PROGRESSIVE INFLUENCE ON OKLAHOMA'S CONSTITUTION (TEACHER'S GUIDE)

Shawnee demand included in Oklahoma's constitution	*How the demand reflects the progressive and labor movements*
Legislative Demands	
1. The initiative and referendum with the right of recall as adopted and applied in the state of Oregon.	*The initiative allows citizens to put potential laws on the ballot, while the referendum gives citizens the power to repeal laws. Both reflect progressive reforms because these processes make democracy more direct by limiting the power of the state government and giving more power to the people to ensure that laws are in their best interest.*
5. That the common law relieving the employer from liability [for] employees injured through the carelessness of a fellow [employee] be [done away with], and suitable laws be passed by the first legislature protecting employees under such conditions.	*This demand states that employers will not automatically be released from the liability of employees injured on the job and that Oklahoma's legislature should pass laws protecting employees in the case of workplace injuries. This reflects progressive reforms by limiting the power of the employer and seeking to protect the rights of workers.*
7. Not more than eight hours shall constitute a day's work in all underground mines and on all works carried on by the state, county, or municipal government, and the legislature shall pass suitable laws to provide for the health and safety of employees in factories, mills, smelters, mines and on railroads.	*This provision limits the power of corporations and details regulations by which they must legally abide to protect the health and safety of workers. Workers' rights and safety are important pillars of the progressive and labor movements.*
8. That there shall be three commissioners elected by the people to regulate and maintain rates for railroads, insurance, telegraph, express companies, telephone and pipelines, and all other corporations.	*Each of these businesses, if left unregulated, could potentially exploit workers and consumers. Aligned with progressive ideals and efforts to prevent this exploitation, this provision places power directly in the hands of Oklahomans to elect three commissioners who regulate these businesses, thus limiting the power of the listed corporations.*
12. A commissioner of labor to be elected by the people. **13. A commissioner of agriculture to be elected by the people.** **16. We demand a corporate tax commission of three elected by the people, who shall have full power to inspect all accounts, vouchers, and books at any time, and put the true [estimate of worth] on all stocks, bonds, property, receipts, and money values, so that all corporations shall be assessed by the [properly] elected assessors.**	*Each of these provisions allows for a commissioner to be elected by the people of Oklahoma. These provisions reflect the progressive and labor movements by giving political power to the electorate through the election of commissioners as well as allowing those commissions to provide oversight and regulation for businesses that are subject to each department.*

Shawnee demand included in Oklahoma's constitution	*How the demand reflects the progressive and labor movements*
Prohibitive Demands	
1. The employment of children under sixteen years of age in mines, mills, and factories.	*This provision would make it illegal for children under sixteen to work in mines, mills, and factories. The prevention of child labor was an important progressive reform in this provision.*
5. Railroads from owning coal lands or leasing any kind of mines directly or indirectly.	*The progressive and labor movements sought to use the power of the government in the form of laws to regulate the power of businesses. This provision is an example of that. This provision, when made into law, prevents railroad companies from also owning or leasing coal lands or mines. Since, at this time, coal was needed to fuel trains, this was an important limit on the power of railroad companies.*
6. Any corporation from transacting business in the state without first [getting] a charter under the laws of the state.	*This provision prevents businesses from operating on their own accord, as they must first have permission from the state and follow state regulations. This provision, when made into law, is an example of the state government regulating the power of business—a progressive value.*