Alaska Holds Great Hopes, Says Hopkins

Driving Over Last Frontier Big Experiment by U. S.; Journal Reporter Will Write of Trip

BY ARVILLE SCHAEBER

Why is the United States government spending $800,000 to transplant 200 northern Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota families to an Alaskan wilderness? Director Harry L. Hopkins of the federal emergency relief administration answered that question Saturday, on the eve of the departure of the 87 Wisconsin families, in a statement to The Journal correspondent in Washington.

Mr. Hopkins said: "Alaska is about the only unsettled country we have left. Now we are driving over the last frontier. Alaska is in the same latitude as Sweden and Denmark, and it is possible that it may develop into a dairy and agricultural country, as those have done, because Alaska is warmed by the Japan current while they are warmed by the Gulf Stream. This is a great experiment we are undertaking. If our people succeed there is unlimited ground for settlement, for the government owns 96 per cent of the land of Alaska."

Trek Starts Monday

The Wisconsin and Michigan families start their 4,000-mile trek to the Matanuska valley in Alaska Monday night and Tuesday. The Journal has assigned me to report their progress. I shall ride their trail to Seattle and their trek to Alaska, and I shall accompany them into the valley. The Journal will report their story—"as they live it in the make-shift home life in the wilderness."