

from \$5,456,450 to \$1,372,320. Thus Vancouver has the same story to tell as the rest of British Columbia. But greater progress still awaits the city if success attends the renewed movement to get back to the taxation of land values only. What should help in that direction is the fact that in the surrounding municipalities—New Westminster and North, South and West Vancouver—the local taxes are levied on the value of land alone and improvements are entirely exempt.

THE HENRY GEORGE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

Purchase and Preservation of Henry George's Birthplace

The newly-formed Henry George Foundation held its meetings and congress in Philadelphia, 2nd to 4th September, as announced in *Land & Liberty* of last month.

Mr. George E. Evans, the President, writing to us after the event, reports a most successful gathering, and outlines the plans and programme the Foundation has in view. The first object has been attained—the purchase and preservation of Henry George's birthplace in Tenth Street, Philadelphia—an achievement that will be welcomed with pride and joy by the disciples of Henry George the world over. Those who have taken the initiative in this enterprise are to be heartily congratulated. For years the purchase of this historic house on behalf of the movement has been the thought and ambition of very many followers of Henry George, and all can be grateful to Mr. Evans and his colleagues for this special service.

Mr. Evans writes:—

"The idea of Henry George Foundation originated in our Pittsburgh group, which conceived the idea of incorporating a permanent Foundation, which is now chartered under Laws of State of Pennsylvania, as an Educational Institution.

"Our purpose and hope is that it will become a permanent national agency, through which all Georgeites may function. We invite the co-operation of all groups. We have a very broad charter, under which we can carry on almost all descriptions of educational work. Among the activities which we are carrying on at present is the maintenance of a booth at Sesqui-Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia. It is located on the main aisle of the Educational building and is taken charge of by one of our secretaries, Mr. McGuire, who devotes all his time to this work. Many thousands of pamphlets have been distributed.

"Another activity upon which we are entering is the publication of a large cheap edition of *Progress and Poverty* which may be sold at a shilling. We are also publishing 20,000 copies of an abridged *Progress and Poverty*, edited by Mr. Bolton Hall and Will Atkinson of New York.

"Our major activity is the taking over of the Henry George birthplace, which is located on Tenth Street, near Lombard Street, Philadelphia. On 1st November, 1926, we take over this property free of encumbrance. We were most fortunate in finding it in the possession of a well-known Philadelphia Georgeist, who is selling it to us at a very low price. The property is appraised at two thousand pounds (£2,000), but will cost the Foundation about a third of this amount. The owner

makes up the difference with a subscription to the Foundation.

"We have a number of other proposed activities which are not yet fully developed. I cannot tell you the exact amount subscribed so far, for the figures are not available at this moment. We do not fall far short of \$40,000. We received two one thousand dollars cash subscriptions this week.

"I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Hennessey at Philadelphia and to hear his very interesting talk on the Copenhagen Convention.

"I have received some membership blanks for International Union and will endeavour to obtain some members for you here."

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Land and Freedom (New York) September-October issue carries an extensive report of the Congress and Memorial Celebration held in Philadelphia under the auspices of the Henry George Foundation. The Address by the Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessey on the Copenhagen "International Conference for the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade" is given verbatim and is an illuminating story of that great event. The address is described by the editor of *Land and Freedom* as "one of the high lights of the Congress," a tribute which we agree is well deserved.

The resolutions adopted included "A New Declaration of Economic Independence" and a call to the President and Congress of the United States to convene an International Conference to consider the economic causes of international friction and their causes. An immediate political demand for local option in taxation was made in the resolution addressed to the Chairman of the Pennsylvania State Tax Commission in the following terms:—

"The Henry George Congress assembled in Philadelphia, 2nd, 3rd and 4th September to celebrate the 87th birthday of the author of *Progress and Poverty*, resolves:—

"That we respectfully ask the Pennsylvania Tax Commission to incorporate in their coming report on taxation a recommendation that the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be given local option or home rule in taxation as suggested by Harold Sudell in his letter to you under date 14th November, 1925.

"We commend your Committee for the recommendation that real estate now exempt from taxation be taxed on the land value, and only improvements be exempted."

AUSTRALIA

Victoria

The September issue of *Progress*, Melbourne, announces two notable victories for the rating of land values in Victoria. Polls were held at Sandringham and at Brunswick on 26th August at the same time as the municipal elections.

At Sandringham the question before the voters was the adoption of the system and it was carried by 2,284 votes to 2,098. In these totals there were 574 postal votes against the proposal and 46 in favour. "The postal votes," as *Progress* points out, which would be mostly from absentee land-owners, had a majority of 528 against the proposal, so that there was really a majority of the residents of 714 for the reform.

At Brunswick, where rating on land values has been in force for a few years, having been carried by a majority of 288, the opponents had demanded a poll to revert.