

# GOVERNMENT REFUSED SETTLERS' POTATOES

Although "Spuds" Were Scarce  
**Kapuskasing** Man Had to  
Give His to Pigs.

Special to The Star by a Staff Reporter.

**Kapuskasing**, Ont., March 4.—In giving evidence before the Government commission investigating the soldiers' settlement here, Norris Joyce, the first witness examined, said the Government would not buy some potatoes he offered for sale and he had to feed them to the pigs, although potatoes were being brought in from Toronto.

Joyce told the chairman he did not think anybody could make a living by farming in this country. It was no place in which to live, he said, unless there were opportunities provided for earning a living and educational facilities. His earnings last summer averaged \$50 a month, and his gratuity of \$600 was all gone. He did not want any Government pay in the way of Government stores and he wanted to be as Commissioner John Sharp suggested, "a free man."

David A. Lowe, who said he was one of the original settlers, told of leaving the scheme, going as far as Yorkton, Sask., and then returning here. He was perfectly satisfied, and thought he could do as well here as anywhere else, but he had left because Smith Ballantyne, manager of the Dominion Experimental Farms, had cut timber on his land and had refused him compensation. Lowe said he complained to Col. Innes and had threatened action, only to be told by Col. Innes it would be no use to fight the Government. Finally he returned, bought a new lot at Harty and was reinstated on the scheme. Lowe said the settlers had been promised all kinds of things by the Government, but they had not been kept. He had spent \$2,200 cash he had and also \$400 gratuity.