

# KON COMPLAINS RUTHENIANS SHOW LACK OF INTEREST

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## Says Leaders Have Failed To Help Get Laborers For Farmers

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The attempt to get Winnipeg's Ruthenian population back to the land and so ameliorate the acute farm labor shortage in Manitoba, has failed. Louis Kon, provincial immigration commissioner, declared today.

Mr. Kon voiced the opinion that the failure of Taras D. Ferley, M.P. P. for Gimli, and other Ruthenian leaders, was more or less premeditated. He believed that they have allowed politics to creep into the question.

"About a month ago," Mr. Kon said, "Mr. Ferley and some other Ruthenians were requested by the provincial government to start a 'back to the land' propoganda among their followers. The government offered to supply the necessary funds for organization.

"The proposal was ostensibly adopted. Nothing was done. The government two weeks ago took the matter in hand. Premier Norris addressed a meeting of Ruthenians in Queen's hall. He was apparently well received. But nothing has come of this.

"From information which I have received in my department I am convinced that there is a secret propoganda working in the Ruthenian element. While no definite trail can be reached, there is every reason to believe that the Ruthenian political leaders are secretly working against the government's patriotic scheme.

"Men have come to me and applied for work. Either the leaders have made no attempt to communicate with the farmers to whom they are allotted, or they have asked wages unreasonable high. Practically none has accepted work, and I can safely say, none at all, at the current rate of wages."