

■ Essential Question:

- How did workers & the U.S. government respond to the rapid changes of industrialization during the Gilded Age?

■ Warm-Up Question:

- Identify each Gilded Age term:
trust, Bessemer process, Edison, Carnegie, Rockefeller, tenement, vertical integration, urbanization, Social Darwinism, new immigrants

Changes of the Gilded Age

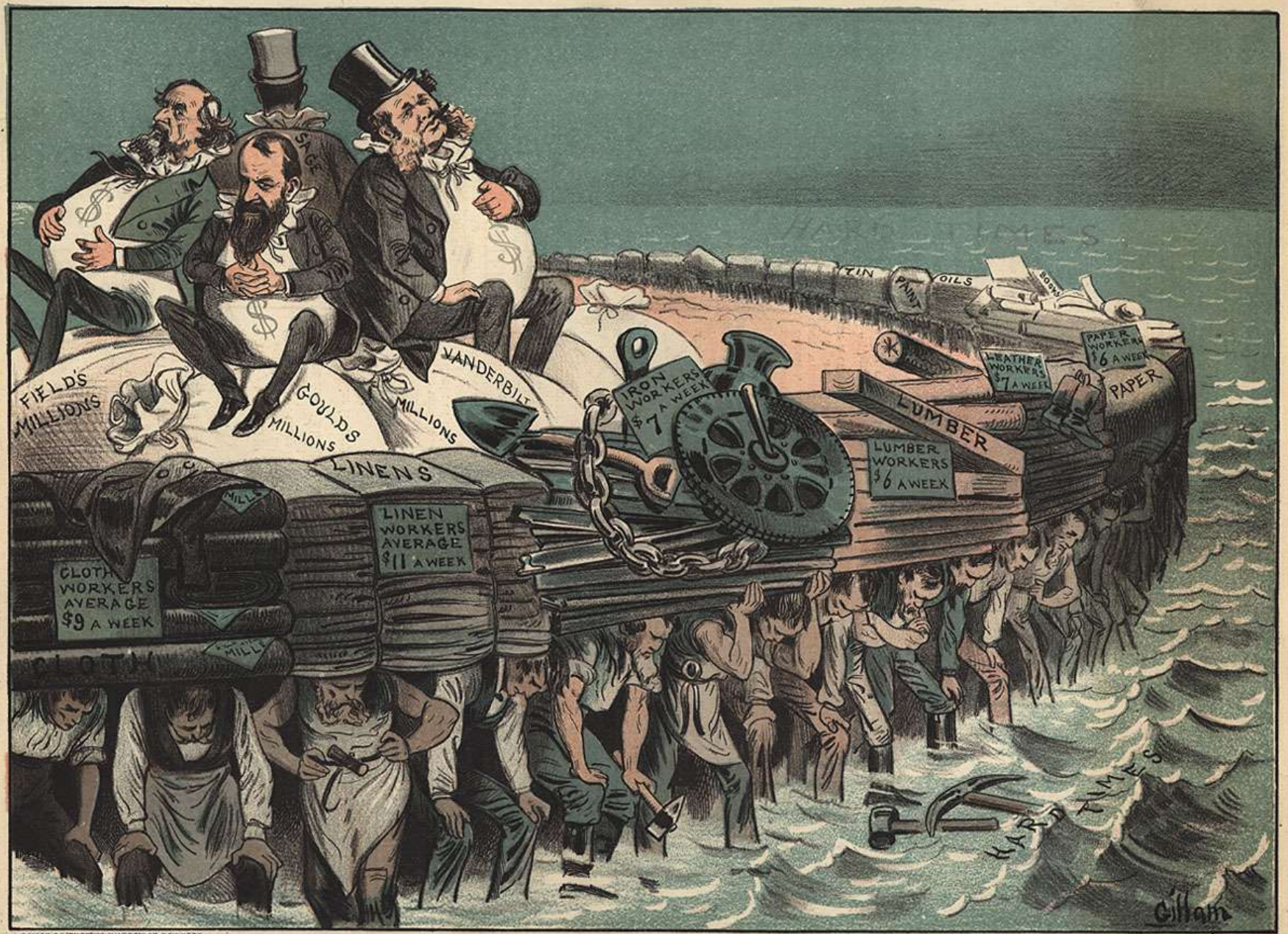
- During the Gilded Age (1870-1900), the U.S. industrialized rapidly:
 - New technology led to a boom in railroads, oil, steel, electricity
 - Trusts, corporate mergers, & new business leaders led to monopolies
 - Mass immigration from Southern & Eastern Europe increased the size of American cities
- But, problems during the Gilded Age led to demands for change

Group Activity:

Gilded Age Theme Analysis

- Students will examine a series of three primary sources from the Gilded Age:
 - For each image, provide a one sentence summary of the image
 - Once all three images are revealed, determine how the images are related—What's the theme?

