

PRISONERS OF WAR TO CLEAR NEW FARM

Ontario Government Arranges for 1,000-Acre Experimental Farm in North Country, and Will Utilize Labor of Interned Alien Enemies at Once

An experimental farm of approximately one thousand acres is to be established almost immediately in northern Ontario, and the work of clearing it will be begun at once by utilizing the labor of prisoners of war now interned in the Province. Its location, while not yet officially determined, is likely to be in the vicinity of Hearst, west of Cochrane, and on the line of the Transcontinental Railway.

In making the announcement, which comes as a result of negotiations between Premier Hearst of the Provincial Government and the Dominion Department of Agriculture, the former issued the following statement:—

"Negotiations have been in progress for some time between this Government and the Dominion Government with the object of securing the active co-operation of the Dominion Government in the development and settlement of the lands tributary to the National Transcontinental Railway as soon as that road is open for public traffic, and one of the matters urged upon the Dominion Government was the establishment of an experimental farm on this line of railway.

"I am glad to be able to state that an arrangement has now been arrived at whereby the Dominion Government will establish an experimental farm on a somewhat large scale at a point to be selected by a representative from the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa and Mr. J. F. Whitson, the

Commissioner for northern Ontario development—probably in the neighborhood of Hearst.

Use War Prisoners' Services.

"At the present time the Dominion Government has a large number of prisoners of war, whose labor it is anxious to utilize. Accordingly, arrangements are being made to set these prisoners to work at once in clearing up the land for the proposed experimental farm, so that it will be ready for cultivation next season. A number of these prisoners will be sent from Kingston to the north country next week, and more will follow from Port Arthur and other points later on. It will be observed that the work they will accomplish will be work that would not otherwise be undertaken, and that instead of being an unproductive charge upon the State they will be utilized to establish an experimental farm, which will give employment in the future to Canadians and increase the productiveness of this country. There can be no doubt that the establishment of this farm and the carrying on of experimental work on a large scale in agriculture will be a great aid in the development of this important undeveloped section in northern Ontario.

"It is needless to add that this farm is to be established without any expense to the Province, and that this work will in no way restrict or affect the operations of the northern Ontario development branch in connection with the opening up and settlement of that section of the Province."