

TO CLEAR LANDS FOR GOVT. FARMS

Details of Scheme to Provide
Work for Canada's In-
terned Aliens

ALONG TRANSCONTINENTAL

Ontario and Quebec Have
Transferred 20,000 Acres
to Dominion for This
Purpose

(Special to The Gazette.)

Ottawa, December 10.—Twenty thousand acres of land in the northern districts of Ontario and Quebec have been transferred to the Dominion by the provincial governments for the establishment of experimental farms. These farms will be located along the line of the National Transcontinental Railway, their intended use being to determine the agricultural value of the country traversed by the new railway and also to provide useful employment for the aliens who are being interned in Canada. The proposal that these aliens be put to work clearing and developing the lands in the north was outlined in The Gazette some days ago, and additional details of the scheme were announced today.

The establishment of experimental farms along the Transcontinental has been under consideration for some time, and has been the subject of conferences and correspondence between the Dominion and provincial governments. The illness of Hon. Martin Burrell, minister of agriculture, who is confined to his apartments with congestion of the lungs, has delayed the progress of the scheme, but active steps will be taken in the immediate future toward the preparatory work of clearing the lands. It is proposed to divide the work equally between the two provinces, clearing from ten to twelve thousand acres in each.

The Provincial Governments are as interested as is the Dominion in having the productive value of these northern lands determined by actual experiment, and have co-operated readily by turning over to the Dominion tracts in each province sufficient for the working out of the scheme. The visit of Premier Hearst,

of Ontario, yesterday was in part connected with this arrangement.

The Government believes that good use may be made of the interned aliens who are being turned over to the military authorities by the registrars in various cities, by putting them at work clearing these lands.

International Law requires that these people be maintained as long as they are detained in the country. They will work apparently on some such system as that prevailing in

connection with the provincial prison farm at Fort William.

The Department of Agriculture will superintend the actual farming operations when that stage is reached. In the meantime, arrangements are being made for the selection of sites. The necessary buildings will then be erected and the work of clearing begun.