

# FAMILIES JOIN

## Fathers in the Prisoner-of-War Camps

### THE MEN INTERNED

SHOW EAGERNESS TO GET LAND FOR THEMSELVES.

The Minister of Justice Left Monday For the North to Have a Peep at His Alien Charges and See How They Are Being Handled.

Ottawa, April 20.—The wives and the children of the Austrians held as prisoners of war are being taken north this week. They will join the husbands and fathers who have been working in the woods all winter under military surveillance, clearing the land for the Ontario and Quebec Governments and for themselves.

The women and children have been looked after in more civilized centres through the winter months. Now that severe weather is over they are being sent north to colonize along the Transcontinental Railway, part of them going to the vicinity of the detention camp at Spirit Lake, Quebec, and a part to Kapuskasing Camp, Ontario.

The prisoners of war had a busy winter and have cleared not merely the area required for two experimental farms but a considerable additional area. They are showing eagerness to get land for themselves and their efforts to settle are being facilitated in every possible way. This is turning out to be a state-aided co-operative enterprise, and a great success. The families who locate will nominally be prisoners until the close of the war, but the supervision over them will not be irksome, they are so distant from important centres that they could not easily run away, and could not

possibly learn or communicate anything of service to the enemy. Now that they are taking a stake in the country they are regarded as perfectly harmless.

Several thousand cabins will be erected in the wilderness for these prisoner pioneers. There is no fear but that their circumstances and their situation will assimilate them, and that they will become good Canadians.

Hon. C. J. Doherty, whose department for jurisdiction over prisoners of every kind left yesterday for the north to see how his alien charges wintered, and to see how they have been handled and how they are being handled.