

when the votes are counted in November. An aroused public opinion will carefully note every act on the part of those in power. It will be the Democratic party's last opportunity. It cannot be found wanting, else it must follow in the wake of its old time opponent.



#### A Sensible Word in Good Time.

The (Omaha, Neb.) Chancellor (Ind.), August 22.—The Chancellor doesn't wish to be pessimistic, but it recognizes the fact that the people of the United States are only nominal rulers, and that those who determine elections are seldom seen or heard. They are generally most active in directors' rooms in Wall Street behind closed doors. As usual these men are very quiet. It is probable that the inner ring is composed of less than a score of men, but these men are in a position to stop every wheel in the United States. For we have but a nominal republic. It is not that Woodrow Wilson, so very seriously threatens the power of these men, but they know that he "betrayed" them when he was elected Governor of New Jersey. For that reason, undoubtedly, they would prefer Roosevelt or Taft. Between these, they would probably prefer Taft, not that he would favor them any better than would Roosevelt, but because they recognize in him a more judicious, discrete and sane man. Should they choose to elect Roosevelt, they will do so only because they believe his election would be easier. Opposed to the machinations of these astute dictators of America, stand Wilson, Debs, Chafin, and, in deference to a common supposition, we might include Roosevelt, but he is opposed to them only in the public imagination. He has advanced a platform to clinch that imagination, at that. He knows, and these dictators know, it could not be carried out. Now, what if this division of the people among all these candidates would but pave the way for the reelection of Taft? Don't forget, it is the Electoral and not the popular vote that counts.



#### Land Value Taxation in Great Britain.

The (London) Daily News and Leader (radical Liberal), August 2.—A very useful purpose was served by the meeting of the Parliamentary Land Values Group which reaffirmed in almost identical terms its adherence to the land taxation memorial presented to the Prime Minister in May. A glance at almost any Unionist paper since Mr. Lloyd George spoke at Kensington the other day will show the need for this step. Since July 15 we have had almost daily tirades against the "Singletax," and should that legend prove to have been killed by Mr. Asquith's blunt denial on Tuesday that it will be adopted by the Government, no doubt it will speedily be replaced by some other invention equally alarming and equally baseless. So strong is the feeling in the country on the subject that the only hope for the Tories of campaigning successfully against land reform is first to misrepresent it; and in order that its advocates may avoid the necessity of repeatedly explaining what it is not, it is extremely desirable that they should explain, with the authority attaching to its recognized spokesmen in the

Liberal party, exactly what it is. There is nothing startling or rhetorical about the terms they have employed. The taxation of land values is not a new departure, but a consistent sequel to the policy of the 1909 Budget, without which the provisions embodied in it for the valuation of land would be almost meaningless. It is a development which is not only logical but necessary. The system under which land escapes, as it has long escaped, its due share of taxation is an injustice to the rest of the community, which has to make good the deficiency, as well as a handicap to the industrialism it penalizes. Everyone but the landowner has to contribute in rates or taxes towards the balance, and it is at the cost of his neighbors in shops, factories, cottages, or tenements, who are made liable on the very values they have created for him by their efforts and on the improvements they carry out, that he evades his proper burden. In the interest of all—and we do not exclude the landlord—a readjustment equitable for all must be undertaken. There is no doubt that the country is ripe for it, and that, wherever it gets the same chance as at Hanley, it will return the same verdict. Provided the issue is kept clearly before it, its justice can hardly be disputed; and every possible effort to free the problem and the main lines of approach to it from obscurity or ambiguity is well worth the making.



#### Eugenics.

Newspaper Enterprise Association (Chicago), July 31.—Eugenics is the science of breeding better men and better women. . . . Burbank breeds cactuses without thorns, and persimmons without pucker, and why can't we breed people without diseases or bad breath or criminal tendencies? The answer is plain. It is too bad to damp the ardor of the eugenists, who, on the whole, are doing some good, but the fact is that people can't be bred as plants and animals are. We get better breeds by saving only the best, and killing off the ordinary and imperfect. To ordinary and imperfect people this seems an objection to the application of the principles of scientific breeding to us! We don't like to be killed off, or sterilized merely because we are ordinary or imperfect. . . . The result would be that the strong, the wealthy and the powerful would get hold of the bureau of eugenics and insist on perpetuating their own lines—which are just as ordinary as ours. . . . There is only one way to make the race better. That way lies through better conditions for everybody. . . . Abolish poverty, brethren, and the better race will come. Educate, and the mating business will take care of itself. . . . The breeding of a uniformly better race must be sought through political economy, not eugenics.



#### Chesterton on Eugenics.

G. K. Chesterton in the (London) Daily News and Leader (radical Lib.), July 6. Somebody puts shortly and strongly what the Eugenists put lengthily and feebly; the Eugenists are shocked at the short words (as if they were swear words) and say they never meant anything like that; the other man is left wondering what they did mean. For eugenics