

Mail Star

Aug 31/67

A-13

# Bulldozers Will End All Trace Of Slum Housing

Bulldozers are scheduled to move into Africville next week and begin demolishing the last section of the Negro slum once described as an "indictment of society".

Nine families are still living in the area in Halifax's north end, but only two still have compensation claims to be settled by City Council. The council is expected to consider the claims next month.

Seventy families have been relocated and more than \$200,000 spent on the project since June, 1964.

Peter MacDonald of Sydney, provincial welfare officer responsible for liaison between the city and the people of Africville, said Wednesday the whole area should be levelled by the end of September.

He said the project is about four months behind schedule and has been held up by compensation claims.

Many Africville residents

had squatter's rights, he said. Before boundaries were marked out, land was often exchanged orally for the price of a pig or a sack of potatoes.

Some of the people of Africville are descendants of slaves who fled the United States or came as servants with their "white masters" almost 200 years ago.

Although Africville consisted only of rickety houses and patchwork shacks on a bleak hillside overlooking Bedford Basin, many residents were hostile when plans were first made to relocate them.

Mr. MacDonald said one of the greatest problems was the breakup of community life which was inevitable as the people moved into different areas and some left the province altogether.

"However hard their life in Africville was, it had one compensation, Mr. Donald said. "The people never suffered from loneliness."

The land has been rezoned for industrial purposes, and when the final traces of Africville have gone work will begin on rebuilding the area.