

## D.P.'s Happy In District Camp Carve Out New Life In North

By BOB VEZINA

Out of the chaotic, war-ravaged wilderness that is present-day Europe has come a definition, that in its ironic brevity has failed to mirror the physical suffering and emotional expanse of its origin.

This definition—"displaced persons"—is today applied to thousands of Europeans, who, stripped of all their worldly possessions and attachments at the war's end, were left to their individual fates in a country that could offer only hunger and despair.

As the postwar period lengthened, most of these people were picked up by Allied authorities and placed in camps throughout Germany, where they were fed and housed. Probably the only solace that life had to offer this latent mass of manpower was the power to dream; to rest in the impersonal surroundings of institutions devoted to the preservation of flesh and blood and muse on the happy aftermaths of some future date, when, in the sanctuary of a new country, they could begin another life.

Deep in the heart of the Northern Ontario frontier, is the modern pulp and paper town of Kapuskasing. Spruce through six camps of the Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company, in Kapuskasing district, 400 of these "displaced persons" are realizing that dream. Recently I made a trip to one of these camps, located about 30 miles north of Kapuskasing on the company-owned Smoky Falls Railroad. The particular logging camp referred to in this story is known as No. 44. It has a normal complement of 105

men, 551 of whom are young Polish Ukrainians, arrived from a British displaced persons' camp August 27. However, the conditions existing here may be generally applied to all the logging camps in the company's 6,000 square miles of timber lands.

We were conducted throughout our stay by P. (Freddy) Platt, wood production manager; a man who knows the "bush" and the men who call it their home.

The day begins early here, as in all lumber camps. On the way out to the "cut," where the men were cutting and piling evergreen pulp logs, Mr. Platt explained the general methods used in training and handling the men, and the vital difference between this system and that employed after World War I.

Then, immigrants were brought into Canada in construction gangs, and after their services were expended they were left to fend for themselves. During their employment, in some cases, he continued, they were exploited, underpaid and not much attempt made to give them an education in Canadian citizenship.

"This time it's different," he went on. "The primary industries bringing these men into Canada guarantee them 10 months' work at the same rate of pay given to Canadians."

"When they first came here, an instructor was appointed to every 15 men to show them the proper methods of cutting and handling pulpwood, which is really a skilled trade and not merely manual labor."

"This system, carried on during the first month, was designed to demonstrate how a maximum day's work could be realized with a minimum of effort."

Mr. Platt went on to explain that the men were guaranteed a daily wage of \$5 during the training period, graduating after the month onto the standard piece work plan used in the bush. At present, the average wage is about \$8 per day, and this will increase in direct proportion to individual skill in production.

When he arrived at the cutting area, the men had put in nearly an hour's work, although it was still early. They work alone, using "Swede" saws and axes to fell the evergreen

trees that grow in such profusion here. At intervals, each worker stacks the four-foot lengths into piles. At noon hour, lunch, prepared earlier in the camp by the men, is eaten on the job. The eight-hour day ends in time for the men to walk back to the camp for the hot evening meal.

Most of these "displaced persons," coming from all walks of life, had no previous experience in pulp cutting or general woods operations. Under their training scheme, they were able to acquire a much more rapid understanding of bush work than would normally be possible under the over-worked "hit and miss" system.

After the 10-month period agreed on has been served, the men are free to leave the bush and go where they please. However, Mr. Platt told us that jobs will be open to them "as long as they care to stay." Although they do not belong to the union, their affairs come under the same jurisdiction as all other employees, and the organization is open to them at any time.

This story would not be complete without mentioning something about the meals served in this camp. After years of existing, rather than living, on meagre rations, these men are enjoying some of the best food ever served in Canadian lumber camps—and that's saying a lot! For example, the following items were served at supper during our one-night stay: Vegetable soup, fried steak, lamb chops, cold meat cuts, at least three kinds of vegetables a variety of pies and cakes, canned fruit, fresh and canned milk, tea and coffee, sugar, bread and butter.

Of course this menu is merely an example; the food is regulated each day to provide a variety at each meal. Since the men came to this camp in August, most of them have gained considerable weight, and now, they say the work is much easier than in earlier weeks. However, they can still "put away" a meal in the best lumberjack fashion, and to all appearances, the flow of food will continue in its present volume.

