

ers, who have given freely to carry on the fight. The same conditions prevail, we are also informed, throughout nearly all of eastern North Carolina where the negroes are in a majority. The whites there have determined to deprive the negro of suffrage, and to do so by violence. Yet no plutocrat urges McKinley to send federal troops into North Carolina, though the act of congress under which he is asked to send troops into Illinois is more distinctly applicable, and historically it was intended, for insurrections like that in North Carolina and not for such a condition as that at Virden in Illinois.

The very evident truth is that it is "property" in preference to people that your plutocrat wants to protect. "Property" at Virden imports negroes to drive out settled white laborers, and a cry goes up for the assistance of federal troops to protect the poor negro! "Property" in North Carolina rises in revolt against both state and federal law, including the United States constitution, to deprive local negroes of their right to vote, and your plutocrat has no interest in these negroes. In the yellow glimmer of a gold dollar the propertied classes lose all sense of personal rights.

If the negroes of Wilmington do assert the political rights of their race, though at the cost of their lives, as they say they will, he must be false to democracy who does not pay them that respect which brave defenders of popular rights have always commanded.

Serious disappointment is in store for some of our patriots who have expected to exploit Puerto Rico. Reports are coming in from that newly conquered territory to the effect that Uncle Sam will be able to get nothing out of it except through the custom house. The country, it appears, is nearly all owned by landlords who live in Spain. They hold it in 10,000 acre tracts, and will not sell at any price.

Now, let us think a moment. Under Spanish sovereignty, these Spanish landlords owned the island. Under American sovereignty they will continue to own it. The change of sovereignty makes no fundamental difference to them. And yet it may make a substantial difference. If the United States improves the island government, Puerto Rico will be a more desirable place to live in, and locations there will be more eagerly sought after. That will make them more valuable. Examples of this phenomenon can be found in any growing town. But as the Spanish landlords refuse to sell land at any price, people seeking opportunities in Puerto Rico will have to rent of them; and under the brisk demand ground rents will rise. Thus American sovereignty in Puerto Rico, if it leads to desirable reforms in government there, will result ultimately in enriching Spanish landlords. Puerto Rico will become a tropical Ireland, in which the people will suffer want while shiploads of products cross the sea to pay rack rents to Spain.

It is often said that Henry George's single tax ought to be tried somewhere as an experiment. What better place for that purpose can be found than Puerto Rico. Since we have taken the sovereignty of the island from the Spanish government, there can be no consistent objection to our taking its ownership away from Spanish landlords. Why not do so? Inasmuch as nothing is required to accomplish this, in effect, but to abolish tariffs and all other commercial and industrial imposts, and obtain revenue from an advalorem land tax, why not take advantage of this exceptionally inviting opportunity, and make the experiment?

Judging from some of the things he says, Gov. Tanner hears the liberty bell a-ringing, but doesn't know where the clapper is. Because coal is a necessity to everybody, he concludes that coal mines are public property, and that the citizens of the state must

not be deprived of their coal supply by differences between men who own the mines and those who work them. This is all sound enough in a general way, but Gov. Tanner shows his weakness when he proposes to control the matter by some new fangled state board for the regulation of the relations of mine owners and mine workers. That would only add one more to the miscellaneous collection of socialistic boards with which the state is already cursed. If Gov. Tanner is sincere in his present policy, let him think out to its logical conclusion his idea about the absurdity of private property in coal mines, and he will encounter no difficulty in finding a remedy that would put an end to the coal mine monopoly, and yet leave mine owners, if they choose to call themselves such, and mine workers, absolutely free to make their own contracts in their own way with entire satisfaction not only to both but also to the public at large.

A wholesome exposure of fiscal lawlessness has been made by the Missouri single tax league, both in the state and in St. Louis. That organization having appointed a committee to promote equal taxation, the committee has made a report of its work thus far, which the league has published. Copies of the report may be had upon application to H. Martin Williams, 1023 Century building, St. Louis. Among the revelations of this report, is a demonstration of the deliberate indifference which the taxing authorities manifest for the law, when engaged in protecting the rich from equal taxation. It appears that the state board of equalization of Missouri has a "theory" that in spite of the constitution and the laws, which require property to be assessed for taxation at its true value, it should be assessed at some low percentage of true value. And this lawless theory is carried into practice. When assessors obey the law by assessing property at its true value, the board reduces their assessments for the expressed purpose of making them conform to the un-