

now as the hour of doom approaches, there is not a voice raised in his behalf. I believe that every end of justice will have been met by confining this boy to imprisonment for life, and I so decree. I am commuting his sentence to life imprisonment. In doing so I realize that I will call down upon my head the indignation and criticism of tens of thousands of the best citizenship of this State; but be that as it may, I am doing what my conscience tells me should be done, and I had rather live feeling that I had done this boy and his race no wrong than to have the commendation and applause of every citizen of this universe.

We know nothing of Governor Cruce, but no one who knows Oklahoma can fail to understand that that letter is without pretense. What it says is evidently from the heart of the man who wrote it. We are glad, therefore, to adopt the suggestion of the Rev. Willmore Kendall, a Methodist clergyman of Chicago, to emphasize the valor of the Governor's act. Mr. Kendall appreciates it. "Having been reared in the South," he writes to the Chicago Record-Herald, "I am generally in thorough sympathy with the Southern attitude toward the race question, but I was for years a resident of the State of Oklahoma and I cannot but deplore the partiality shown by the courts throughout that State to the white man as compared to the Negro. In view of this fact, the action of Mr. Cruce in this matter is very significant and is highly deserving of commendation. The action will, as the Governor anticipates, bring upon him bitter censure from many of the rabid Negro-haters of his State, and he will need the cheer which will be imparted by the plaudits of good citizens and newspapers of recognized standing in both the North and the South."

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Plutocratic Socialism.

George W. Perkins is a queer lot—he whose financial activities in political campaigns have helped to necessitate "corrupt practices acts." He has now become a socialist, but a plutocratic one. "What has given us sweatshops?" he asks; and his answer is, not "monopoly," which would have been the truth, but "competition," the antithesis of monopoly. He follows the same blind trail with "What has given us child labor?" "What throws labor out of employment?" "What causes low wages?" and "What brings panic and failure?" His answer to all is "competition." But if productive opportunities for work were not monopolized, no parent would need to send his children into factories, no workers would be in distress for want of opportunities, wages could not be ground down, and panics and undeserved failures would be as impossible as disemployed labor. It is not

easy to see—upon reflection, we mean,—how competition can hurt any one, unless there be monopoly to make the competition one-sided instead of two-sided. Although we see, of course, that one-sided bargains are likely to be bad for one side. But those who think Mr. Perkins is right in his diagnosis had better be careful about taking his "dope" for the cure. If competition can be and is to be abolished, let us be careful that the socialism which displaces it shall be, not the *plutocratic* socialism that Mr. Perkins hints at when he puts in a word for the Steel trust—which is a perfect type of plutocratic socialism,—but socialism of the *democratic* order.

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An Important Fiscal Comparison.

We are asked to publish a comparison of taxes in Clackamas County, Oregon, under the present general property tax, with the estimated taxes under land value taxation. As prepared by W. G. Eggleston and A. D. Cridge, of Portland, and W. S. U'Ren, of Oregon City, Oregon, and published by them in 1910 in the third edition of their People's Power pamphlet, the comparison is as follows:

Clackamas County Tax Levy in 1909 was \$427,239.31. To figure your own taxes, see rule on page 93.	How the General Property Tax System worked in 1909. Total is within \$31 of tax actually levied. Rate, 19 and 38/100 mills.	Results if Land Value Tax System had been in use in 1909; within \$75 of tax actually levied. Rate, 33 and 94/100 mills.
	Assessment. Taxes.	Assessment. Taxes.
Farmers' lands.....	\$ 6,819,956 \$132,170	\$ 2,686,204 \$ 91,169
Farm buildings, stock, and improvements	2,601,005 50,407	Exempt No Tax
Speculators' lands...	6,376,627 123,579	6,376,627 216,422
Improved city lots...	1,161,646 22,512	1,161,646 39,426
Improvements on city lots	900,244 17,446	Exempt No Tax
Speculators' city lots	1,161,646 22,512	1,161,646 39,426
Franchise corporations	1,204,156 23,336	1,204,156 40,869
Other assessments and taxes.....	1,818,439 35,241	Exempt No Tax
Total under each system	\$22,043,720 \$427,206	\$12,590,280 \$427,314

The rule referred to at the head of the first column in the above table as being on page 93, explains the method of comparison as follows:

Reduce the assessment of your improved land or lot to the assessment per acre or per lot of adjoining unimproved land or lots equally valuable for use; figure the value of your land or lots on this basis; subtract all other property assessments. Add to the tax rate in your district the difference between the average rate for your county under the general property tax in 1909, and the average rate