**Housing**

The question of housing is still of the greatest importance in this island; and after years of public agitation and criticism aimed against the Government, it would appear that something is being done to relieve the congestion and to reduce the evils which go with bad housing.

The Government during the last three years has increased the rent of public houses from the Labour Welfare Fund which represents the sugar workers' share from the sale of surplus sugar to the United Kingdom. From this the Government has been able to allocate housing and in order to carry out the new Government scheme, a new department has been created by the Government to administer the Labour Welfare Fund. Mr. D. A. M. Haynes, Manager of the Peasants' Loan Bank has been appointed head of the new department with offices in the building where the Department of Science & Agriculture. The staff for which applications will be advertised in the Press will soon be selected and it is expected that a recent survey has been able to carry out repairs to houses as a result.

The importance of the new department is apparent. The salt in every house has done little good to the Government until now. The absence of the disposal of the Government, was the material requisite. It was known since 1950 that such a department would be necessary even although at that time it was envisaged that it would come from sugar sold to the United Kingdom.

The report of the Housing Inquiry Committee of which Mr. Haynes was a member, recommended that the Board of Trade should be the Housing Authority with wide powers not only for requisitioning land for housing estates and rehousing houses from various areas and acquiring and letting them. Nothing was ever done to implement that report and the offer of a tidy sum by the British Government.

Right away have passed since that report was published and besides the Duchess Road and the Bedshed Housing schemes, the purchase of the Pine street with a limited number of £500 houses have been erected and the public housing under the Bay Tenantry, little has been done.

Within recent weeks, however, welcome strides have been made in the re-arrangement of the Bay Tenantry, consisting of laying water and electric main. This good effect was shown in the well being of the Floods of August last when seven people lost their lives and hundreds of houses were damaged. No fewer than 165 of these houses were restored by the Bay Tenantry. Since then they have been reconditioned. The forty one fell on the mouth of the river and the twenty another has been completely changed and attention will now be paid to the northern portion of the tenantry.

But re-housing alone is not the answer. This newspaper has already pointed out that the energy expended on playthings is, on the contrary, surrounded by all sorts of free open pasture land, should have first been given to the housing and when all efforts are allocated to playfields could have been spent at any rate. There are several districts where houses are tragically in need of repair or some instalment, restoration. The carved house and the brown house must be made fit for human habitation.

The spread of immorality and crime, the intimidation of anything approaching cultural progress and among the increasing evils arising from bad housing. It is futile to attempt by the Middle Cinema, lectures, library extensions and other methods to keep young and old alike back home to printin...