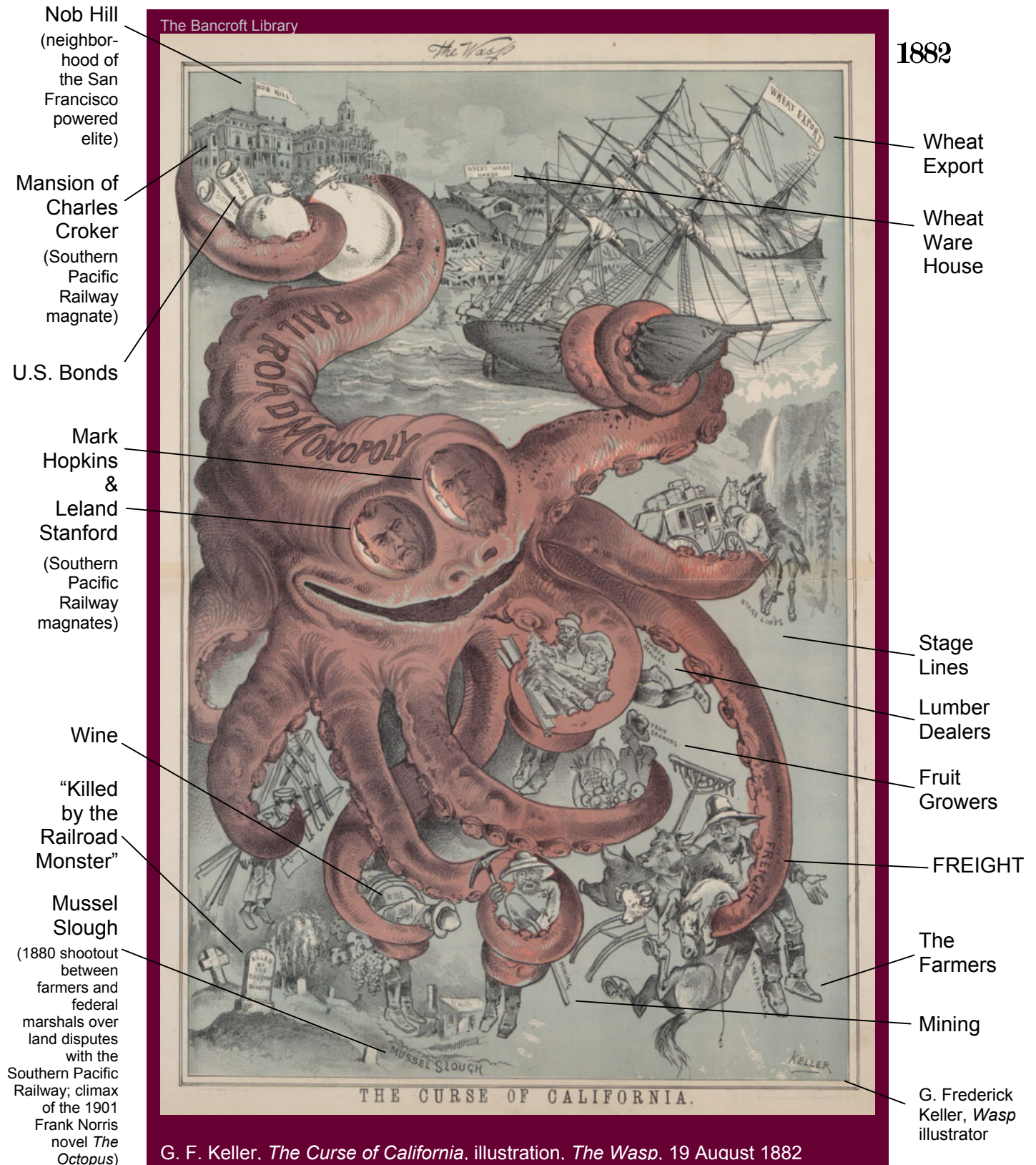


the image of the OCTOPUS: six cartoons, 1882-1909



Baba ("Brother") Jonathon
(United States)

Trusts: Oil, Sugar, Steel, Gas, Rubber,
Oil Cloth, Carpet, Coffin, Nail,
Lead Pencil, Brewers

Ali Baba, merchant
with three donkeys
(monopoly)

1888

Library of Congress



W. A. Rogers, *The Forty T——*, [Thieves]: Baba Jonathon: *I don't like your looks, Mr. Merchant, you had better move on*, illustration, *Harper's Weekly*, 17 March 1888

William A.
Rogers,
illustrator

"Forty
Thieves"

Nickname for the corrupt New York City officials in the mid 1800s who took bribes for granting exclusive street railway franchises (based on "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" from *Arabian Nights*).

"Baba
Jonathon"

Character representing the United States (above, draped in a U.S. flag). "Brother Jonathon" was a common nickname for the U.S. before "Uncle Sam" replaced it after the Civil War.

* Reproduced by the National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, NC, 2005. Courtesy Library of Congress.

