

Democrats to rescue the local branch of the party from the control of Boss John R. McLean and his agent, Lew Bernard. The movement was sufficiently successful in its first test of strength at the primaries to send a delegation from Hamilton county to the State convention in which the gangsters were in the minority. When this State Convention adopted a Democratic platform and chose Herbert S. Bigelow to head the ticket, it demonstrated beyond all doubt that for the first time in many years the Ohio Democracy had been able to hold a convention free from plutocratic influences. The result of the campaign which Tom L. Johnson and Herbert S. Bigelow are together carrying on, cannot now be foretold, but more of the voters are being set to thinking than has been the case before and this is the real object to be attained. Whether the first attempt of the average Ohio voter at this unaccustomed exercise will be a complete success, is not so important as the fact that he has been made to set his rusty thinking apparatus in motion and sooner or later, he will learn how to operate it correctly.

DANIEL KIEFER.

RABBI J. L. STERN.

Jacob Ludwig Stern was born at Creglingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, November 28, 1856; in 1864 his father from whom he takes his middle name was appointed principal of the Jewish Teachers' Seminary at Wuersburg, Bavaria. There J. L. Stern received his education, passing successively through Latin School, Gymnasium and University. Studied pedagogics and rabbinical subjects under his father and at the rabbinical school of Wuersburg. After obtaining his university degree, and passing examinations as teacher and rabbinical candidate took a position as private tutor and traveling companion in English family. Traveled for nearly two years, mostly in classical and sacred lands (Mediterranean coast.) Afterwards headmaster (1879) in English preparatory school. Came to America 1884, married 1885 to Lina Selz. Was ('85-'91) teacher at Hebrew schools in New York, St. Louis; and Rabbi in Salt Lake City, Utah, and since 1891 in his present position at Cumberland, Md. His wife, also an enthusiastic single taxer died in 1902.

Socialistically inclined in his early manhood, last years of university career, '77. His father, in frequent conversations, pointed out the fallacies of socialism; maintaining that land monopoly was at the bottom of the social problem. He often quoted Isaiah, v. 8: "Woe unto those who join house to house, who add field to field, till there is no more room, and are settled alone in the midst of the land;" and calling attention to the Talmudic statement that Israel lost its national independence on account of the nonobservance of the biblical land laws held that the principle of the latter was universal and that the downfall of all the ancient nations could be easily accounted for on that score,

aside from anything else. Observations during travels and further reading convinced J. L. Stern that his father was correct, but like the latter he was at a loss to see the way out, for having seen the operation of land nationalization in a small scale in cases where (in Southern Germany, their home) certain privileges of the landed gentry had been abolished (cash payment), and where the burden, though, perhaps not so obnoxious, re-appeared in the shape of heavy taxation. Thus when he saw early in the Eighties on a bookstall in Brighton, England, a copy of a six-penny edition of "Progress and Poverty" the words on the title page: "Cause of. increase of want with increase of wealth" immediately attracted his attention and he spent the next few nights in reading the book. To Stern the idea came as the answer to an apparently unsolvable riddle. He immediately wrote a synopsis in German for his father, who was greatly pleased. For a long while his work did not permit Stern to be what he calls a "real single taxer," usually known as a Croasdaler, that is one who not only believes in the single taxer, but who works for it. But since about '90, particularly since coming to Cumberland he has done all in his power to spread the gospel. Through his instrumentality Louis F. Post, Henry George, and J. Sherwin Crosby have lectured in Cumberland in '93, '95, and in 1902. Stern has delivered numerous lectures at home and in many towns along the B. & O. as far east as Baltimore and west as far as Parkersburg, always free. When the weekly Pentatuchal lesson of the Jewish ritual happens to contain the Mosaic land laws a straight single tax sermon is sure to be the subject of his remarks from his pulpit. He is ever watchful for opportunities to write letters to the press, and his scrap book contains some 300 columns of such communications on the single tax and taxation, municipal ownership. Through his instrumentality a provision was inserted in revised city charts of Cumberland that no franchises can be granted for longer time than 25 years.

FATHER COX.

Father Thomas E. Cox was born at Towaunda, near Bloomington, Illinois, forty-two years ago. His early education was obtained in the common schools, in one of which he became a teacher at the age of sixteen. His vacation times were spent in study, and before he finished his twenty-first year he had completed courses in commerce, penmanship and short-hand. He received his bachelor's degree from Mt. St. Mary's college, Emmitsburg, Maryland, June 23, 1886, and his master's degree two years later. His theological course was completed at Niagara University. He was ordained priest May 31, 1890, by the late Archbishop Feehan, and assigned to St. Jarlath's Church as an assistant. Father Cox is at present the senior assistant of the Chicago arch diocese, and one