

# CONSIDER EVERY CASE ON INDIVIDUAL MERIT

Hon. D. Carmichael Makes Suggestion at Probe Into Kapuskasing Conditions.

## COMPENSATION IS URGED

Treasurer of G.A.C. Charges That Soldiers Were Inveigled Into Impossible Schemes.

"I believe that country has great possibilities as an agricultural country some day, but I am inclined to doubt its value as a reward for returned soldiers," said Hon. D. Carmichael yesterday afternoon when asked if he wished to make any suggestions by the Commission now enquiring into the Kapuskasing settlement at Parliament Buildings.

He described the district as a vast cold storage plant and said he believed the frost would be a great detriment until much of the land was cleared. He had been surprised to hear from Mr. Ballantyne, superintendent of the Dominion Farm adjoining, that practically everything could be grown there.

### Against Blanket Report.

"Some of these people would certainly die or go crazy if they had no prospect of assistance," he said.

Regarding the question of compensation, he stated that in his opinion the only satisfactory method would be to treat each case strictly on its own merits. "A blanket sort of thing really could not be satisfactory."

Mr. Carmichael asked that when considering the indebtedness of settlers the Commission should take into consideration the promise made to the settlers that a valuator would be sent up to adjust disputes concern-

ing the charges for building their houses.

### Alleges Unfair Treatment.

E. B. Stephenson, who contested Halton county against Premier Drury, said he had visited the colony as a prospective settler. He alluded to what he termed an amazing discrepancy between the treatment accorded to European settlers in the West in pre-war days, and the Kapuskasing scheme. In the former case homesteaders received 160 acres of cleared land by payment of \$10, while in the latter case, soldier settlers received 100 acres of bush.

He claimed that many men had no option in the selection of their lots. "The whole trouble was the regulations were being continually changed and it was an obviously unfair way to treat settlers in a pioneer country.

### Worse Off Than Aliens.

"I considered the colony was being run on a vicious form of benevolent autocracy," he declared. "The settlers in my opinion are more disfranchised than were the aliens in the West or the Uitlanders in South Africa before the war." There was no form of local Government, he said, and the men had no say in the management of the school or any voice in the affairs of the colony. He deplored the fact that no opportunity was afforded for a soldier to open a barber shop or a store. When reminded by the commission that there could be no local Government without taxation, he said he favored a nominal taxation.

Stephenson said that the ring-leaders in a movement to start a branch of the G.W.V.A. at the camp had been shipped away in box cars, and the movement had been stopped.

### Impossible to Make Living.

Replying to Mr. Nickle, he said an ordinary soldier settler could not make a living there. He did not consider it a farming settlement because of its "artificial and spoon-fed basis."

The non-appearance of the pulp mill, the fluctuating price of pulpwood, and the difficulty of marketing it all contributed to the failure of the schemes.

H. McLeod, treasurer of the G. A. C., claimed compensation for the settlers for their losses on the ground that they were inveigled into a scheme that could not possibly have

been successful because of its shortcomings and the climatic conditions. "You cannot expect men with shrapnel in their bodies to give 100 per cent. efficiency," he said in answer to Col. McLaren, who asked what attitude witness would have taken if he had been running the colony himself. It had been impossible for the men to make a living, McLeod said.

### Says Men Were Trapped.

Sentiment in the case of wounded soldiers should surely play some part in the matter. As an indication that the men had been virtually trapped, witness said there was a saying in the camp: "One party is coming out, another is going in, and another is trying it out."

"The Government itself admits the whole scheme was practically a failure," declared A. S. Morgan, of the Kapuskasing Post, G.A.C. "It is not our fault." He wanted compensation.

### Ban on Meetings?

Morgan complained that no meetings were allowed and everything had to be done through the orderly room. It had been suggested that if the soldiers raised \$3,500 they could run a co-operative store. \$3,700 was

promised at a meeting, but nothing more was heard of the matter.

Morgan admitted a mistake had been made in sending to the colony in the first place some men who had never been out of the city.

"If the late Government had taken the men into their confidence about grievances at the parting of the ways, it would have been much better." There was no hope for the place as a farming settlement. He claimed the superintendent made them work for 50 cents a day less than the foreigners.

## CIVIC BUSES IN LONDON

Council Decides to Buy Four to Start a Service With.

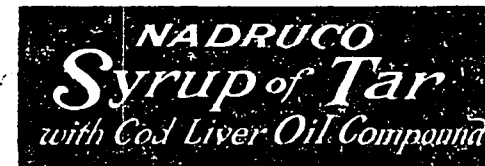
London, Ont., March 2.—The City Council decided to ask the Legislature for power to issue debentures for \$30,000 to make a start on a civic bus line to compete with the street railway. Four busses will be bought and they will run on streets paralleling the car lines.

### Guelph Customs' Growth.

Guelph, March 2.—The customs receipts in February were \$38,424, an increase of \$10,000.

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