Standard Oil Trust

"The Traction Monster" ("traction lines": electric transit railways)

1899

The Verdict



Suburban Franchises
(city-granted transit monopolies)

Life Insurance

Coal Trust

George B. Luks, illustrator for *The Verdict* and an Ashcan School artist

George B. Luks, *The Menace of the Hour*, illustration, *The Verdict*, 30 January 1899

In January 1899, after years of orchestrated delay in beginning the New York City subway, the issue came to a head. On one side were Tammany Hall and the businessmen who monopolized the city's street railways — and who wanted no competition from a subway. On the other side was the public demanding improved and less crowded urban transit. When a contract was awarded to one of the companies with no bidding, the public outcry led to huge mass meetings throughout the city. Gov. Theodore Roosevelt settled the immediate dispute (contributing to the Republican leaders' expelling him from state politics).

1901

"Boss" Croker, mayor

N.Y. City Hall

Library of Congress

Ramapo Job

(Ramapo Water Co., which schemed to get a secret and highly lucrative contract from Tammany Hall)

Garbage Contract Job

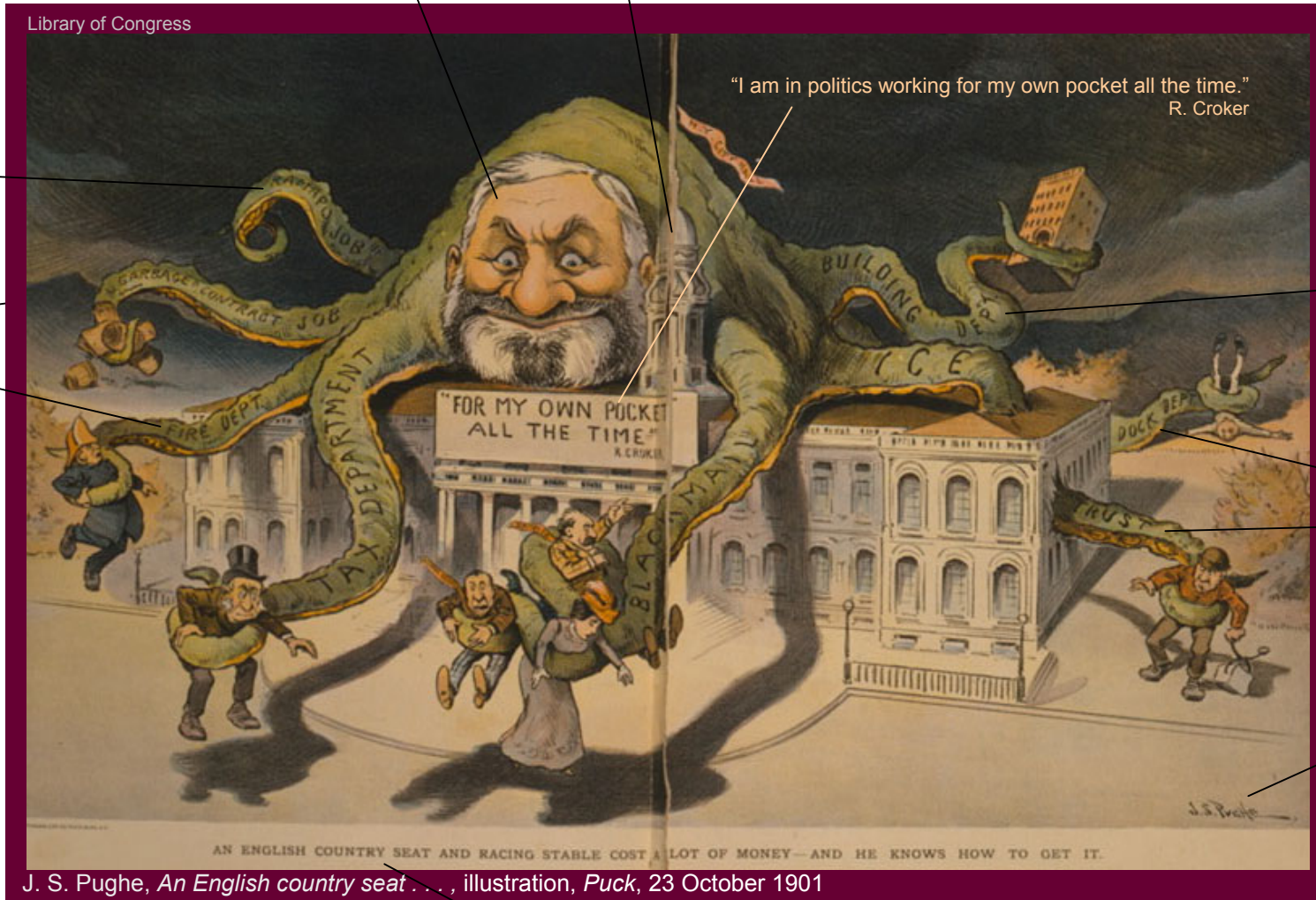
Fire Dept.

"I am in politics working for my own pocket all the time."
R. Croker

Building Dept.

