

The benefits of English free trade have been absorbed by English land owners; but when the principle involved in the Lloyd-George Budget shall have been carried to its logical conclusion, the benefits that heretofore have been intercepted by the landowners will be distributed among the workers.

So Germany, when she had completed the circle of special privilege exploitation, and was on the point of inevitable decline, turned to the taxation of ground rent. Thus there are two forces at work in the German Empire: (1) Commercial restriction, which must lead ultimately to business stagnation; and (2) the taxing of the unearned increment of land, which with equal certainty will lead, if perceptively pursued, to permanent prosperity.

It is peculiarly providential that Germany should have turned to the taxation of rent at the very moment when she had reached the limit of expansion by the exploitation of special privileges. But for that, her decline would have been as dramatic as her rise. Her remarkable progress has been in spite of commercial restrictions; its continuance will depend upon the taking of ground rent for public use, and the freeing of industry from the burden of double taxation.

Were it necessary to choose between a protective tariff and the taxation of ground rent, on the one hand, and free trade and the taxation of industry but without taxation of ground rent, on the other, the former were far preferable.

German conditions, so far from disproving the doctrine of laissez-faire, may be destined to establish its validity.

STOUGHTON COOLEY.

## CONDENSED EDITORIALS

### THE NEW PARTY.

Louis F. Post, in the Chicago Daily Press of Aug. 10.

The first new party of staying qualities and national size in fifty years, seems to have come. No other was national in size; and although all came to stay, none stayed.

There was the Greenback Party. It won elections in a few States, and then petered out—"Benbutlered" out, as folks said.

Then the Populists. They also won in spots; and though they still have a committee for their party, there is no party for their committee.

Labor parties also there were in those historic fifty years, but they were short-lived and their successes few and local.

There is still a Socialist Party—two of them. But the Socialist vote, 5 per cent, gives poor promise of size, however long the stay. This party doesn't set up to be a new party, either; it sets up to be a new nation.

Since the days, then, of Fremont, when the Republican party was born, no new party with staying qualities has come into American politics until now—if it has now.

Ex-President Roosevelt says, "Let there be a new party of staying qualities and national size!" and, lo! there seems to be one.

This party has more "higher-ups" in its leadership than any other since 1856. Even ex-President Van Buren, who led a new party before that, hadn't the support of such leaders from old parties as ex-President Roosevelt has.

But is Roosevelt's Party here to stay?

Only political prophets can answer that question, now. And political prophecy usually springs from wishes more than knowledges.

Nevertheless, this new party has a tremendous meaning with reference to democracy.

Not party democracy, but fundamental democracy. The democracy of principle. The democracy of the Declaration of Independence, where it says that "all men are created equal." And not that this new party stands up straight for democratic principle. It does not—not straight.

Yet it has tremendous meaning with reference to democracy. It is a product of democracy. As bread (poor, good, better or best) is a product of yeast working in flour, so this party is a product of democracy working in American politics.

It may prove to be the product for our country and generation.

Or it may not. It may be dog-day politics and wither with the frost.

Whether it does or no, here is a bit of advice about it. The advice of a clear-headed American democrat of principle, it is as good now as when he uttered it: "How you vote doesn't make much difference, but how you think does; for if you think right, you will vote right."



### WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE.

Newton D. Baker, Mayor of Cleveland, in The Woman Voter for August.

Ohio women should vote because Ohio is now recognized as one of the most progressive States in the American Union. Its legislation is beginning to represent the real vital interests of its people. This can never be fully realized until all of its people participate in making and approving its laws. This is not a man's government, but a people's government; and as nature has made emotional and intellectual differences among people, that aggregate of the public conscience and intelligence which is the basis of all sound law ought to include the varying opinions and feelings of all the people.

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

### REACTIONARY NEW HAMPSHIRE.\*

East Jaffrey, N. H.

The sixth New Hampshire Constitutional Convention passed into history when it finally adjourned at 11 o'clock on Saturday, June 22. Although the

\*See Public of June 23, page 609.