

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RENT

I entirely agree with Dorothy Davies ("Progress" April, p.6) that rent is often a confusing word. We should use the words that outsiders understand.

The first necessity is to attract attention. That is comparatively easy if we are keen enough, but in itself it does little good. Those we attract must go further than be interested, they must follow up, by discussion and reading, until they acquire some knowledge of economics. Not until they understand rent do they understand economics, and then the political steps for abolishing modern poverty amidst plenty.

To arouse interest first, by contact and discussion, then induce the outsider to read the introduction to "Progress and Poverty". After interest is aroused induce him to study Book 3 of the same book, and then a chart illustrating Ricardo's Law of Rent. I will post a free chart to anyone who requests it. It should teach him to understand, as Henry George wrote, that Rent is surplus.

Production

Superficial errors or slips should not worry us. Even George committed them, and we find two of them in April "Progress", i.e.

- (1) Rent is not the price of monopoly, but will flourish even more when monopolies are abolished, and
- (2) Rent is not in essence a payment to a landowner but is the surplus product.

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