These tri-daily "blue plate specials" cost each man only \$1.20 per day. The company has never received a complaint regarding the fare—naturally.

Daylight hours do not spell the end of a working day for these potential Canadians. Following the evening meal and the customary rest period, the men apply themselves to the study of subjects relating to Canada and our language.

This evolution, from a working man to a schoolboy, was explained in detail by K. L. Young, director of the Community Program branch of the department of education. The education of these men falls under his jurisdiction and he makes frequent trips to the camp areas.

"Before these displaced persons" can become adapted to Canadian ways and be eligible for Canadian citizenship, it is important that they learn to speak the language and understand our ways, customs and government."

"When these men came to Kapuskasing, an educational syllabus was organized by the Community Programs Branch of the Ontario Department of Education. Canadians with the necessary qualifications for teaching were hired by the company as ordinary employees. After the day's work, they hold classes for these 'displaced persons,' at which are taught conversational English and orientation subjects such as Canadian civics, history, geography, etc."

"Suitable text books are supplied by the Community Programs Branch, and the men are eager to learn and assimilate the work rapidly. They appreciate the effort being put forth, because they realize that these things are necessary before Canadian citizenship can be acquired."

"The company supplies all necessary school rooms, equipment, lighting fixtures, seating, etc., and provides note-books and pencils. Additional educational features in the camps are movies on the Canadian manner of living and a variety of informative books."

"The whole program could be embodied in the term, 'citizenship training,' and its object is to help these men adjust themselves to life in Canada and to give to the country a new body of citizens who will understand our democratic ways of life," Mr. Young continued.

"Although the Kapuskasing program is far reaching, it is not unique. The Community Programs Branch arranges for similar courses to aid all 'displaced persons' and European immigrants in other parts of Ontario."

Mr. Young said that he was "highly satisfied" with the progress made to date by those in the Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company.

The general set-up of this camp (Continued on Page Six)



Seen here another typical D. P. at work in the bush camps of the Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company. Note this man's sturdy physique. All men brought to Canada under the plan are first-class physical specimens.

## TO THE EDITOR

170 Birch St. N.,  
Timmins, Ont.  
Oct. 24, 1947.

Editor,  
Timmins, Ont.

Dear Sir:

The Liberal administration must call the Parliament of this country into session without delay if it is to discharge its responsibilities to the nation.

The latest decentral order (that must have brought unbounded glee to the leeches of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and the packinghouse owners) rushes us closer and faster toward the economic paralysis that is spreading like the black plague over the western "free enterprise world."

The point has now been reached where the situation is desperate. Small businesses are corroded with fear, the average family is reduced to the barest level of subsistence, international trade is drying up, corporation profits are at an all-time peak and the stage is set for what may be the greatest disaster in our history unless the Government acts without delay.

The latest rumors have it that the devaluation of the dollar is under serious consideration. Such a step would of course cut American imports and would thus temporarily improve our trade balance with the U.S. But such a step would inevitably lower still further an already depressed standard of living of the vast majority of Canadians. And it would inevitably speed up the process of the breakdown of international trade and commerce. Here then there is no solution to our problems.

Frantic attempts are made on every side by the spokesmen for monopoly to immobilize the largest sections of progressive opinion in the country by branding every progressive person or group who so much as dares question the sanctity of so-called "free enterprise" as a Communist. By "free enterprise" is meant the freedom of the trusts and monopolies to glut themselves at the trough of higher and higher prices and profits and a lower and lower standard of living without thought or responsibility to the nation.

The demand for a special session of Parliament to deal with the critical situation is growing on every side. The two major trade union bodies in

Canada, the TLC and the CCL, co-operatives, consumers and housewives groups, church groups, opposition political parties including the LPP and the CCF and other sections of Canadian life have all put themselves on record as demanding a special session. Mackenzie King and his Government must bow to this widespread demand and call Parliament to deal with the threat to the nation by:

(1) Redistributing the national income by (a) re-imposition of price controls and the rolling back of prices to the 1945 level (b) re-imposition of a 100% excess profits tax (c) removal of the sales tax (d) increasing social security benefits and extending the social security program to include all Canadians.

(2) Forming of long term trade agreements with the war devastated areas of Europe and Asia in the basis of long term credits to these countries that ARE FREE OF POLITICAL STRINGS.

(3) Implementation of measures to guarantee the farmers of the country full costs of production and a stable market.