Theme #1—Image A

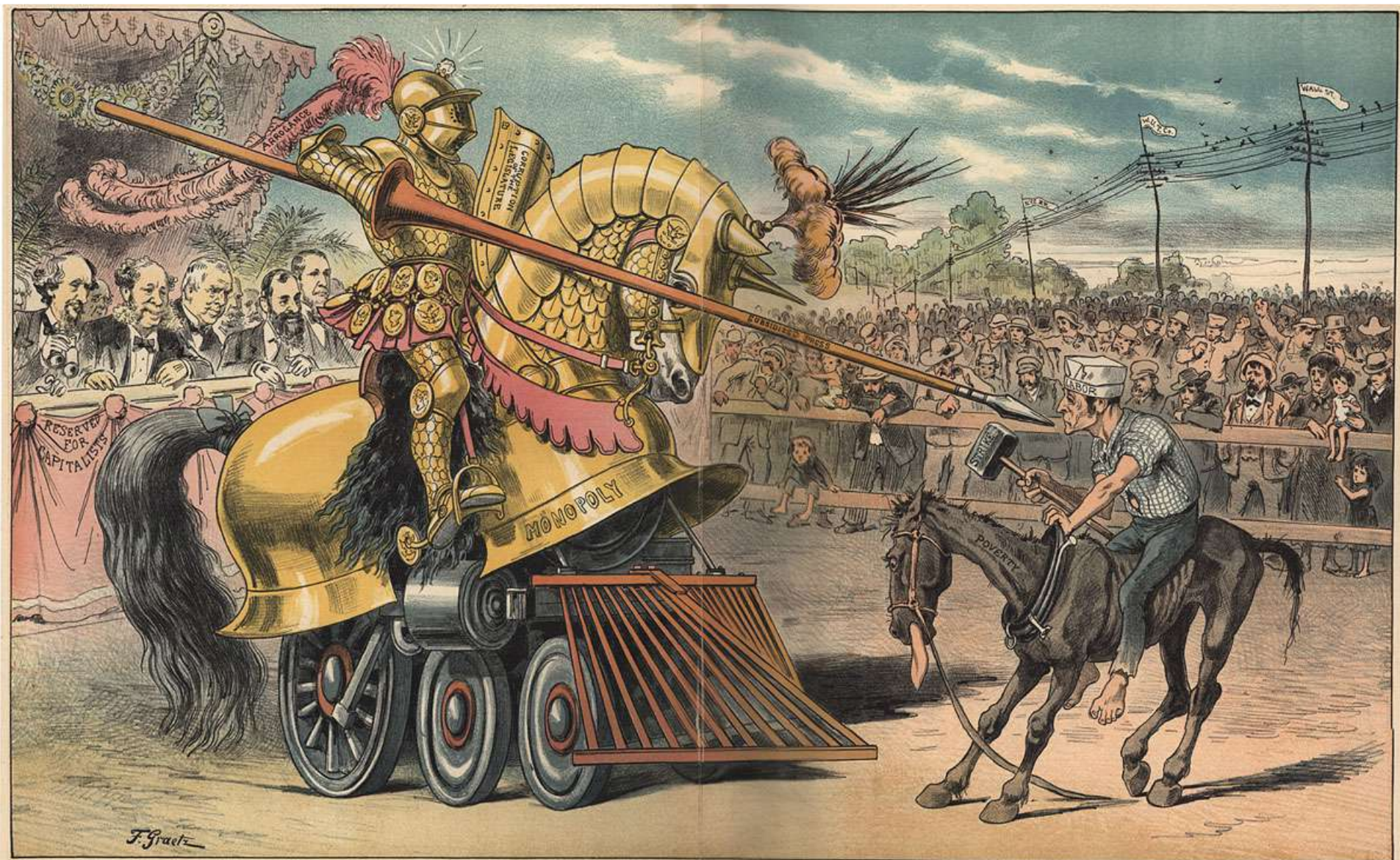


OFFICE OF "PUCK" 23 WARREN ST. NEW YORK.

