

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

articles have been widely copied. Even the old Cobden organ, published in Liverpool, England, and the *Liberator* of Auckland, New Zealand, have reproduced addresses made by him which were published in reform papers in this country.

As a poet, Mr. Cumming has received many compliments. We reproduce in another column some lines from Mr. Cumming's pen which show his facility for strong homely presentation in verse that flows smoothly and embodies well expressed truths in vigorous couplets.

HAINES D. ALBRIGHT.

Haines D. Albright, candidate for Congress from the 4th District of Pennsylvania, is an active Single Taxer. In a card issued to the voters of his district he says:

"In times like these every man who desires to do something for his country should strive to make known to his fellow citizens the necessary causal relation which subsists between unwise tax laws and hard times." Elsewhere on the same card he says:

"Unscientific tax laws have a tendency to check productive business activity and, to encourage wasteful disuse of valuable land, and thus make rents abnormally high, the raw materials of industry costly, business dull and unprofitable, wages low and employment hard to find."

The Fourth Congressional District is strongly republican, but many of the voters are independent and ready for a change. In 1905 Mr. Berry, a Single Tax democrat, carried it by over 10,000 majority. The people now have more cause for dissatisfaction than they then had, and it is not impossible that they are going to express that dissatisfaction at the polls in November by a "land slide," which is not unknown even in Philadelphia. Mr. Albright will have the active aid of such men of the faith as the Philadelphia guard have proved themselves to be in many a hard fought campaign.

WESTERN STARR.

The Democratic candidate for Congress from Wilmette, Ill., was born at Davenport, Iowa, in 1854. He was educated

in the public schools of Rock Island, Ill., and in 1870 worked as a farm hand, later on the St. Louis bridge, and later still in the mine mills of Colorado.

In 1877 he had accumulated a little money, with which he entered Oberlin in April of that year. In 1880 he took his degree at Cornell, and afterwards he took the Columbia law course in New York City, and was admitted to the practice of law in that city in 1882. In 1882 he went to Chicago, and taught private school and practiced his profession until the following year, when a business engagement took him to Dakota territory, which at that time included what are now North and South Dakota. Here he was appointed assessor under the territorial government. In 1890 he returned to Chicago where he carried on a real estate brokerage business, and also continued the practice of his profession. In Chicago he held the position of secretary of the civil service reform committee of the Civic Federation, and was later chairman of that body.

These facts in the active life of Mr. Starr were told by John Z. White in the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW*, for April 1904. It is interesting to note the causes that made the subject of this sketch a Single Taxer. It was the robbery of the people involved in colossal railroad land grants that opened his eyes to the evils of land monopoly. Says Mr. White in the sketch of the life of Mr. Starr: "In collusion with dishonest officialism the power shown by the great corporations, especially the Northern Pacific Railroad, startled him. * * He found that this road had been granted every other section of land for forty miles on each side of its track, this of course being equal to a solid strip forty miles wide clear across the state. And when a settler had taken possession of a farm anywhere within these limits the road was permitted to take any unclaimed section within ten miles beyond the forty mile limit. * * The same sort of conditions that disturbed Starr in North Dakota rivetted the attention of Henry George in California."

In 1898 Western Starr formally joined the Single Tax movement, giving it the support of a ready pen and oratorical