

NO MORE CONCENTRATION

Gen. Blanco Directs the People to
Return to Their Homes in
Four Western Provinces.

HELP TO RESUME FARM WORK

Work on Public Improvements to be
Secured for the Country People—
Extraordinary War Credit
for the Expense.

HAVANA, March 31.—Captain General Blanco has issued an important decree, dated March 30 and published this morning, in which he directs the end of the reconcentration in the four western provinces, Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas, and Santa Clara.

The preamble sets forth that the pacification of said provinces having been considerably advanced by the combined action of arms and the natural effect of the establishment of autonomy, in giving security to the country, also making possible the advancement of the sugar, tobacco, and food crops, it also being near the time when the minor plantings give the means of living to the laboring classes and peasants, also believing the time has come to resume the normal conditions in the towns and villages, to do away with the causes of suffering among the people, to remove as far as possible all the effects of the reconcentration, and further to give complete liberty to all the country people to return to such places as they desire, to do such labor as they may select, this order is issued.

The preamble further says that for the reconcentrados who, being without resources or instruments with which to labor, remain in the towns or centres previously set apart for their use, the Colonial Government will with great urgency propose to the Governor General a plan of relief. In this plan the Mayors and Alcaldes are expected to take part, establishing soup kitchens, &c., and doing all in their power to terminate the existing misery.

Then follow the five articles, carrying out what is set forth in the preamble:

Article 1.—After the publication of this order the reconcentrados and their families will be allowed to return home in the four provinces given above.

Article 2.—Orders all relief committees and civil and military authorities to facilitate the workings of the decree, and also to aid the reconcentrados in selecting and securing new houses.

Article 3.—Directs the Colonial Government, through its Secretaries and minor officers, to prepare to execute all necessary orders, to secure for the country people work on public improvements, and also to give food, by economical kitchens, to all the suffering, attention being called to those on the small country estates.

Article 4.—All the expenses over and above the funds now in the hands of the committees are to be provided for under the head of an extraordinary war credit.

Article 5.—All former orders of reconcentration are abrogated.