The Dock Dept. and the Ice Trust conspired to monopolize the city's ice business.

lithograph by J. S. (John S.) Pughe



J. S. Pughe, *An English country seat* . . . , illustration, *Puck*, 23 October 1901

"An English country seat and racing stable cost a lot of money — and he knows how to get it."
(Croker purchased an 18th-century estate in England, Antwicks Manor, where he kept a stable of racing horses.)

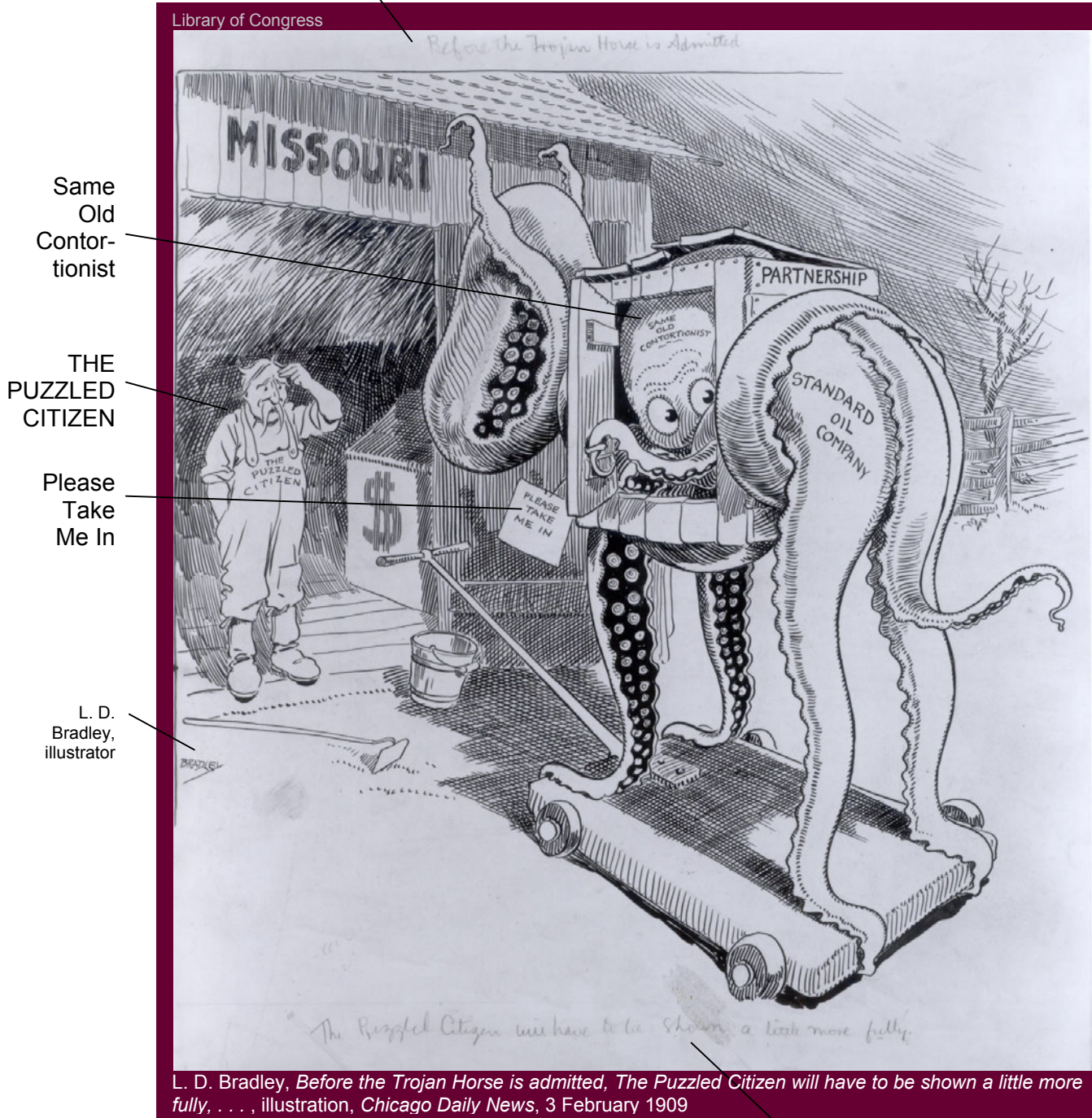
* Reproduced by the National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, NC, 2005. Courtesy Library of Congress.



Reproduced by the National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, NC, 2005. Courtesy Library of Congress.

"Before the Trojan Horse is Admitted"

1909



"The Puzzled Citizen will have to be shown a little more fully"

In 1905, the State of Missouri sued Standard Oil for operating as a monopoly in violation of the state's antitrust laws. Four years later, Standard Oil offered a novel proposal to the State of Missouri — that it form a partnership with Standard Oil to administer the company's three subsidiaries in Missouri. This cartoon was published the day after Standard Oil's proposal, which raised suspicions in many observers.

* Reproduced by the National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, NC, 2005. Courtesy Library of Congress.