

DIFFICULTIES OF LANGUAGE By W. A. DOWE (Director, Australian School of Social Science)

Let me express my thanks for a particularly good issue of the Journal, No. 37. News of the International Conference in Holland was stimulating. I was most pleased with the Peace Resolution.

I was struck with the difficulties of language in such countries as Holland which has no word for rent. Possibly our Dutch colleagues could find the concept that economic rent is the Surplus Product of great assistance to them. A surplus can be easily understood by every one, especially if it is accompanied by the good news that the surplus belongs to everybody. In Progress and Poverty (Book III, Chapter 6), George says: "Land of a particular quality will yield as rent the surplus of its produce over that of the least productive land in use." He repeatedly expresses the same truth in different words in his matchless unfolding of the whole science of economics. In The Science of Political Economy (Book VI, Chapter 4), he pays tribute to the Physiocrats for their phrase produit net, which he says is really a better word than rent.

As far as our impact (if any) on the uninstructed public is concerned, I am afraid that we still lack that vital slogan, song or appeal which will get home to them. This is really our first concern. One thing is plain: Land Value Taxation will never appeal favourably to them and must be one of our major handicaps, besides being an erroneous concept.

For many years I have been trying to drive home these truths to Georgists, and there are signs that my efforts are not entirely fruitless. I long ago became aware that we create many of our own difficulties.

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W. A. DOWE sends us a notice of a Georgist Public Conference sponsored by the School of Social Science, for January 29 and 30, at Women's College, University of Sydney. The very interesting program includes the following: "Tax Evasion and the Coming Chaos" by Dr. George Hardy of Melbourne; "Equal Land Rights for All" by Dr. Keith Suter, President of United Nations Association, NSW; "Third World Aid, Trade and Land Rights Reform" by David Smiley, lecturer at NSW Institute of Technology; and "The Erosion of Freedom" by Richard Giles, editor of Good Government.