

# INTERNED AUSTRIANS MAY MAKE FARMERS

## Lieut. Clegg Talks About Con- ditions at Kapuskasing

### GOOD WHEAT GROWN

**Prisoners in North Ontario Clay Belt  
Practising Agriculture—Sixty Acres  
Ready for Experiment—Turks and  
Austrians Well Satisfied.**

Transformation of Austrian navvies into agriculturists is estimated by Lieut. G. G. Clegg as not the least important function which the prison camp at Kapuskasing, in northern Ontario will fill. With sixty acres of the experimental farm ready for farming, the interned prisoners will receive a demonstration of the possibilities of the fertile land of the clay belt. Fully forty inquiries have been received up to date from the Austrians about the method to be followed to receive a land grant.

#### Effect of Clearing Bush.

"They are beginning to see the possibilities of farming, and if a good crop is secured from the land which will be under cultivation this year a considerable number in addition may desire to become tillers of the soil," said Lieut. Clegg. "Kapuskasing is fifty miles south of the latitude of Winnipeg, and the weather is more severe there than at the camp. Since clearing operations have been in progress we have noticed colder weather, or at least more wind than before the clearing was begun."

#### Agricultural Possibilities.

Speaking of the agricultural possibilities of the region around Kapuskasing, which is in the centre of the famous clay belt of Northern Ontario, Lieut. Clegg stated that wheat of excellent quality was grown there last year, demonstrating that the climate was suitable for agricultural purposes. The straw was fully three and a half feet high, he said, and the heads of wheat were fairly large and well matured.

#### French-Canadian Settlement.

To the east of Kapuskasing there is a settlement of French-Canadians, Lieut. Clegg stated, who are rapidly getting the land cleared, and who will endeavor to raise crops this year. About 600 acres of the Government experimental farm have already been cleared, and this will serve as a nucleus for a settlement which will undoubtedly grow up in that district.

#### Austrians and Turks Busy.

The 1,300 Austrians and Turks that are confined at the camp are busy clearing the land, which will be the location of the experimental farm, and they are also busy on the Government roads which it is intended will be very valuable for opening up the country when the stream of settlers begins to pour in.

#### Dry Climate of the North.

Lieut. Clegg is stopping at the Walker House while on leave from the camp. He has been in the north country for fourteen months, and finds the climate very healthy. The weather of southern Ontario was found by him to be more trying than the dry climate of the country 130 miles from James Bay. The Austrians and Turks are fairly well satisfied under conditions at the camp, although almost every one of them has an excuse which they offer as a reason for getting away.