

FERTILITY OF THE LAND JUSTIFIED THE COLONY

G. Howard Ferguson Outlines Late Government's Plan at Kapuskasing.

NO NEED FOR FAILURE
But Difficulties Were Great—Planned to Keep Area British.

In outlining the reasons at the Kapuskasing probe yesterday afternoon for the selection of the Northern Ontario site as a soldiers' settlement Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, late Minister of Lands, Mines and Forests, stated it was in the clay belt on the best type of productive land he had ever seen. It was one of the beauty spots of Northern Ontario and there were undeveloped water powers on the river which would make possible the growth of a town and conduce to industrial enterprise. Further, it was hoped that the successful cultivation of the Dominion Experimental Farm adjoining (on 1,200 acres given by the Ontario Government) would serve as an object lesson to the settlers and "make visible to the eye the possibilities for grain and vegetable production and general agricultural work."

Was Meant for Farmers.
"The scheme in its inception was an agricultural scheme essentially," said the ex-Minister. "It was desirable that returned men who were physically fit and felt like trying out the conditions should be given the opportunity. I was further exceedingly anxious that we should lay the foundation of a proper British spirit along the Transcontinental and that a colony would spring up of immense value in disseminating British sentiment and in maintaining loyalty to the country and its institutions."

Discussing criticisms of climatic conditions, he admitted the seasons there were shorter, but the days were longer and the growth was more prolific. "Anyone acquainted with Northern Ontario conditions knows that district will overtake a fortnight's start of Old Ontario." What could be done in the raising of grain, vegetables and fruit had been proven at Ground Hog River to the east of Kapuskasing, and at Hearst, about 70 miles further west.

Had Chances to Withdraw.
The men who went to the Monteith school received private's pay and separation and patriotic allowance, with the privilege of having their return transportation paid if they felt they could not stand the work. A number left after giving it a trial, but others were ambitious and anxious to get to Kapuskasing. Many who went to the settlement did not anticipate the strenuous labor ahead of them, said Mr. Ferguson. One man who was a carpenter was granted his wish to work at his trade at \$5 or \$6 a day for a time while his bush lot stood idle, but after a while he was expected to get on with his clearing.

As time proceeded it was discovered that the plan of operation was not working satisfactorily and that there should be some limit of expenditure in connection with the clearing, therefore a scheme of contract work was devised. "Most people when talking about the place forget its exact location. Many years ago it was thought impossible to grow anything at Winnipeg or Portage La Prairie, yet this place is 50 miles further south. In New Liskeard district very few farms can be bought for less than \$6,000 or \$8,000. That is the vision I had for the future."

Men Not Fitted.
The real difficulty seemed to be that a number of men were unfitted for the work. He had only received complaint from about a dozen men.

H. McLeod, treasurer of the G.A.C., interrupted with the statement that 95 per cent had laid complaint.

Alluding to the expenditure of \$800,000 Mr. Ferguson said a large portion of this included road construction, drainage and other work always incidental to the opening up of a new section. "It is my experience that in the initiation of an enterprise of this kind generous expenditure must be faced at the beginning." He regarded this work as being of a permanent character.

Col. McLaren: "A statement has been made in evidence that men were medically unfit."
Mr. Ferguson: "We did not discard men because they had no teeth or anything of that sort."

No Misrepresentations.
He denied that men had been persuaded to go there—let alone inveigled. "They went freely after everything was explained to them."

Mr. Nickle: "Have you any idea what should be done for the people who are hopelessly in debt, who have sunk a great deal of money in the venture and who cannot make a living in the event of it being demonstrated that conditions are now such that the scheme cannot be made a success?"

Mr. Ferguson: "I could not make a suggestion offhand." The merits of the scheme could not be measured by failures, he said, and he declared that conditions of the general situation could be discovered almost anywhere. Men in York Township had made failures.

Some Came Back.
"Is it longer than a two years' proposition?" "I think so. Some men who left went back again which showed they had found places where conditions were unsatisfactory."

He pointed out that the winter of 1918 was exceptionally cold everywhere.

"My idea from the start was of a farming scheme for the benefit of the returned soldier."

Replying to Mr. McLeod he said unless it was an agricultural scheme in the first place it would be of no use to the returned men as a re-establishment undertaking.

No Pulp Mill Promised.
Mr. Ferguson denied that a definite promise had been made to the men of the establishment of a pulp mill. An agreement had been made with certain parties to whom a pulp concession had been sold for the purpose, but through the death

of one of the financiers and war conditions it had not been erected. An Ohio man had now been interested in the undertaking and the time for bush operation had been extended to this winter. Preparations, he understood, were now under way. The pulp concession was sold after the colony was established.

