

Polish DP Puts on 28 Pounds During First Month in Canada

Kirkland Lake, Jan. 20 (Special). "How do we like Canada? We like it fine. In German labor camps we worked hard five years, no pay. Here we get big pay—no work."

That was one strapping big Pole's reaction to life in Canada when he was asked to speak at a reception given to displaced persons who arrived recently to work at the Kerr-Addison gold mine at Virminiatown, 15 miles east of here:

"It is so different that at times we feel we are dreaming," said Joseph Klimala, 23, who arrived in Kirkland Lake on December 15, and who is now with a Hydro-Electric Power Commission construction gang near Larder Lake.

Taken from his home town of Grzechynia by the Germans when he was 16, he was forced to work on farms from five o'clock in the morning to 10 o'clock at night. And

although the farm workers fared better than some of those in the factories and at other employment in the towns, the farm ration was two ounces of black bread and a small can of soup a day.

"If we ever tried to smuggle an extra slice of bread into our lunch pails we were thrashed. The German police always searched our pails as we left the farms. If they found we had extra food they punished the farmer as well. Even hiding bread in our shoes didn't work. It wasn't worth the misery we had afterward."

When Klimala arrived in Canada he weighed 121 pounds. In one month here he has gained 28 pounds—and he has been working hard by Canadian standards.

Christmas here was a memorable day for Joe. He was given a party along with other Polish DP's, at the local Polish hall.