

many others are just rows of time-worn frames sticking out of the ground, with work-weary old men and women sitting on the little earth mounds all about. The "Nikulinskii" sovkhos has eighteen of these lonely old people. The sovkhos is finishing off one home for them, but it only has room for six. They keep asking the director - when? They no longer have the strength to maintain their crumbling dwellings.

And what about the living conditions of those "fit to work"? We found out that it is not easy to find a housing start in the villages. The people of Sladkovsk are not building "family nests" even with the most advantageous conditions - with materials provided by the sovkhos and with payment for their labour. In the sovkhos director's opinion, they need at least 40 new homes every year. The district as a whole requires 2,000 houses or apartments. And that is just to keep people from moving away; all the more if new workers are to be attracted to the area, and they are needed urgently.

A. Renev, first secretary of the Sladkovsk CPSU District Committee, elected to that position two years ago, shared his worrisome concerns with us: "People have lost faith in the future. We live with no water supply and no gas; in the bad season the roads cannot be driven or even walked. The children grow up and go to study in town, and parents do not see their son the technician or their daughter the student for months on end.

Thus are peasant families torn from their roots. They up and move, some to nearby Tyumen' and some to the neighbouring regions of Omsk or Petropavlovsk.