

CARMICHAEL'S RIGHT DECLARES A COLONIST

One of Soldier-Settlers Backs Up the Criticism of the **Kapuskasig** Situation.

Mr. William Precious, formerly of the 19th Battalion, who went to the Soldiers' Settlement Colony in Kapuskasing in the latter part of May last year, backed up the report of the Hon. (Col.) D. Carmichael in an interview with *The Star* this morning.

"His report is absolutely sane," he said. "He states plain facts. Men, women and children are heart broken and are only waiting for the Government to take them out."

He said that practically every settler was in debt anywhere from one hundred to three hundred dollars for groceries. In some cases the kiddies had to go seven miles to school and seven miles back. Although vans were provided the weather was sometimes thirty below zero and the children were unable to stand it.

Crops Do Not Mature.

Referring to the statements made to the press by G. Howard Ferguson, ex-Minister of Lands in the Hearst Government, Mr. Precious said:

"No settler in that part of the country has ever known the Dominion Experimental Farm to take off a mature crop of grain. All the grain taken off last year on the farm was fed as green feed to the horses.

"As far as our colony is concerned, there is only one man who made good. He did not do it by his crops, either. He lives close to the centre of the colony and was able to procure swill from the neighbors. This he fed to the pigs, from which he drew his profits.

"This fall, most of the other settlers had to kill off their pigs because of a shortage of feed and on many occasions they had no hay for the horses.

"As for the growing of vegetables, apart from grain, the case of Mr. Beaumont is a typical example. He put in approximately an acre and a half of potatoes and turnips last year but owing to frost and snow has not got them out yet."

Additional Levy For Houses.

The contracts for homes, he continued, were given out at a stated price, varying according to the style of house. The reason for the discontent among the settlers was that after the building had been completed, an additional amount, ranging from \$100 to \$400 was tacked on.

"The store stands condemned not only by Col. Carmichael, but by the Deputy Minister, Mr. Griggs. When the latter visited the colony, he refused to discuss the matter. His only statement was, 'It is absolutely rotten.'"

Owing to mismanagement, last summer approximately a car load of meat for the colony was allowed to go bad, while the settlers had great difficulty in getting meat of any kind.

"We are not in a position to do much for ourselves," Mr. Precious concluded, but we are patiently waiting for some action on the part of the Provincial Government."