

that the plutocratic Democratic leaders of the South have been buncoed. The agents of the trusts had assured them that they would furnish the funds to elect "a safe and sane" man. But it is said in spite of Lawson's story that they have concluded Mr. Roosevelt is "safe" enough for them. I am informed that the campaign lags because of lack of funds in the Democratic exchequer. That this is due to the failure of the trusts to respond is supposed to be corroborated by the editorial columns of the pluto-Democratic press, and the change that has come over Mr. Parker himself.

In my letter of last week I said that there was no enthusiasm among the Socialists. But Debs addressed two immense meetings here last Sunday. The first was held in the Academy of Music, on Fourteenth street, adjoining Tammany Hall. The capacity of this auditorium is about 2,500. The price of admission tickets ranged from 10 to 50 cents. After the three galleries, the orchestra and orchestra circle were packed and stage crowded to the limit, hundreds clamored at the box office, or as near as they could get to it, with money in hand to buy tickets, and were refused. The second meeting was held in the Majestic theater, in Brooklyn, at night, the price of admission being the same, and the house was packed to the limit, while hundreds were turned away. I was able to get on the stage at both meetings, through the courtesy of the managers, and was in a position to look into the faces of both audiences. Here were gathered thousands of earnest, well-dressed men and women, who gave evidence of a high degree of intelligence as they applauded the strong points of the speaker. It was an encouraging sign, at least, to look into these earnest and intelligent faces, and know that here were thousands that had passed from the thralldom of the political boss, men who you knew by their honest, earnest faces could never again be coerced or corrupted into voting against their convictions. It is my judgment, after witnessing these meetings, that the Socialist vote will be a surprise to the bosses of both the old political parties.

Debs made inspiring speeches, but was quite weak in his economic reasoning, absolutely ignoring the land as one of the factors in the production of wealth. He probably included it in the "machinery and tools of production," or may have inadvertently overlooked it. His audience gave evidence of being in accord with him on every proposition.

Results of the greatest interest to students of taxation methods are following the application of the new law in New York city. This law, besides compelling from the assessors the separate valuation of land distinct from

the value of buildings or other improvements, also commands the detailed official publication of the result of the assessments. Following the example first set by the tax commission two years ago in assessing all real estate at its full value, the assessors under the new conditions are realizing a nearer approach to equality before the law than has ever before, perhaps, been attained in urban taxation in the United States. Such inequalities and seeming discrimination as still exist, evidenced in some instances by a higher assessment upon land that is built upon than upon neighboring vacant land of similar area, must yield to the inevitable demand for equality that will follow the publication of the detailed assessment by districts. The placing of this beneficent law on the statute books of the Empire State is due to the intelligent and persistent efforts of one of the most brilliant young members of the New York bar, whose office is located in the very center of the great financial district of the city. That the law is beneficent is pretty generally conceded.

Mr. Charles O'Connor, Messeny, vice president and manager of the Franklin Society, of this city, a society that deals heavily in real estate, told me this morning that New York's new taxation methods have borne hard and heavy upon the vacant land speculator, as is seen in the almost feverish anxiety of holders of large tracts in the outskirts of the city to get their holdings on the market either in bulk or sub-divided for homeseekers. Take for instance the section of Jamaica, in Queen's Borough, where scores of new houses have been built during the last 18 months upon land that for years was held out of the market by thrifty farmers banking upon the increasing needs of a steadily increasing population.

"It's an outrageous law," said one of these speculators, after he had sold his 30 acres of land at \$2,500 an acre. "Them fellows would have ruined me if I hadn't sold out," he added, referring to the tax assessors, who had raised the valuation of his property from \$400 to \$2,000. This land was quickly sub-divided by speculators of another and better kind, who, after making street improvements, offered it in parcels to home seekers for immediate use. Under the new dispensation the speculator in vacant land must unload quickly, for fear that taxes and interest will eat up his speculative profit. And this leads to more houses built, more labor employed and larger public revenues."

D. S. LUTHER.

I have always thought that all men should be free, but if any should be slaves, it should be, first those who desire it for themselves, and secondly those who desire it for others.—Abraham Lincoln.

## NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Oct. 27.

The sensational political event of the week is Thomas W. Lawson's charge that Judge Parker's candidacy originated in and is corruptly promoted by what is known as "the Standard Oil crowd."

Replying in the November issue of Everybody's Magazine to a correspondent who had addressed him with reference to his series of articles in that magazine on Frenzied Finance (p. 177), Mr. Lawson condemned President Roosevelt for countenancing "so bad a man as Addicks," saying that "if this were an ordinary national election," one "where both the leading parties stood as they usually do, for honest Americanisms, but of different brand, Theodore Roosevelt should be defeated for this one act alone." In a subsequent newspaper interview, he also said of Roosevelt's candidacy that it is supported by the Pierpont Morgan interests. It was in continuance, however, of his letter in the November Everybody's at page 71, that he made his accusation regarding Judge Parker and the Standard Oil "crowd."

On that point Mr. Lawson said:

Theodore Roosevelt, while President of the United States, refused to allow "Standard Oil" to run him, and "Standard Oil" got hotter and hotter; but, not daring to rage openly, how they did spit fire "on the quiet!" If I have listened once, I have twenty times while Mr. Rogers raved at "that—" well, I won't use his exact language, it wouldn't be respectful to our President. At last, as in all such cases, there came an absolutely-not-to-be-borne trampling on "Standard Oil" dignity, and Theodore Roosevelt was on the "System's" blacklist until eternity. Mr. Rogers called me to New York in connection with some other business. I found him in a terribly excited mood. "What do you think that fellow Roosevelt has done now? Young John Rockefeller telegraphed him to give an audience to Archibald on the trust matter. Roosevelt saw he had us and played some of his dirty politics. He sent for the manager of the Western Associated Press and had him agree to publish the telegram in the West, keeping it out of the East, and to publish it as having been sent by Mr. Rockefeller instead of that unthinking boy, and, of course, you have seen it in the papers;