

# KAPUSKASING POOR CHOICE FOR SETTLERS

## Federal Farm Official Says Government Acted Unwisely

### MUST GIVE MORE AID

#### Let in the Sunshine and Drain Away the Water, His Remedy

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)  
**Kapuskasing, March 3.**—That the Ontario Government had chosen a poor part of northern Ontario for its colonization scheme when it selected Kapuskasing, that it had failed to apply scientific methods to the land to make it fit for farming purposes, and that it had brought the wrong type of pioneer into the colony, was the opinion which J. P. S. Ballantyne, Superintendent of the Dominion Government Experimental Farm across the Kapuskasing River from the colony, gave to the Commission appointed by the Government to investigate conditions in the colony when he appeared before the Commission to-day.

"Clear the land, let in the sunshine, get rid of the water, and then put clover on the land to lighten the soil," said Mr. Ballantyne when the Commission asked him for his opinion on the policy which should be pursued if northern Ontario was to become a farming country.

#### Has Made a Success.

Mr. Ballantyne became Superintendent of the Dominion Government Farm about four years ago. His crops have been a success. He admitted that the crops of settlers at the Kapuskasing colony had been frozen, and gave his reasons to the Commission for their failure.

With the aid of German prisoners from the internment camp and farm employees, ninety acres of ground on the Government Farm were broken up, roughly plowed, and seeded with oats, which were cut green to provide feed for stock, since there was no hay. Fall wheat was then put in, which thrashed 32 bushels to the acre. During the summer of 1917 frost was recorded, but it did not touch his crops, not even the string beans. In 1918 a fine crop of wheat was thrashed, which yielded 30 bushels to the acre.

#### Blames Soil.

"We have heard considerable about the frost on this side of the river," said the Chairman, "what has been your experience?"

"I will admit that the crops of settlers were frozen," replied Mr. Ballantyne. "The only conclusion I can come to is this. It is clay soil, which retains water. During hot weather it quickly evaporates and at night settles down in frost. A current of air travelling down the river from the north would cause the frost to settle on the crops of the colonists."

Mr. Ballantyne stated ten acres of the Government Farm was under-drained and that marked results had been obtained. "The great trouble is that during the fall the land is saturated with water and is frozen. If it was drained it would be taken away and four weeks would be saved in the spring."

#### Store Manager Helpless.

The management of the colony store was helpless from the time he became assistant to Storekeeper W. A. Telfer, according to Mr. A. W. Browne, who told the Commission that he had 35 years' experience before he received his appointment from the Government.

"On my arrival in April I went through the stock, for it was my custom to get rid of old stock first. From what I saw in my first inspection I realized that the store would be running at a loss unless the wastage was charged to the settlers," said Brown. "At this time there were 300 pounds of beef lying in the store which was unfit for consumption. I burned it."

Brown said that the beef in question was bought before Lieut.-Col. Ennis, and that Telfer received a typewritten letter asking him to appear before the Superintendent. There were 40 or 50 bags of carrots, which were rotten, and were distributed among the settlers.

#### Great Waste of Beef.

To another question from Chairman Nickle, Mr. Brown stated that an estimate had been sent to the Harris Company at Toronto that there was a wastage of 25 pounds of beef a day. "At one time I had 76 quarters of beef in stock and in a bad condition. These same conditions prevailed in 1919."

Brown declared that neither Telfer nor Mr. A. E. Bruce seemed to have any idea how to order supplies. Concerning potatoes, he said that there was a wastage of 25 per cent., excluding shrinkage. That there was a considerable loss in flour through mice.

#### Could Have Reduced Prices.

He expressed the opinion that he could have reduced prices if he was allowed to order in the right season and had been able to give the settler preferential treatment over the outsider.

Explaining the difference in the prices to employees of the Roads Department of Lands, Forests and Mines, and to settlers, Brown testifies that Mr. Grigg had told him that one didn't consider the settler, because it was a development scheme."

He told of general groceries being ordered in Toronto by wire, which could have been done more cheaply if sufficient interest had been taken in the store by Mr. Telfer to keep track of his stock.

The settlers heard of the potatoes which were rotting in the basement of the colony store, and they received permission from Chairman Nickle to take them away whenever they wished to feed to their pigs.

#### Several Beef Shipments Rejected.

Mr. Telfer, storekeeper, admitted that several shipments of beef were rejected, and on each occasion that he had refused it he had informed Mr. A. E. Bruce, Toronto, that a claim be made to the Harris Abattoir Co.

#### CHICAGO PRODUCTS.

Chicago, March 9.—Butter higher. Creamery, 50c to 66c. Eggs unsettled; receipts, 13,658 cases; flats, 43c; at mark, cases included, 43c to 44½c.