THE PROTECTORS OF OUR INDUSTRIES.

HAYES MERKEL & OTTMANN LITH. 93-95 WARREN ST. N.Y.

Theme #1—Image B



THE TOURNAMENT OF TO-DAY.—A SET-TO BETWEEN LABOR AND MONOPOLY.

Theme #1—Image C



Theme #1: Labor Unions

- Industrial work was hard:
 - 12 hour days, 6 days per week
 - Received low wages; No sick leave or injury compensation
 - Industrial work was unskilled, dangerous, & monotonous
- These bad conditions led to the growth of labor unions—groups that demanded better pay & conditions through collective bargaining

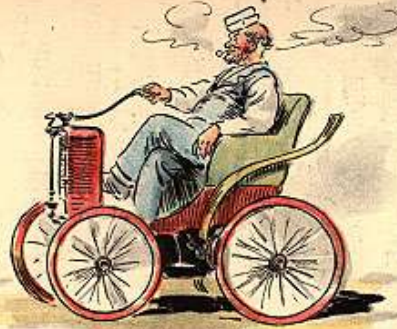
Theme #1: Labor Unions

- In 1868, the Knights of Labor formed to help all workers, regardless of race, gender, or skill
- The most successful union was the American Federation of Labor (AFL) led by Samuel Gompers:
 - Made up only of skilled workers
 - Used collective bargaining & strikes to gain better pay, shorter hours, & better work conditions
 - Included $\frac{1}{3}$ of all U.S. laborers

Theme #1: Labor Unions

- Some people turned to socialism: government control of business and property, equal distribution of wealth
 - Industrial Workers of the World (IWW, called the “Wobblies”) formed in 1905
 - Socialism seemed appealing to some Americans, but never became a major option for workers
- By 1900, only 4% of all workers were unionized

Theme #2—Image A



He will soon be able to ride to his work in an electric motor carriage.



The noon dinner-pail will be superseded by "Working Gentlemen's Lunch Clubs."



When he takes a day off he can occupy a pleasant hour or so in cutting coupons.



He won't need to go to the corner saloon nights; — a billiard table and light refreshments will be quite within his means at home.



And he may even become so gloriously prosperous, that he can afford to dispense with the Walking Delegate entirely.



If he takes it into his head to strike, he will be able to hire messenger boys to do the marching.

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A GOLDEN AGE AHEAD FOR THE WORKINGMAN.
AT THE RATE THAT WAGES ARE INCREASING HE WILL BE IN CLOVER.



Theme #2—
Image B

“COME, BROTHERS, YOU HAVE GROWN SO BIG YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO QUARREL”

Theme #2—Image C



Theme #2: Strikes & Labor Unrest

- One of the tactics used by unions to gain better pay was to strike:
 - Strikes were designed to stop production in order to gain pay
 - Business leaders resisted strikes by hiring replacement workers or private police to break up strikes
 - In some cases, violence broke out



Attention Workingmen!

MASS-MEETING

TO-NIGHT, at 7.30 o'clock,

HAYMARKET, Randolph St, Bet. Desplaines and Halsted.

