

mains, and to install and maintain all service meters. The outlet for sewer and water connections with the city's system was located on 11th Street West opposite the Intercontinental Packing plant--776 feet from the corner of the project. The higher elevation of the VLA property, however, meant that there was a gradual decline from west to east, allowing for sewer drainage without pumping to the city.²¹

The short connection from the subdivision to the end of Saskatoon's water and sewer lines proved to be expensive for the VLA. The pipes and mains had to be laid under two sets of railway tracks and Highway #14, a hard top roadway. Quicksand was encountered during the construction of this connection; a cave-in at the junction resulted and trenches twenty feet deep had to be dug.²²

Further Problems

The installation of sewer and water did not eliminate all of the problems faced by the veterans settling on their newly-established small holdings at Montgomery Place. In March of 1947, Saskatchewan's Reconstruction Minister, John H. Sturdy, met with a delegation of veterans who complained about "exorbitant" prices for homes at Montgomery Place and about the poor quality of materials used in their construction. According to a newspaper report:

Veterans at present living on the small holdings felt that some adjustment of prices should be made.²³

In November of that same year, the veterans of Montgomery Place submitted a brief to Walter A. Tucker, M.P., parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Veterans' Affairs. In this brief, the veterans described their dissatisfaction with several aspects of the project. In particular, the veterans pointed out problems related to the construction of their homes, including poor insulation, cracking plaster board and inferior wood flooring. The veterans declared that

The deficiencies of workmanship that are now manifest will be aggravated by time until, within a very few years, these places will have lost much of their present day value.²⁴

They also complained about the location of Montgomery Place:

It is our opinion that the selectors of this property

could not have found a less desirable place for a residential section within the confines or vicinity of Saskatoon. We would point out that railroads run on three sides of the project and to the immediate east of this project are stock yards, two abattoirs and a meat packing plant.²⁵

The VLA responded to these complaints by pointing out in the Saskatoon Star Phoenix that, because of post-war housing shortages,

...most of the veterans were pleased at being able to secure houses of any type.²⁶

Regional Superintendent J.M. Varey wrote to the VLA Director in Ottawa that, when the veterans applied for assistance to be come established at Montgomery Place,

...they knew all about the location, the soil, the types of houses being built, and no doubt the class of materials being used...²⁷

In a separate report, Nottingham confirmed that many of the veterans had inspected the progress of construction before they signed their applications to purchase small holdings.²⁸ Both Nottingham and Varey defended the location of Montgomery Place in their reports. Nottingham outlined the history of the site selection process in some detail, quoting the chosen site's proximity to Saskatoon and its good soil type as evidence of location value. With regard to the veterans' complaint about the proximity of railway lines, Varey suggested that this was "unjustifiable criticism." He pointed out that railways cut through several residential areas in Saskatoon and other cities, and that in small towns, "practically every house...is within 600 or 1,000 feet of the railway."²⁹

J. Dutton, District Construction Supervisor for the VLA, reported to Varey that all of the Montgomery Place homes were "well constructed" and that "there have been no cases of faulty workmanship."³⁰ Remedial work, undertaken the previous summer, had largely solved the problems indicated by the veterans. According to Dutton:

A number of veterans have stated that the remedial work completed this year has made their homes more comfortable.³¹

Furthermore, VLA officials believed that the veterans' monthly payments of