

**New Mine
Wrecks Row
of Neat Homes**

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 20 (NANA-Kemnews)—The people of Glebe st., in Leigh, Lancashire, were proud of their neat, well-kept terraced houses. They spent money on modern bathrooms and new fireplaces.

Six months ago the British National Coal Board started mining under the town center and now Glebe st. looks as if it had been struck by an earthquake.

Nine-inch-thick walls are split from floor to ceiling. There are cracks in new fireplaces, cracks around window frames and skirting boards through which the wind blows, and bare bricks show through crumbling plaster.

Door frames lean and some householders have not been able to open front doors for weeks. They say that while in bed they can hear the walls creak and groan and every morning they find fresh cracks.

People who have put their savings into buying their homes now feel that their properties are total losses.

The coal board, to whom repair claims have been made, admits that damage is due to workings started six months ago under the area, but say that householders can claim no compensation for the drop in property value.

The board is sympathetic, but under the 1950 act, is liable only for repairs. Before 1950 it was not normally liable even for such repairs.

Some of the Glebe street laments:

Mrs. Ada Miga: "I bought this house five years ago. It was in good condition, and I spent a lot on modernizing it. I feel all the money is lost. Only an idiot would buy a house full of cracks if ever I wanted to sell."

Mrs. Florrie Baird, pointing to a wall crack through which daylight showed: "Drafts blow through the cracks and now we have mice. There's fine white dust everywhere which gets into the furniture."

"We wanted to sell this house and move, but who would buy it now?"

Mrs. Tyrer: "With a noise like a pistol shot the wall split from top to bottom."

A coal board official said: "It's no use doing repairs until subsidence has stopped. This could take three to six months."

"Damage may look bad, but it is not structurally serious. Householders are in no danger."

"We are sympathetic, and if intermediate repairs are necessary

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