(4) Prosecution of all profiteers under Federal law.

(5) Legislation of federal labor laws that guarantee true collective bargaining so that Labor can win its justified demands for higher wages.

Failure of the Government to implement such a program will doom our country to the hellish disaster of economic paralysis. Such action cannot wait until Spring and the regular session of the house. A special session must be called now.

RAY STEVENSON.

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## Canuck Soldier Sought By Friend In Holland

Latest in the periodic lists published by the Red Cross Society of persons in Canada sought by European relatives and friends was forwarded this week.

It is interesting to note that in this list the name of a former Canadian soldier is mentioned. He is being sought by a Dutch family with which he became acquainted at Bad Zwischenahn, Holland.

The list follows:  
EISENBERG, Leser—Born 1905 in Sapozy n Rowne, came to Canada in 1936.

DAJNERT, Herman—70 years old, born in Stry, Poland.

CZEREMSZYNSKA, Nascia—Born 1891, in Poland.

CUPITIS (or CHUPITIS) Eduard—Age about 51 years, Latvian, born in Vitebsk, Russia, left for Canada about 1912, teacher.

PLATH (nee Krey), Else—65 years of age, farmer.

STADE, Elsa—Married (name unknown), about 35-40 years of age, born district Bauska, Latvia, sister Lidija Stade. Came to Canada in 1923.

LANDAU, Miss—Sister of Ichiel Landau, about 58 years old, born in Poland, came to Canada in 1919-1920, married name unknown.

GRIGULIS, Rudolfs—About 45 years of age, Latvian, born St. Petersburg, travelled in U.S.A. from Canada about 1925-30.

AMOLINS, Janis (Zanis)—About 58 years of age, born Latvia, district Mitau (Jelgava) worked in an ammunition factory in Canada, came to Canada between 1903-14.

KUBLIN, Joseph—Holding message from Belgium.

KNAB, Otto—Born 1863, 1905 in Simsbach, writer and journalist, came to Canada in 1934.

MOSER, Wilhelm—70 years of age, came to Canada in 1900, from Cugelia, Kreis, Constanza, Rumania.

SOWINSKI, or SONINSKI, Stanislaw and his wife Faustyna (nee Zajakowski) and son Zygmunt—Born in Warsaw (son, Zygmunt, in 1907 or 1903.) Parents came to Canada in 1913, farmers.

McALEER, Peter (Pete)—68 years of age, born Vevay, Brav, C. Wicklow, Ireland, Diver.

GLUSZECKA, Magda—40 years of age, Ukrainian, born Berlin-Brody, came to Canada 1926.

SPOFORTH, Catharine—Born County Cork, Eire. Last known to be in Halifax, N.S.

THOMAS, Gordon James—Born July 27, 1918, was in the Army until 1939, was employed by Christie Browns in 1941, also by C.N.R.

CIESLAK, Kazimierz and Stefania

(nee Kowalewska)—About 46-48 years of age, born Mikolice, Poland. Stefania came to Canada about 1929-30.

GLODOWICZ, Michal—Came to Canada about 20-25 years ago from Huta Nawa, Poland.

GAIDULIS, Wladislaw—Born 1889 at Lali Gem, Orsolaine-Lettland, Kr. Rositten, architect, Catholic. 1927-28 came to Canada from Russia.

RATNIECK (Ratner) Marta—Born in Riga, 1891. Came to Winnipeg in 1937, moved to Toronto in 1929 or 1928.

NEUMANN, Mrs. Leokadia—Born 1905, Neuwelt, came to Canada in 1936.

BENDER, Josef—Born 1903 in Chelow, county of Radzechow province of Tarnopol, Poland. Son of Adam and Katarzyna Bender, left for Canada in 1927.

TIIVITS, Leobold—Born at Saaremaa, sailor, left ship and landed in Canada about 1941, is about 24-25 years old.

SCHERER, Florian—Born in Yugoslavia.

MAYER, Anton—Born 1899.

FIRMIN, Redon—Formerly of Big River, Sask.

SCHREINER, David and Maria-Katerina—Born in Kraft, Wolga-Germany. Came to Canada in 1921 or 1922.

MORTON, John, Cpl.—Of Canadian Highlanders Regt. Sought by Spielhagen family at Bad Zwischenahn, Germany.



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