significant in the nation's history of instigating change for laborers.



- John Murray

Prejudiced against Asian-Americans,

Lauded by the Los Angeles Labor Council for breaking barriers, the JMLA decided to petition to join the Japanese-American members before AFL (American Federation of Labor).

dissolved without the AFL's support.