

those, who are spoken of with respect and pride as the pioneers of the region, have to live.

I, Vladimir Vladimirovich Osadchii, live in one of those depressing 111-15-86 SM (prefabricated panelled) houses. I arrived at Neryungri in 1979, when not even a stake had yet been driven at the site of the future town.

Five years ago my wife, who is a secretary-typist employed by the "Yakutugol" Industrial Association, was put on the list for better housing. She is now the top of the list. However, she hasn't been offered a new place to live. Your family, they tell her, has permanent accommodation, the standard of 6.6 square metres per person is being maintained.

It's the same thing with me at work (I'm a driver with the agricultural machinery complex of the same Association). I've been on the list for better housing since 1987, in fact since the day the complex I work for was established. Now I am also at the top of that list. However, just like my wife I am told, "Your housing is permanent, we won't give you a new place to live". And nobody gives a thought to the fact that conditions in our "permanent housing" are antediluvian or that each person gets his 6.6 square metres, although in newer housing they allow between nine and twelve square metres for each person.

In this I see what we are all now rebelling against - injustice. Why should my wife and I, who have lived for so long in the Far North and who came here to live permanently, why should we have to live under such difficult conditions, without any hope of ever getting anything better, while the recent arrivals (most of whom have their own apartments back on the mainland) get good housing, once they have their names on the list for a certain length of time?