

SAYS KAPUSKASING SETTLEMENT ABSURD

Scarboro G.W.V.A. Secretary
Raps Northern Ontario
Land Scheme.

"The Kapuskasing scheme for soldier settlement in Northern Ontario has been run into the ground by maladministration," stated Secretary Ed. Stephenson, of the Scarboro G. W. V. A., to The Star to-day. "The land itself is splendid, and is in the famous clay belt of Northern Ontario. But the arrangements made with regard to the taking over of the land by returned men has made a proper or fair settlement of it impossible."

Mr. Stephenson produced a letter dated May 22, 1919, which, he states, he received in answer to an application made last October. The letter reads in part: "Our information is to the effect that you took advantage of the offer provided, and the department is now in a position to have you proceed to Kapuskasing, to become and actual settle there if you so desire."

"That letter states that late in May of this year or early in June I can go onto some unknown farm in Kapuskasing as the result of an application I made, and two weeks' probation I underwent in northern Ontario last fall," stated Mr. Stephenson. "In my opinion that is an entirely unwarranted delay, considering the situation as it in northern Ontario."

Mr. Stephenson gave a brief explanation of why the Kapuskasing plan of settlement has been a failure among returned men. In the first place two weeks of probationary work has to be done in northern Ontario at the rate of 30 cents an hour for a ten hour day. Transportation to the north, at the rate of a cent a mile, has to be paid by the veteran. The soldier must work for two weeks, but work is not guaranteed to him for longer than a month. After putting in the two week probationary training at \$3.00 a day and board, ten settlers, working in groups, spend a whole season clearing the front ten acres of ten 100-acre blocks of land. After this is done he has still no choice as to what farm he may settle upon. He must take whatever farm is assigned to him by

the Government. If he has been working on a block of ten farms with nine other men he may be assigned the least valuable of the ten farms, and in such a case, after a whole summer's work, has no relief. When he is assigned his farm he must clear 20 acres of it the first season, and at the end of the first season he does not get his patent, but then, for the first time, ranks as a homesteader.

"The net result of the whole scheme as it works out, is this," said Mr. Stephenson. "After two weeks' probation and after two seasons' work on a farm which he has had no part in choosing, he finds himself then in the same position as the alien homesteader in the West, with a few exceptions. The alien got 160 acres of land, while the soldier only gets 100. The alien goes on to cleared land to perform his settlement duties, but the soldier goes on to bush land to perform his. The aliens of the West paid \$10, and chose their own land. The soldier in Northern Ontario spends two seasons' hard work and does not then get any opportunity of making a choice. This is the Government's fantastic scheme of landing partially disabled men 550 miles north of Toronto. When the plan was first put into operation it was for men discharged as casualties as no other men were being released from the army. This, in my opinion, makes it additionally absurd."

Secretary Stephenson stated that while he, as a returned man, was working in the north under this scheme at \$3 a day, Russians, Austrians and Swedes were getting \$4 and \$5 a day building roads.

Vegetable Leather in Japan.

A plant grows in Japan which furnishes a sort of vegetable leather. It is a pretty shrub called the mitsumata, and its inner bark, after going through certain processes, is converted into a substance as tough as French kid, so translucent that one can almost see through it, and as pliable and soft as calfskin.

"Grog" So-Called From a Coat.

I long program cloak that the British Admiral, Edward Vernon always wore on deck during "dirty" weather, is said to be responsible for the name "grog," the sailor's drink ration. The admiral's men irreverently called him "Old Grog," and "grog" was the name they gave the rum and water he served them aboard ship.

HANLAN'S POINT

MILITARY BAND CONCERT
EVERY EVENING
Boats Every Few Minutes.