

By E. P. MIDDLETON (Norfolk Island)

The collection of site rent should never have been referred to as a tax, for the simple reason that it is the direct opposite to the existing method of raising public revenue. Taxation, among other things, is helping to retard progress in every economy in the world by its confiscation of wages and capital and

is the real cause of the persistence of poverty as of most so-called "economic problems" which every government is vainly struggling to solve.

Collecting the rent as the basic national revenue on the other hand, is the greatest benefit any government can confer upon its people.

As a result of the confusion of "rent" with "land value," we are asked to support a tax reform as a substitute for the real thing.

Taxation and the pursuit of wealth through "land value" are twin evils, equally destructive of social progress in their denial of man's hope for universal peace and enlightenment. Collecting the site rent, on the other hand, is the only basis on which any possibility exists, in terms of political action, for restoring that hope.