

THE KAPUSKASING INQUIRY

In view of the damaging and calumnious reports which have appeared in the outside press as the outcome of the present investigation of the Kapuskasing Soldiers Settlement throwing out doubt that the country is suitable for farming development, the local branch of the Great War Veterans Association sent a wire to Chairman Nickle of the Provincial Committee on Monday requesting him to stop off at Cochrane to take evidence from soldier settlers here and along the line who have not enjoyed the aid given by the Ontario Government to the Kapuskasing colony and whose success is convincing of the suitability of this district for agricultural settlement. Unfortunately, the Commission could not spare the time to stop over, but assured the local Association of their willingness to consider written statements which might be forwarded to them in Toronto, and also to hear any representation made while passing through town on Wednesday night.

In consequence a deputation of the G.W.V.A., accompanied by a deputation from the Cochrane Board of Trade, waited upon the Commission in their car on Wednesday night during the short stay here, and the former presented the following resolution, which was read by the President, Comrade Mitchell:

WHEREAS the reports as appearing in the daily press throughout the Province of Ontario and the Dominion of Canada at large, on the Kapuskasing Soldiers' Settlement Investigation, take cognizance only of evidence given before the Investigation Committee by an obviously dissatisfied and apparently troublesome element within the settlement,

AND WHEREAS from the evidence as it appears in the published reports a totally wrong impression is permitted to get abroad with regard to the adaptability of this portion of the claybelt for agricultural development and settlement,

AND WHEREAS the experiences and success of other returned soldier settlers and others around here is in direct contradiction to the irresponsible statements made by witnesses quoted in the reports as utterly condemning this country as unsuitable for agricultural pursuits,

AND WHEREAS the steady development of that part of the claybelt lying alongside the Canadian National Railway, on the lines of successful agricultural settlement—even without the splendid aid given to the Kapuskasing colony—is proof positive that any failure must be due to individual impotence and certainly cannot have been caused through lack of opportunity available,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Cochrane Branch of the Great War Veterans Association go on record as being distinctly opposed to having evidence accepted by the Investigation Committee as to the unsuitability of this part of the Province for agricultural pursuit as affirmed before the Committee by dissatisfied soldiers who apparently totally lack a proper conception of pioneer life, even in its best form,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cochrane Branch of the Great War Veterans Association strongly urge upon the Commission the fullest examination of such witnesses whose experience and success will demonstrate that lack of success is not due to lack of opportunity but to the incompatibility of the individual,

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be handed to the Chairman, W. F. Nickle, K.C., and the other members of the Investigation Committee, Col. John L. McLaren and Prof. J. N. Sharp, with the conclusion that this Branch of the Great War Veterans Association is not in sympathy with the sentiments expressed by the returned soldiers at Kapuskasing that the country here is unsuitable for agricultural pursuit as not expressing the sentiments and views of other soldier settlers in this vicinity,

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be given out to the press to counteract the damaging and calumnious reports which have appeared and which tend to impart totally wrong impressions of the country around here appearing not to be suited for agricultural development.

Owing to the short time available, very little evidence could be brought out, but the Chairman, Mr. Nickle, showed evident desire to get at the root of the real trouble, and conveyed the impression that he had not been convinced through the evidence which had come out at Kapuskasing, that the fault lay in lack of opportunities and readily admitted that he had no fault to find with the country.

Mr. W. B. Way, one of the delegation from the Board of Trade, presented the Chairman with a picture of the Rothschild farm at Brower, which certainly should dispel any doubt of the agricultural possibilities of this part of the country.

NOTICE

All persons owing Taxes to Union S. S. No. 1 Blount will please remit or pay to Mr. E. PHILLIP, Tax Collector, Clute, Ontario.