

Our Post Bag and Others

DO-IT-YOURSELF SLUM

To the Editor of *Land & Liberty*

SIR, — Annigoni, the artist, tells how in his early and less successful days he painted an ugly crack on the ceiling of his solitary room, so realistic that his landlord was persuaded that he owned a slum and could never bring himself to raise the rent.

With this in mind I have already repapered my kitchen with a pattern resembling damp stonework, and am now on the lookout for some nice wood panelling paper resembling dry rot. With the aid of some plastic cobwebs, torn curtains, dim bulbs, and so on, all should be sufficiently and murkily convincing by the time the next rates re-valuation comes round.

Yours faithfully,

P. R. MILLER

London, N.14.

DEVELOPMENT RISKS

To the Editor of *Land & Liberty*

SIR, — One of the most important points made in Mr. Carter's excellent article "Unemployment and Public Spending" last month was the considerable risk involved in setting up business in a development area on the strength of artificial inducements.

It was reported in *The New Daily* of January 31 that one-seventh of all loans made to firms moving to high unemployment areas are outstanding because the firms concerned have gone bankrupt.

Yours faithfully,

PETER TRACEY

London, S.W.10.

HUMAN RIGHTS

To the Editor of *Land & Liberty*

SIR, — In his letter to *The New Daily*, printed in the February-March issue of *LAND & LIBERTY*, Mr. R. C. Grinham makes a very broad assumption when he says that rights are. There is nothing which just exists, other than God; all other things are dependent.

Henry George shows that a man has the rightful ownership of what he creates himself but this is dependent on his ability to create. Then it is his responsibility to see that he is able to create.

In his last sentence Mr. Grinham says: "Man has only one duty — to respect the equal rights of all other men." This makes it a case of which came first — the hen or the egg?

The issue is simplified if we ask

what human rights are. The answers will be legion. One hears the cry "Stand up for your rights," whenever there is a dispute.

It is helpful for us to lay down a code of human rights as was done by the U.N. on December 10, 1948, but there is nothing divine and inviolable about them.

It is noteworthy that the Bible does not define human rights but it makes our responsibilities very clear. Certain human rights may be our ideal, but we must accept that we are by nature inclined to put self first on all levels. Thus we have to learn to be responsible for the good of others — then the rights follow.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN O. BOOTH
Transvaal, S.A.

COMMON MARKET vs. FREE MARKET

To the Editor of the *City Press*

SIR, — A stable market is as bad a contradiction in terms as a stuck weathercock, and a fixed price is as false as a fixed wind vane.

As a free weathercock turns to the lightest breath of wind from either side, so free market prices fall from a breath of supply and rise from a breath of demand. The Common Market is not a market but is a shop closed against free price movement.

The natural market for us world-central islanders is the whole world of supply and demand. Free our sea trade. Unstick the weathercock.

Yours faithfully,

GEOFFREY BOWLES.

London, S.W.1.

THE WHOLE STORY

To the Editor of *The Times*

SIR, — Mr. Enoch Powell's words "... either the millenium has arrived or else something is going very seriously wrong indeed" recalled the warning of an eminent historian, Sir Arthur Bryant: "If in a free society anything goes wrong with its financial system, everything else will go wrong ..."

It is in fact frankly ridiculous to behave as if the problem of inflation were a new one to which no answer had ever been found. It is as old as money itself. Even the ancient Greeks were familiar with it, and moreover they found the answer. History tells the same story again and again; it was not the suppliers of goods who upset the balance and caused prices to rise, but the authori-

ties who issued too much money. Clearly, then, we should look more critically at our money.

We hear plenty about the evils of rising wages and prices, but the fact is that they are only half the story. The other half is: where does the money which enables these rises to take place come from? How exactly is it produced? It is remarkable that even men in responsible positions — among them some M.P.s — do not know. Only when the country knows the whole story will it be able to tackle the problem of inflation effectively.

Yours faithfully,

DESMOND ALLHUSEN.
Beauminster, Dorset.

THIS NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

To the Editor of *The Daily Telegraph*

SIR, — The Potato Marketing Board recently announced that a serious shortage of potatoes is not expected this spring.

We are certainly living in interesting times when the fact that potatoes are not either rotting in the clamp owing to a slump, or making famine prices owing to a scarcity, makes news. But no doubt the Board hopes to organise matters better next year as it has decided to impose restrictive acreage quotas for the 1964 crop.

Yours faithfully,

JACK MERRICKS

Icklesham, Sussex.

PARKINSON ON MONOPOLIES

"WE MUST never offer private monopoly as an alternative to public monopoly. . .

"It is for the businessmen of Britain to show the country what free enterprise is and what free enterprise can do. Nor is it enough to convince ourselves. We have to convince the Labour Party as well, not by words alone. Our stand, to be effective, must be in the name of freedom.

"If the Conservatives hold on to power perhaps they will be confident enough to try some genuinely free enterprise measures instead of paying lip service to them.

"The arguments for monopoly fall flat in every case. Monopolies are not consistent with our system of representative government. For once they become identified with government the point is soon reached when the government comes to employ the majority of the electorate. We can and we should oppose the nationalisation of further industries, but the effectiveness of our opposition must depend on our own house being in order."

—Prof. C. Northcote Parkinson.