

those who frankly admitted that they voted against it stated that it was their opinion that it would receive a much larger vote next time. Strange as it may seem, as well informed as men of the type of Delegates are, they could not tell me what measures carried that were submitted by the Initiative, and what ones lost, or the majority against our measure, and they seemed to be indifferent to it. But what struck me the most forcibly about them was their tolerance of the opinion of others. They differed freely and widely about the measures submitted and some expressed the wish that the initiative and referendum, direct legislation, would ultimately do away with parties.

Following are a few of the names of the Single Taxers registered at headquarters:

T. P. Lyon, Fairhope, Ala.; L. S. Dickey, Chicago, Ill.; Wm. B. Shannon, Tenn.; Henry S. Mead, Minneapolis; Lafe Collins, Knoxville, Ia.; F. M. Dyer, Plattsville, Wis.; A. C. Holloway, Akron, Ohio; T. M. O'Connor, San Francisco; B. E. Tarver, Santa Ana, Cal.; Rev. H. O. Hammond, Springhill, Kan.; K. I. Pesty, Boise, Idaho; James Armitage, Greenville, Tenn.; Wm. W. Rose, Kan. City, Kan.; Daniel Kiefer, Cincinnati; F. L. McGrew, St. Anthony, Idaho; Vernon J. Rose, Kansas City, Kan.; W. L. Locke, Lincoln, Neb.; E. A. Boostrom Stromburg, Nebr.; Chas. Weidler, South Bend, Ind.; George B. Lang, Langdon, Colo.; Chas. Eckert, Beaver, Pa.; Edward J. Schluter, Freedom, Pa.; Michael J. Flaherty, Brooklyn, N. Y.; P. H. Smith, New Mexico; Warren Worth Bailey, Johnstown, Pa.; Jackson H. Ralston, Hyattsville, Md.; Wm. Gordon, Cleveland, Ohio; Herbert Quick, Sioux City, Ia.; W. H. Lilley, Jefferson, Colo.; Daniel Gingrich, Hamilton, Ohio; Alex. Y. Scott, Rosedale, Miss.; Wm. Huffman, El Paso, Tex.; F. F. Ingram, Mich.; James Seeley, Mich.; Alix Crislaw, Rockwood, Ill.; Ed. J. Green, Chicago, Ill.

What a pleasure to meet those with whom one has worked for years. We could only talk for a brief moment but that was long enough for a soul bath, and we all feel stronger for having met. As I look at the names on the register I am reminded of the words of our leader,

"Sometime, somewhere will the muster roll be called."

J. R. HERMANN.

DENVER, Colo.

SINGLE TAXERS CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE.

(See Portraits)

JAMES W. HILL

James W. Hill, who is a candidate for Congress from Peoria, Ill., is well known to our readers. He was born in western New York fifty-four years ago. At fifteen years of age he entered a machine shop and learned the machinist's trade. He became a locomotive fireman. When twenty-two years of age he went to Kansas, became a locomotive engineer for a short time, and at twenty-three was made master mechanic of 300 miles of railroad. All his life has been spent in this line except eight years, in which he managed a department for Fairbanks, Morse & Co.'s St. Louis house. In 1886 while here he met the late Hamlin Russell, who was in the employ of the same house. One day, Mr. Russell threw a copy of *Progress and Poverty* on the desk and said, "There, Mr. Hill, is a book you should read."

The latter did so. For some years he had been conscious of certain wrongs in economic conditions, so it was not long before he became a convert to the doctrines of that great book. In the Autumn of that year Mr. Russell and Mr. Hill organized the Land and Labor Club, of St. Louis, this being the name these organizations took, for the term Single Tax had not yet become accepted. This club acted with the Labor Party of St. Louis and secured Father McGlynn for DeBais Opera House. Mr. Hill was a member of the Anti-Poverty Society and has his certificate of membership bearing the great priest's autograph.

In 1887 Mr. Hill went to Peoria. He was elected president of the Peoria Single Tax Club in 1894. During his twenty years residence in Peoria Mr. Hill has been active in keeping our truths before the people. Through his efforts, and those

associated with him, the late Dr. Longstreet lectured there for two weeks in the open air. Dr. W. G. Eggleston ran for Congress on a Single Tax platform; a paper was issued by Mr. Hill in support of Mr. Eggleston's candidacy; Father McGlynn spoke in the opera house. In the prosecution of this work Mr. Hill personally expended over \$1,000.

Such is a brief record of the activity of the democratic candidate for Congress from the 16th district of Illinois.

ROBERT CUMMING.

Robert Cumming was born in 1854, in Scotland, about seven miles east of Edinburg. He began working in the coal mines when eleven years of age, came with his parents to this country in 1867, worked in the mines from the time of his arrival in this country, and in the early eighties became well known among the miners of Illinois and to the Single Taxers of the United States through his advocacy of the teachings of Henry George.

The name of Robert Cumming is familiar to the early followers of Henry George, because of the former's Single Tax work, not only among the miners of the Prairie State, but because also of his effective labor as an "Open Air Propagandist" in Chicago with other like enthusiasts, and in Peoria, where he has lived for the past fourteen years. Henry George literature was sold at all open air meetings, on the sale of which not one cent profit was ever exacted. The importance of these street meetings may be inferred from the fact that at one meeting, which lasted 13 hours, 160 copies of "Protection or Free Trade" were sold.

All the while Robert Cumming has lived in Peoria, he has been a fearless opponent of graft and grafters. An attempt was made to throw him into jail nearly three years ago because of an address he delivered before the Peoria Sunday Lyceum, in which he charged that, in the letting of a contract at that time for the building of a bridge over the Illinois River, at Peoria "the hand of graft was plainly visible." He was arrested on the charge of criminal libel and made the defendant in a civil suit, growing out of the same case, for \$2,000

damages. The public was intensely interested in the matter. Four leading lawyers volunteered their services free in his behalf. The criminal case was finally dismissed by the Court, because of the alleged failure on the part of the Prosecution to produce its chief witness or to give assurance of being better prepared to try the case at some future term of court. On May 18th last, when interest in the case had died out, the suit for damages was withdrawn.

For the past 12 years he has taken an active part as a Jeffersonian in Peoria politics. As a democratic County Central Committeeman—over his signature as such—he has fearlessly supported Republicans who were faithful to their trust, and opposed democrats who were false to the public interest. In so doing he has made many warm friends and bitter enemies.

It was for this reason that he decided to become a candidate for the nomination for the lower House of Representatives, subject to the action of the primaries held on the 8th of August, and for the same reason he withdrew from the contest in order to unite all possible factions for the defeat of Thomas Gorman, a very suave but quite notorious representative of special interests. It is generally conceded that in withdrawing in favor of Walter Bush, who had been endorsed by the labor assemblies for the democratic nomination for Representative, his action was as wise as it was unselfish.

Robert Cumming is a deep sympathizer with the Negro race. He never forgets that the democratic doctrine of "Equal Rights for all" includes the humblest and highest alike of God's creatures, and he never for a moment loses sight of the self-evident truth that all just powers of Government are derived from the consent of the governed.

He has been a staunch supporter of Mr. Bryan since 1896, but regards Tom L. Johnson as the ablest and truest representative on earth of "Equal Rights for all", and has endeavored to keep the readers of the *Peoria Star* informed of the great work Tom L. Johnson is doing, as Mayor of Cleveland.

As a writer on economic subjects his