

# FREE PRISONERS<sup>AS</sup> WHO VOLUNTEER

## Scores of Inmates of the Canadian Jails Want Chance to Serve.

Ottawa, Sept. 10.—Scores of applications have been received by the justice department from prisoners in Canadian jails and penitentiaries, asking their release on condition that they volunteer for service abroad. Curiously, a large number of these are Americans.

While the department does not at all admit that because a prisoner is willing to fight against another country he should therefore be not required to expiate offences against his own, it is recognized that there are many cases where such clemency might well be extended. To a limited extent this is being done, and prisoners who have found their way into duress rather by force of unfortunate circumstances than as a result of a hardened, criminal nature, are, in certain cases, being given their freedom on condition that they volunteer. The difficulty is, however, in being sure that those released will adhere to their intention, and that they will be accepted as recruits. It is understood that if the department released all those who make such application a fairly respectable force—in size, at least—could be formed from the material thus obtained.