

Q. Could you give the committee an estimate as to when all of this necessary drainage work will have been completed? The reason I am anxious to have that and am rather pressing for it is that I very much doubt whether the veteran should be asked to make up his mind until this work is completed.—
A. There will probably be some drainage work carried over into the month of September but we are pressing for the completion of all of these drainage items during the most favourable month.

Q. Would I be safe in saying then that you have every expectation that the drainage work will be completed by the end of September?—A. Yes.

Q. Very well; then subparagraph (b):—

On projects where there is inefficient sewage disposal, that this problem be corrected by either the installation of new disposal fields or by connection to municipal sewerage systems.

Has that been done?—A. We have replaced quite a number of septic tank disposal fields. We have replaced a number of septic tanks which were defective. It is not possible for us to connect up with municipal drainage systems unless we would undertake at very great expense to bring the sewage systems to our project, but where a municipal sewage system is available close to the project we have hooked up to it.

By Mr. Croll:

Q. Who paid the expense?—A. If it was originally in the construction it was taken into construction cost, but in the correction of these defects the costs are borne by the department and it will not produce any increase in the sale price to the veteran.

By Mr. Cleaver:

Q. Do I understand you correctly then as to all homes where defects have arisen in regard to this matter that these defective septic tanks as well as the defective disposal beds have been or are now being put into proper working order?—A. They are being gone over and are being put into first class order just as quickly as we can get it done.

Q. Could you give me a deadline date on that?—A. Approximately the end of August. A great many of them, however, have already been corrected.

Q. And the next recommendation is:—

(c) That the houses having minor, or in a few cases major structural defects, be put into first class condition as quickly as possible and that where necessary competent superintendents be retained to carry out this work efficiently and that the cost of this work should not be charged to the purchaser.

—A. That work is under way on that basis.

Q. Can you give the committee the finishing date on that?—A. We had expected that all that sort of remedial work on houses would be completed by the end of July. There may be a little carried over into August, into the holiday season. The work is very well advanced and I am quite confident that there will be no important part of it remaining to be done at the end of this month.

Q. Then I take it from what you have said that the \$350,000 in the last grant should be ample to take care of that type of work?—A. That is my expectation; that is my estimate, sir.

Q. And the final recommendation with which I wish to deal is this:—

That the temporary softwood flooring which was laid when hardwood flooring was unobtainable, be replaced by suitable hardwood flooring as soon as this material is available.