

LACK OF EXPERIENCE AND H. G. L. CAUSED KAPUSKASING MIX

Feed for Government Horses Ate Up All Profits, and Ex- orbitant Prices Charged

Toronto, March 2.—Enquiry into conditions at the Kapuskasing soldier settlement colony was opened at the Parliament Buildings yesterday by a Government Commission, composed of W. F. Nickle, K.C., Lt.-Col. McLaren and Prof. Sharp.

The evidence presented yesterday largely had to do with the system employed in clearing farms, and the difficulties the soldier-settlers encountered owing to lack of experience and the high cost of living. At the morning session the chief complaint was made against the colony store, which according to Mrs. David Precious, wife of a plumber who had previously had little farm experience, charged considerably more for everything than the prices charged in Toronto. She complained that at times it was impossible to get even staples. Precious said that he went into the north country with considerable money, but owing to his lack of knowledge of conditions, his inexperience in cutting pulpwood, etc., he lost all he had and went into debt.

One of the greatest difficulties was the cost of seed for the upkeep of horses supplied by the government. This point was made in the afternoon by several representatives of the settlers. H. McLeod, representing the G.A.C., produced data to show that one man, who in a period of three months cut 75 cords of wood which was sold to the colony administration for \$300, had a bill of \$243.35 for feed for the government horses he used in hauling lumber.