

When Time Stands Still

I SAW what an immense amount of labour the Finnish peasant spends in clearing the land... and I said to myself, "I will write, let me say, the physical geography of this part of Russia, and tell the peasant the best means of cultivating his soil.... But what is the use of talking to this peasant about American machines, when he has barely enough bread to live on from one crop to the next; when the rent which he has to pay for that boulder clay grows heavier and heavier in proportion to his success in improving the soil?... He needs me to live with him, to help him become the owner or the free occupier of that land. Then he will read books with profit, but not now."

—Peter Kropotkin.

Hull Site For Over £1m.

OFFERED by Edward Erdman & Co. at the London Auction Mart on November 18, on the instructions of the Secretary of State for Social Services, the freehold site of the Hull Royal Infirmary was purchased by Ravenscroft Properties for £1,115,000 with the benefit of planning consent for 100,000 sq. ft. of offices and 220,000 sq. ft. of shopping space.

—*The Estates Gazette*, November 27, 1971.

Letter-writing Machine

A letter-writing machine designed by Kursk engineers will shortly go into serious production, reports *Novosti Information Service*, Moscow. Having analysed business correspondence the inventors of this original "clerk" have arrived at the conclusion that it consists mainly of 200 phrases. These phrases were coded into the machine. To dispatch a business letter it is sufficient to type the address and then dial the number of the phrases. In a few minutes the machine will produce the ready letter with the reference number, date and the index of the post office.

House Plots £6,000

IN the London area land prices have reached such staggering levels that in some cases buyers must pay £6,000 for a plot, said a leading builder. (*Daily Mail*, October, 30, 1971).

This would require payments of about £30 a month to a building society just for the land alone.

"A parcel of land on the outskirts of London recently changed hands at a price which, at fourteen new homes to the acre, will work out at £6,000 for each plot before a brick is laid," he told a meeting of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers in London.

Building land at Sunningdale Berkshire, was sold recently at more than £40,000 an acre—just under £7,000 a plot for a development of detached four-bedroomed houses.

BOOKS RECEIVED

The Norman Conquest and its Effects on the Economy 1066-86, by R. Weldon Finn. Longman, £5.95.

The Morals of Markets, by H. B. Acton. Longman, £1.75.

Britain Yesterday and Today, by W. M. Stern. Longman, £1.25.

Price Expectations and the Behaviour of the Price Level, by R. M. Solow, Manchester University Press, 52p.

Industry and Government, The Sixth Sir George Earle Memorial Lecture given by Alastair Burnet on November 30th, 1971. Industrial Education and Research Foundation, 40 p.

Commercial Radio... The Beast of Burden, by John Gorst. Aims of Industry, 15p.

The Theory of Customs Unions by Richard G. Lipsey. Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £2.75.

Fair Deal for Householders, by Della Adam Nevitt. Fabian Society, 25p.

The State of Food and Agriculture 1970, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, HMSO, £3.00.

New Revenues for Local Government, by A. H. Marshall, Fabian Society, 25p.

The Future for Pensions, by James Warden. Aims of Industry, 15p.

Fundamental Right to Property, by V. M. Tarkunde. Forum of Free Enterprise, Bombay 1, India.

Letter

EEC CLOSED SHOP

SIR,—There is still time for the people of this country to realise that the real objective behind the Common Market is the consolidation of political power in the hands of those who have secured this power. It is the reason why Mr. Heath and his supporters are determined to join forces with the EEC. It is the vision of those who would be Caesar and would set themselves up as little tin gods over men. They desire omnipotent sovereignty over all Europe.

In the name of peace and prosperity it is their concept that a good life can be authoritatively imposed upon a great society. This is an age-old belief, desperately wrong and disproved by the passage of time.

The ability of the citizen, as an individual, to make effective representation on matters affecting his or her well-being has diminished to the point of stifling frustration. In economic affairs the "closed shop" monopoly both in labour and capital, and the prohibitions and follies of State economic planning have reduced individual creative initiative and enterprise to a minimum.

This state of affairs exists to a greater or less degree in the Common Market countries and it is political chicanery on the part of our Government to suggest otherwise. Furthermore, when the reckoning takes place, as come it will, we shall find ourselves involved in civil and internecine strife within the EEC. During the past twelve years there have been many times when the countries within the Community have been almost at the point of no return in their attempts to reach and maintain agreement among themselves.

The true alternative is the abolition of State paternalism in all its forms, and the repeal of all legislation which stands in the way of individual freedom to exchange the products of labour and capital anywhere throughout the world, regardless of what other countries may do.

Yours faithfully,

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