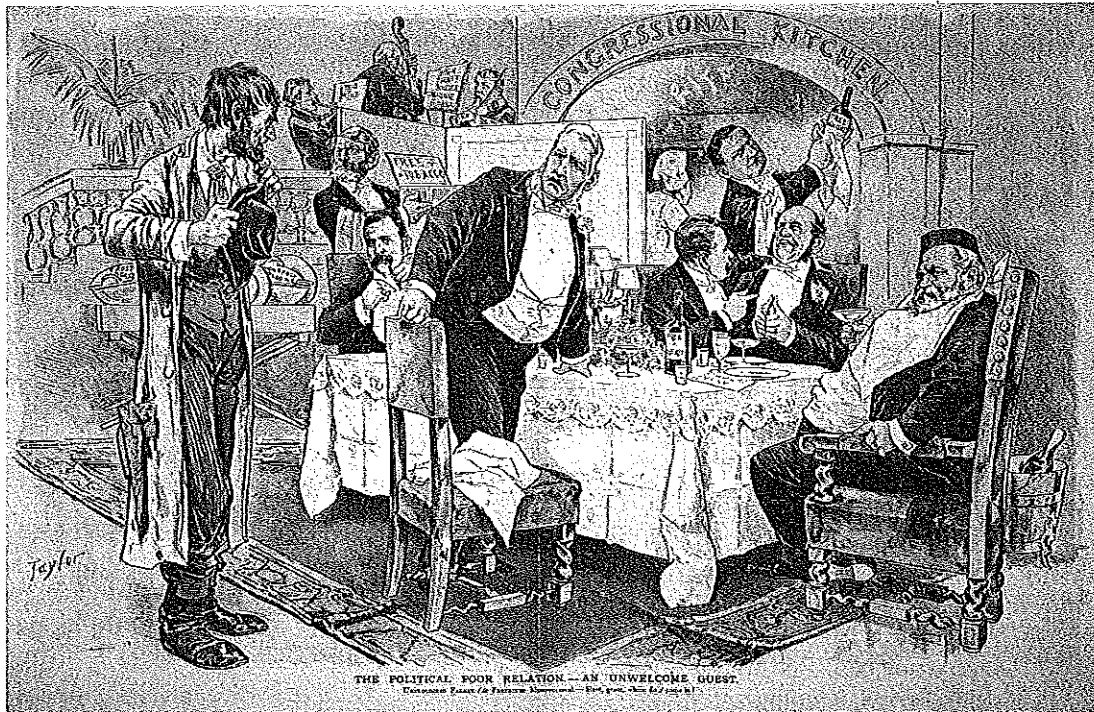


ISSUES OF THE GILDED AGE

Interpreting a Political Cartoon

The Gilded Age became known for both its prosperity and its many social ills. Political systems were corrupt, and many people did not experience improvements in their circumstances. The disparity between the wealthy and the poor grew. Farmers, in particular, did not benefit from the rapid industrial growth and economic expansion of the Gilded Age. This cartoon, featured in the Infographic in Section 3 of your textbook, points out the political neglect that many farmers felt. ♦ *Review the Infographic in Section 3 of your textbook and study the political cartoon below. Think about the ways in which the cartoonist portrays the farmer and the politicians. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*

The Gilded Age



The Political Poor Relation – An Unwelcome Guest

Questions to Think About

1. How are members of Congress portrayed in this cartoon?
2. What is the reaction of the members of Congress to the farmer? Why are they reacting in this way?
3. **Interpret Images** Which political party is represented by the farmer? Explain.
4. **Interpret Images** What do you think is the cartoon's purpose? Explain.