

# DETENTION CAMP

## AID FOR FARMERS

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### Govt's Decision May Go Far to Relieve Labor Shortage Problem in West

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Winnipeg, April 4.—An arrangement has been effected by the Dominion Government whereby a large proportion of foreign allens held in Dominion detention camps will be released to aid in the agricultural operations of the country, according to a telegram received here today by Bruce Walker, immigration commissioner, from Hon. Robert Rogers, minister of public works. It is proposed that farmers in need of help shall write to the detention camp commandants, enclosing money for transportation, to be deducted from the first month's wages. Over a thousand Ukranians or Ruthenians, born in Galicia for the most part, but of non-Teutonic origin and with little, if any, sympathy for the Austrian cause, are located in the West, and can be released at once. The greater proportion are in the camp at Brandon, Man., which is well situated as a central distributing point for spring seeding operations of the Prairie West. Other camps are near

Lethbridge, Alta.; Vernon, B.C., and Banff, Alta.

This decision was reached at a Cabinet meeting today, on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice. It is said that about ten thousand are held in the various camps, many being in northern Ontario, and sixty per cent. at least will be available for distribution. Many of these are accustomed to working on the land, and entered detention camps through ignorance of the regulations compelling aliens to register. Some of them have earned money in the camps to pay their own fares. Railways will probably run special excursion trains from the East to bring in men where they are badly needed for western seeding operations and general summer work. Each case will be considered individually, and no man will be held in the detention camps if the commandant considers he can be safely released, which will be on parole, subject to periodical report.

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(Special to The Gazette.)

Ottawa, April 4.—The announcement from Winnipeg that aliens are to be employed in harvesting in the West is apparently premature, although the matter has been under consideration here between Hon. Robert Rogers, as representing the West, and the Department of Justice. The farmers of the prairie provinces are very short of help, partly as a consequence of the heavy enlistments of men from those provinces for overseas service, and an effort has been made to work out a system under which a large number of interned aliens now in the various concentration camps can be used as farm laborers. The principal difficulty has been as to the means for preventing the escape of these men after they have been distributed over

the wheat area. It is expected, however, that an arrangement of some kind will be reached whereby these men will be available for spring work.