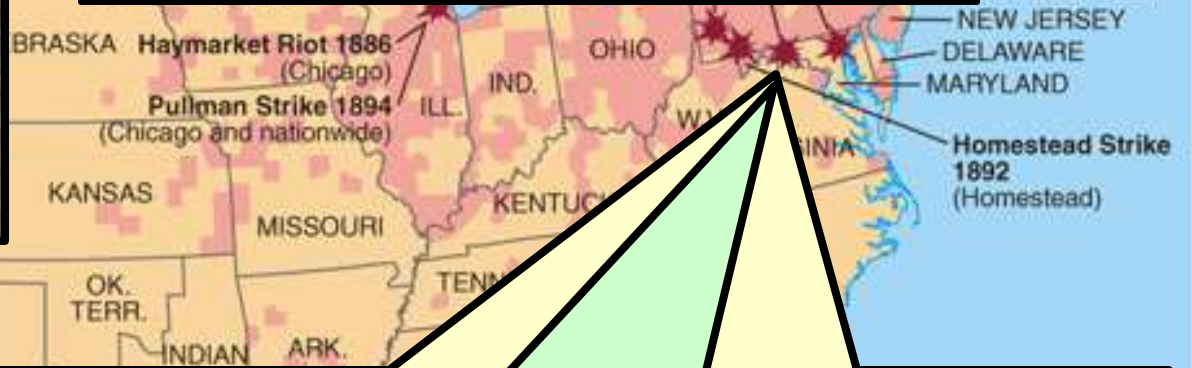
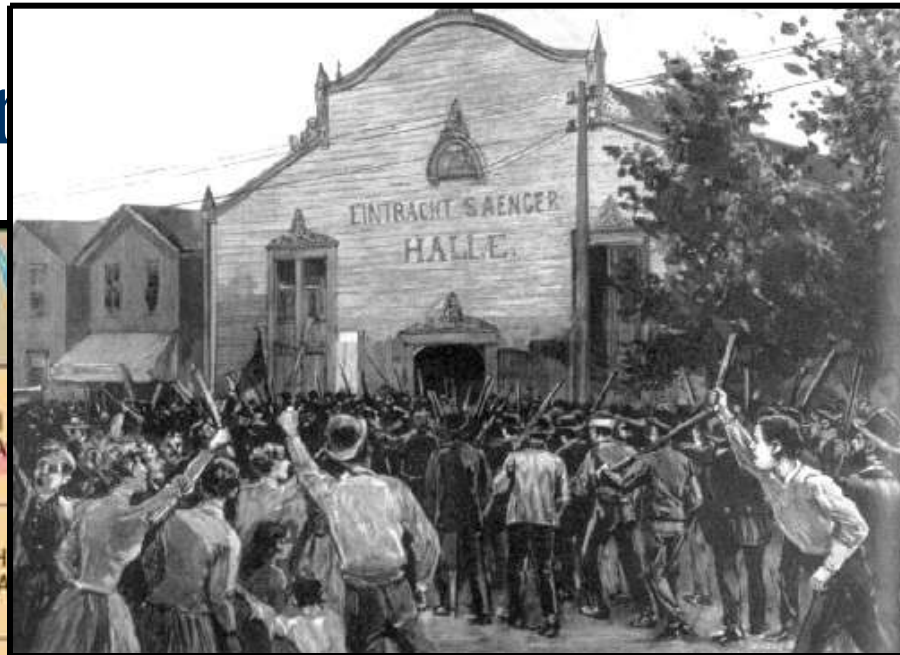
Good Speakers will be present to denounce the latest atrocious act of the police, the shooting of our fellow-workmen yesterday afternoon.

Workingmen Arm Yourselves and Appear in Full Force!

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



During the Chicago Haymarket Strike (1886), unionists demanded an 8-hr day; When violence broke out, public opinion turned against unions, viewing them as violent & “un-American”



Violence erupted during the Homestead Strike (1892). Steelworkers did not form a new union for 45 years with replacement workers.



In President Cleveland sent the army to end the strike; Strikers in 27 states resisted U.S. troops & dozens died



Theme #3:
Image A

"THAT'S WHAT'S THE MATTER."

BOSS TWEED. "As long as I count the Votes, what are you going to do about it? say?"



Theme #3:
Image B



Theme #3:
Image C

Theme #3—Political Machines

- The Gilded Age saw the rise of political machines—well-organized groups that controlled a political party in a city