Trained at Monteith.
Major Thomas L. Kennedy, who was in charge of the first batch of 20 men who went to Monteith in 1917 for six weeks' training and subsequently went to Kapuskasing, testified that the instruction given included work, milking cows, work with cattle, plowing, stumping, burning, building bush fences and gardening. Witness thought this instruction could have been better given at Kapuskasing. When they arrived at the latter place conditions were very bad, files were troublesome and it was difficult to get carpenters to erect houses. When autumn came about seventeen houses had been built.

"What experience had you in training men for the north country?" asked Chairman Nickle. "None at all," was the reply.

Witness added he had an expert

woodman under him. Major Kennedy said he left Kapuskasing in March, 1918, on account of ill-health. They started first paying men by the day, but soon found it necessary to change to the group system. It was hard to get men to work for the Government, he said. Each man should be encouraged to clear his own land. Lack of personal interest was noticeable and when "news" arrived from Toronto men preferred to discuss it in preference to working.

SEVEN PERSONS INJURED
Six Cars of C.P.R. Train Derailed Near Metagama.

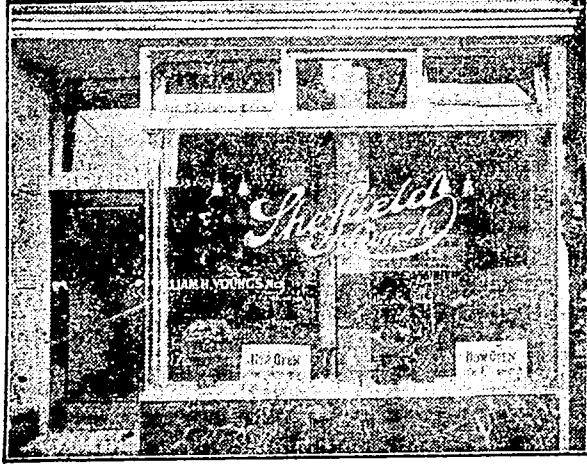
Montreal, March 3.—Seven passengers were slightly injured when six rear cars of train No. 3, west-bound from Toronto to Vancouver, left the rails near Metagama, according to word received by C.P.R. officials here. The accident was caused by a broken rail.

Still Near Parry Sound.
Parry Sound, March 3.—A still was seized on the farm of Wm. Cascanette, five miles from here, and Cascanette was fined \$100 and costs.

A PLAIN STATEMENT

In Re

Sheffield



EXTERIOR ORIGINAL STORE, 1915.

Authorized Capital \$

Dividends Payable Quarterly

The Sheffield Lunch was opened, on a small scale, by Elmer S. Youngs and William H. Youngs.

After a period of only six weeks, the business was so successful that the building on Front Street was secured, and as the accompanying illustration shows, the business was moved down town Lunch Rooms in Toronto.

The interest of Elmer S. Youngs was bought by a group of investors who were progressively successful that he decided to reorganize the business in a more extremely careful, experienced and conservative manner. The business is success contingent in so great a measure that the management of the Lunch Rooms in the city was retained in the Company's stock, (not a cent paid for the business) by a company which has taken over the business as a going concern.

Having decided to form a company, it was necessary to secure a few large investors, or to open it to the public. The latter course was chosen, and the following deal was struck: The selling stock in a company is naturally going to boost the business, and to accomplish two things, namely, raise money to start the business.

For this reason the par value of the shares was set at \$100.

We have been asked why we did not let some of our former partners buy the established business built up the only way a successful business can be dealt with, that it should not be necessary to spend vast amounts of money.

The profits of the business for the past few years have been so large that they were offered for sale.

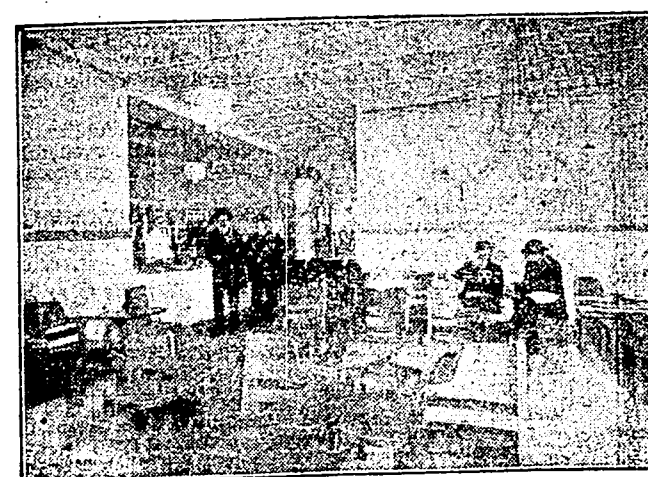
A new and attractive lease has been secured for the new building.

A bonus feature which should net the investor.

All money raised will be devoted to the opening of the new building.

The expense of organizing and incorporating the company.

Only 1,500 shares were offered, and are going to be sold at a profit.



INTERIOR, 1915.