

KAPUSKASING CAMP ABSOLUTELY UNFIT

Kapuskasing, March 5.—“We have come here determined to get at the bottom of the problem. We are determined to find out what the conditions are, and are anxious to hear any suggestions which you have to offer. None of us is prejudiced. On the contrary, our strongest sympathies are with you. Only your heartiest cooperation can make this inquiry a success.” With this very brief announcement from W. F. Nickle, K.C., Chairman of the commission appointed by the provincial government to investigate complaints and charges made by soldier settlers at the Kapuskasing colony, Mr. Nickle and his colleagues opened their inquiry in the Orange Hall of the colony.

During the day of six hours the commission was able to hear only ten

of them, who came from Harty and Kitigan settlements on the outskirts of the colony. In answer to a question which chairman Nickle put to each witness, these settlers replied that as soon as opportunity was given them they wished to leave the camp. They claimed that their experience had been that the colony was absolutely unfit, that the possibilities of success were not what officials had represented them to be, and further that "it had been a case of broken promises."

The case of each settler who testified is now one of almost utter destitution. With one exception these settlers came into camp with sums of money exceeding \$500 which did not include government assistance. They have been here for more than a year. They find they cannot obtain enough from ten acres if it happens to be cleared, to support themselves and families, and it is impossible to find work. - If they cannot sell the land all admitted that they were deeply in debt to the government store, and that they knew of no way in which the debt could be paid.