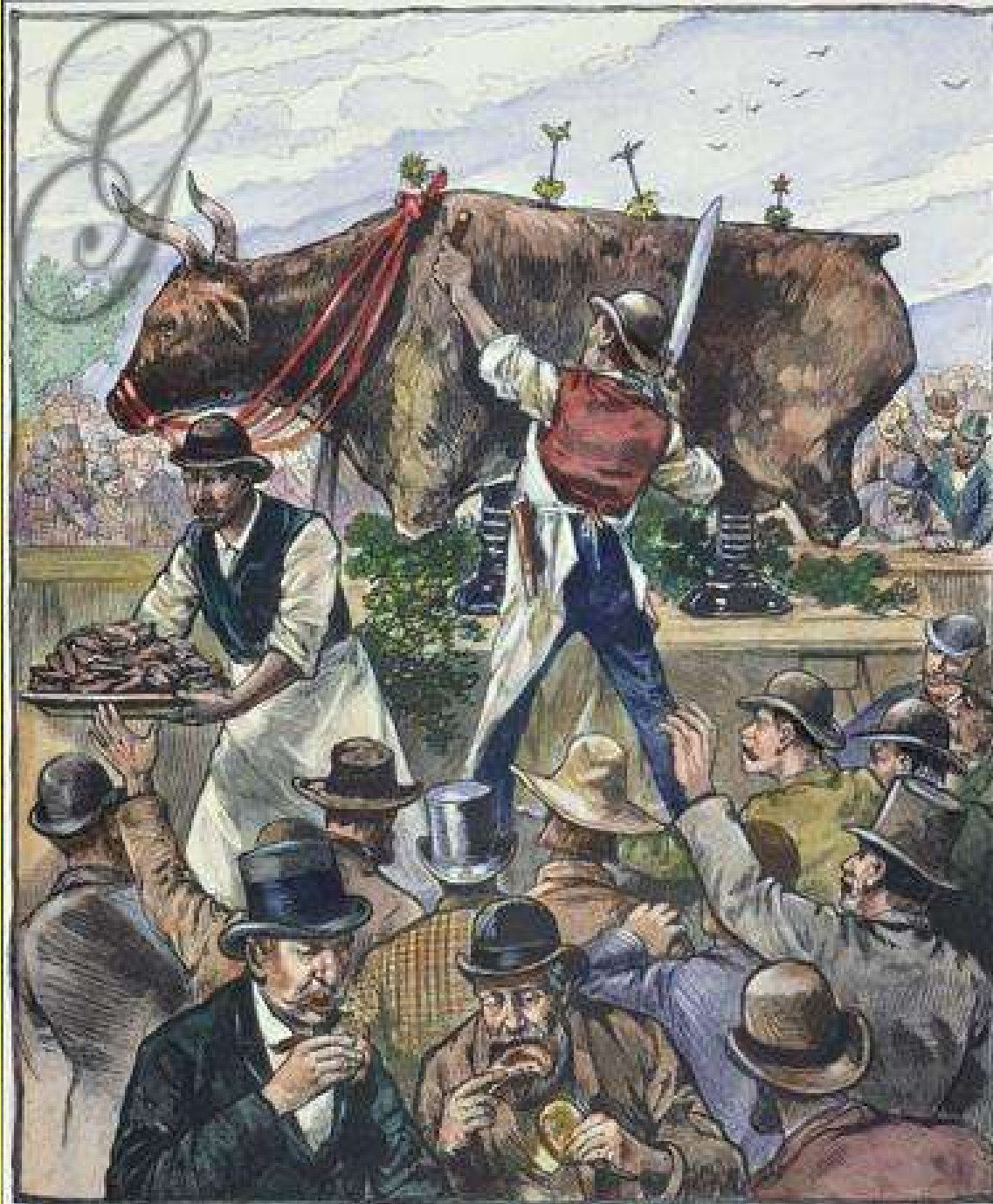
- ~~Machines~~ offered services to voters & businesses in exchange for political votes
- Were very influential with immigrants; Helped with jobs, housing, & naturalization

Theme #3—Political Machines

- Machines were led by city bosses who used a network of ward bosses & precinct captains to:

- Control access to city jobs, business licenses, courts
- Arrange building projects & community services

Political machines
influenced
immigrant voters
by creating parks
near slums,
barbeques,
giving away
Christmas presents
to children



4E863.24 TAMANNY HALL BARBECUE, 1884.

