

## UNITED STATES

## Henry George's Birthplace Acquired

Mr Percy R. Williams writes giving the important news that Henry George's birthplace has now been definitely acquired by the board of trustees of the Henry George Foundation of America, 1306, Berger Building, Pittsburgh. The building is the old brick house still standing on South Tenth Street, near Lombard Street, in Philadelphia. It will be preserved as a place of historic interest and money will be spent in remodelling and maintenance and probably also in acquiring adjoining property to give the house an attractive setting. The Henry George Foundation entered into possession on 1st January.

The *Pittsburgh Post*, of 4th January, has a leading article on the significance of this purchase and on Henry George's service to humanity, from which we quote:

"The Pittsburgh graded tax law, a modified form of the single tax principle, represents what is described as the most notable approach in this country to the Georgan views of taxation. The ideal of the out-and-out single taxer, of course, is to concentrate all taxation upon land and give the public the benefit of unearned increment, freeing industry of what they call a penalty upon its very enterprise. Formerly land held vacant here was touched lightly by taxation even as it was being greatly enhanced in value by the building around it, the builders being forced to pay chief toll almost as if being fined for adding to the wealth of the community. Now the builders in Pittsburgh are encouraged; improvements are taxed just half the rate levied upon vacant land. Building has increased accordingly. Also no personal property taxes are levied here for city purposes. The sharp turn in this country against giving away public franchises for private enrichment also may be attributed largely to Henry George. . . .

"*Progress and Poverty* was one of the most important productions of the past century from the standpoint of stimulating the study of economics. It put life and heart interest into a topic that generally had been regarded as dull. His work also had a greater effect upon the politics of the country than may ever have been realized, renewing the demand for freedom and general opportunity. . . .

"Gratitude for such work in the cause of humanity should be expressed generally in tributes to the memory of Henry George. Accordingly the news of the purchase of his birthplace to be made a shrine of the cause he

represented must give wide satisfaction. The Foundation that has made the purchase is entitled to the thanks as well as the congratulations of the public."