

# ONE VIEW OF KAPUSKASING

James H. Davis, Settler, Writes Answer to Ferguson.

James H. Davis, one of the original twenty-four, returned men who left Toronto on June 13th, 1917, for the Kapuskasing Settlement, writes to the editor of The Star from O'Bryen Township that he "cannot let such a misrepresentation of the actual facts go unchallenged" as Hon. G. Howard Ferguson's statement in reply to Col. Hon. David E. Carmichael's report on conditions there. His letter says in part:

To the Editor of The Star:

Mr. Ferguson states that Col. Carmichael has evidently never been in a pioneer country. I venture to state positively that Col. Carmichael has spent more time in Kapuskasing in one week than Mr. Ferguson spent in two and a half years during the time he was Minister and in charge of the settlement.

Mr. Ferguson says that he learned of one man who got \$1,300 out of his pulp wood crop, and another \$450 or \$500. He forgets to mention that the first man had to pay three men, besides himself, two months' wages and feed a team of horses out of the \$1,300. The man who made \$450 was certainly not overpaid for five months' work up to his hips in snow.

I am a carpenter and joiner by trade. I would be willing to duplicate any house built by the department for 30 per cent. less than "their" cost.

Not one seed of any description was given us, as Mr. Ferguson would have the public believe.

Mr. Ferguson says they gave us 100 acres of land. Everyone knows, by now, that means 90 acres of bush and 10 acres, more or less, of moss and loose roots.

Besides the horses, the only cattle brought here by the department were eight miserable-looking cows; one had only one horn, the other having been knocked off. These they sold to the settlers at from \$95 to \$135 apiece. Twenty-four pigs, six weeks old, came with the cows, and were sold at \$12.50 apiece.

I see by Col. Carmichael's report that there are eighty men here, that is \$10,000 per man. But, of course, most of it no doubt has been spent on maintenance. For instance, there are quite a number of men selling firewood to the settlement to keep the staff warm that check up the said firewood. The taxpayer, of course, foots the bill.

Hay at the settlement is \$38 a ton; it has been up to \$44. Oats are \$1.15 a bushel and hog feed \$4.35 a cwt. They tell us this is at cost. It is a good thing for us they don't make any profit on it.—Yours etc.,

JAMES H. DAVIS.