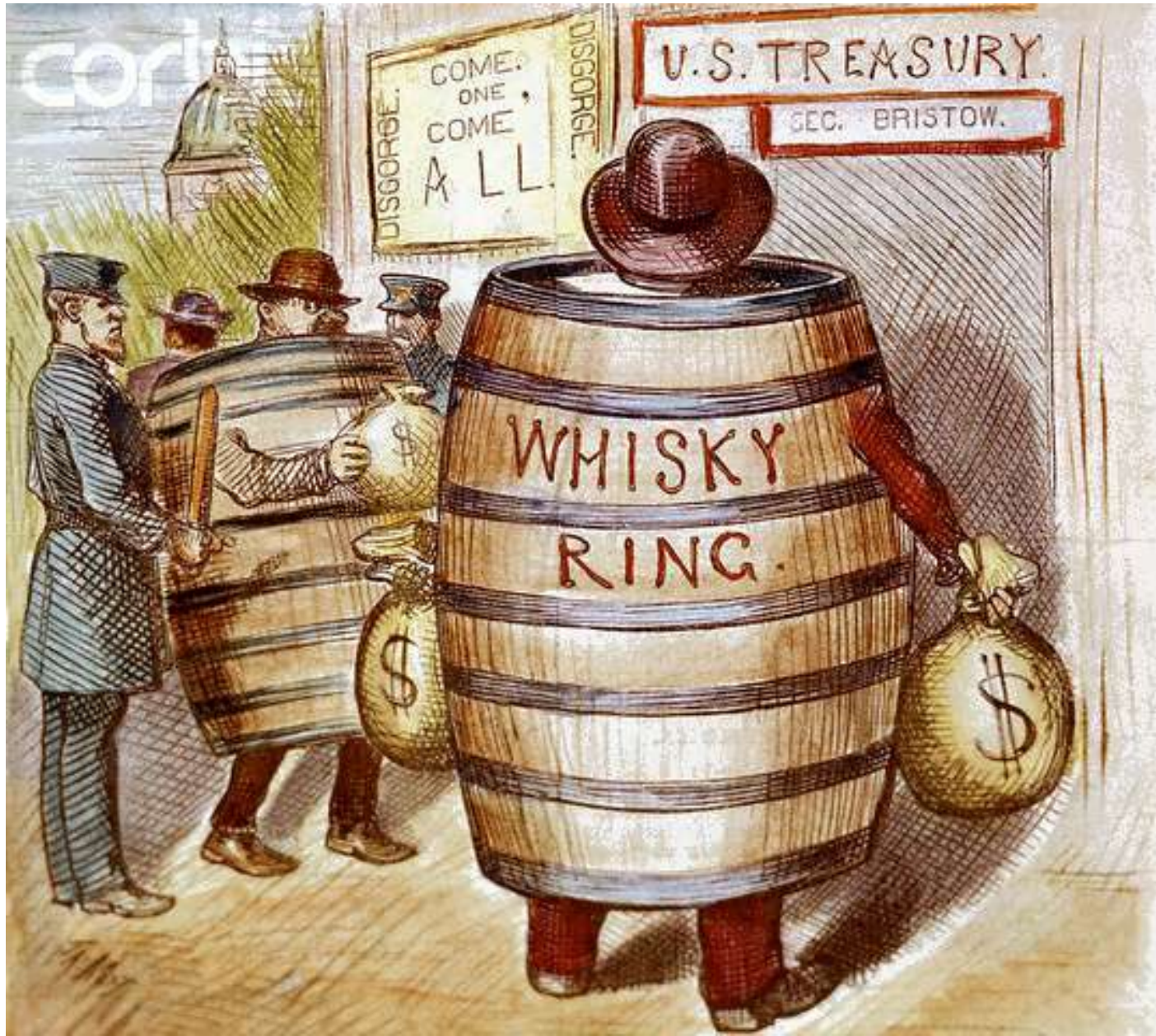
Theme #3—Political Machines

- Machine politicians were often corrupt:
 - Use fraud to win elections
 - Graft— Using their political influence for personal gain
 - Took kickbacks & bribes
- The most notorious machine boss was Boss Tweed of New York's Tammany Hall who defrauded the city of millions of dollars



“Tweed Courthouse”—NY County Courthouse was supposed to cost \$250,000 but cost \$13 million.

Theme #4—Image A



Theme #4—Image C



Theme #4—Political Scandals

- National politicians, especially under President Grant's administration, were seen as corrupt as well:

- Crédit Mobilier involved attempts by railroad companies to bribe

- members of the Republican Party to gain lands grants for profit

- Whiskey Ring involved whiskey distillers bribing gov't officials to avoid paying taxes

I BEG TO REPEAT THAT
THESE FRAUDS ON THE
GOVERNMENT SHALL BE
PROBED TO THE
VERY BOTTOM.



Theme #4—Political Scandals

- During the Gilded Age, attempts were made to reform government:
 - Many gov't positions, such as tax collectors or post office officials, were appointed by patronage—a reward for political loyalty
 - Calls for civil service (government administration) reform began
 - In 1883, Congress passed the Pendleton Act, creating merit-based exams for most civil service jobs