

THE MORAL IMPERATIVE

By PETER MIDDLETON (Norfolk Island, Australia)

It seems to me that what is needed to reinspire our movement at this time is to stress the high moral nature of the Georgist philosophy. It will be much easier to accept if its appeal is on moral grounds.

It is not on economics alone that we must rely, or in pointing out its simple common sense. Let us point to the immorality of the situation in which poverty is allowed to exist in modern society. Let us stress the immorality of taxation, a form of highway robbery, tolerated in a society which has the plain alternative of drawing its revenue from the natural bounty of land rent. Let us draw attention to the immorality of underassessment, which is more immoral than tax evasion. Let us point out that whatever government is necessary should be paid for as a first charge on the rent of land, and that it is immoral in the extreme to make private fortunes out of "land values" which contribute to the ever-increasing cost of living, forcing people with the natural desire for a home of their own to cripple themselves through life with bank loans and interest bills. The blatant aspect of our modern living should make its impact on the young generation once it is driven home to them.

Tell the world - especially the young people!