

teaching force ever embodied in a political party in America! All honor to the last group of eight! We who have learned of them salute them! Let them go their solitary way. They represent a glorious victory, wrought out of unvarying defeat.



The Chicago Daily Tribune (Progressive Party), August 16.—Eight loyal members of the grand army left! But these are not all that are left. Look through the platforms of the surviving parties and of the new party, State platforms, national platforms. Look, too, into the statutes of not a few States. There you will find many of the once derided "populisms," many of the proposals harried up and down the land by conservative ridicule. No longer sockless and bewhiskered, no longer breathing blood, populism no longer populism. Now it is received in the best political society, is bowed to respectfully, even if with hostility, in the public ways and sits in some States clothed with authority. Causes sometimes live by dying.



#### British Progress in Land Value Taxation.

The (London and Manchester) Daily News and Leader (Lib.), July 27.—The existing tax system, both for local and Imperial purposes, so far as it affects land, is undoubtedly a monumental injustice between individual and individual and a gigantic social evil. There will not be a new heaven and a new earth when it is put right, but there will be a notable advance to a healthier and more rational society. Many modes of reform can be suggested, but the foundation of all must be to make land values and not the buildings upon land the basis of land taxation. To charge the buildings as we do now is to penalize capital and enterprise, and make neglectful and wasteful ownership a privileged excuse for exemption. The taxation of land values must apply to agricultural not less than to urban land, for the evils of the present system are at least as strongly felt in the country as in the towns. One part of the reform should be the transference from local to national account of costly services like education and police and roads, which are essentially national in character. But the radical change must be the transference of taxation from improvements to land values; and the Budget's valuation register will supply the instrument for carrying through the transference.



#### One-Term Dangers.

Chicago Daily Tribune (Progressive Party), August 19.—When Senator Bailey gets busy in favor of anything, it is time to take another look at it. Let us examine the effect which a single six-year term would have on the human nature that is in Presidents as well as in other people. Each President would know that no matter how well he served the people during his single term, the people could not reward him afterward. He could expect no more from them. But if he served the Plutocracy during his single term, the Plutocracy could reward him afterward. He could expect much more from it. Senators like Bailey and Spooner, when their political careers are finished, have only to take the train to New York to find soft places waiting for them, rich

practices in corporation law. If the interests can do as much for Senators, of whom there are ninety-six at a time, what could they do for Presidents, of whom there are one at a time? Under the one-term system, many Presidents would be found who, because their hearts were pure, would serve the people faithfully. But insofar as the one-term plan touched upon the human nature in Presidents, it would tend to draw them from the popular to the Plutocratic side of things.



#### Farmers and the Single Tax.

(Minneapolis) Farm Stock and Home (farming interests), August 15.—There is no reason for fear on the part of the farmer that his interests will suffer. In fact the reverse is likely to be true, and he is apt to find after a fair trial of the Singletax that he would not wish to go back to the present system. Put in the simplest form possible the Singletax provides that all taxes shall be levied on the bare land, exclusive of improvements. Thus, if a man has a half section farm with a good set of buildings upon it he is taxed no more than the man who holds in idleness a half section adjoining. In other words, he is not taxed because he has been industrious, but because he holds for his own private use a certain part of the soil. If the man whose land lies idle objects that he cannot afford to pay the tax, the answer is that society cannot afford to have him hold out of use a half section of land needed by the community, which creates the value of the land to which he holds title. Every community has at least one example of such idle land enriching its owner without his raising his hand to help the neighborhood. It is the barns and houses and schools and tilled fields about him that have made his acres valuable, and the Singletax proposition is that society has a right to that which it has created—in other words, that it will not allow him to enrich himself at the expense of his hard-working neighbors. By taking the net profits on land as a tax the Singletaxers would drive the speculator into land cultivation or out of the land-holding business altogether. As a matter of fact the common practice throughout the country districts leans toward the Singletax idea. The writer knows whole townships where the absentee owner is taxed "all the traffic will bear," and where the assessment on live stock, buildings, and other property is cut to as low a point as possible. This is a recognition of the working principle of the Singletax. And it has as an object the use of the land by resident farmers. Rather than working a detriment to the agricultural interests of the country F., S. & H. believes that a just application of the direct tax on land values would largely improve farm conditions by forcing into use the idle lands now held for speculative purposes—lands that ordinarily do not bear any fair proportion of the tax burden, and directly in the degree to which a man was a farmer and not a land speculator such a tax would benefit rather than harm him.



Mrs. Fldgit: "What's that noise I hear down in the library?"

Mr. Fldgit: "Must be the history repeating itself. Go to sleep."—Puck.