

Colonists Dem

Project Is Hurt by Politics at Juneau, Claim

75 Cheer Reading of Telegram to Roosevelt; Hit 'Mismanagement' of Valley Affairs

BY ARVILLE SCHALEBEN
OF THE JOURNAL STAFF

Palmer, Alaska—(By Radio)—In a meeting this week at which about 75 colonists seethed with discontent over affairs of the colonization project, leaders made public a telegram to President Roosevelt and letters to other high officials demanding an immediate investigation here and charging attempts on the part of some Juneau officials to hinder the project.

Eyes sparkled with anger and hot words flew across the rough timbered hall, lighted by a single kerosene lamp, as they new Matanuska valley settlers argued their dissatisfaction over "mismanagement" and consequent lack of progress.

Pictures of child life in the Matanuska colony will be found on the picture page.

"It's my idea," shouted Chairman Charles Fuddell, who was dressed in overalls and flannel shirt, "to get transportation to other camps so we can all get together, hold a mass meeting, excluding officials, and decide what's going on around here and take some affairs into our own hands."

Mrs. Lloyd Bell leaped to the defense of Director Don Irwin. "Mr. Irwin can't possibly do what he wants to," she asserted. "He has two masters; one is the government at Washington and it is very evident at the Juneau (Alaska) government is working against us. I think if we stick together we can get we want."

Reads Telegram

M. Sandvick, one of the representatives

te our homes but we do assume \$3,000 indebtedness set on the ground. Answer Received would like an immediate answer so that the work of our homes may be

Tax After You Die Painless, Anyhow

Hollywood, Calif.—All the big influential papers are full of "sock the rich." And you can tell from the tone of their voices they have been "socked."

But, as the scheme is mostly on inheritance, he don't really hit 'em good till they die, so I would call that the nearest to a painless tax that could be invented. You don't pay it till you die and then you don't know it.

I would sure have liked to see Huey's face when he was woke up in the middle of the night by the president who said, "Lay over, Huey, I want to get in with you."

WILL ROGERS.

telegrams to President Roosevelt, Senators Couzens, La Follette and Schall, Relief Director Harry Hopkins and Gov. Troy of Alaska, called for approval of the action which was taken several days ago by some 40 colonists she represents.

"I'll read you our telegram and the letters we sent registered so they would have to be signed for," she said.

In a voice jerky with excitement she read the communications and got a chorus of ayes to them, without a single no.

The communication to President Roosevelt follows:

"We were promised a good many things before we came to Alaska, among which were: Our homes to be modern, with full basements and running water. We were to have a small barn, roads built to our land, machinery and tools with which to accomplish necessary work in farming and road building, food at cost plus freight, wells, and a school for the children.

"Since our arrival in Alaska we wonder if these promises were purposely made to breed discontent among the colonists. We find that in place of basements we are to have a small hole under the house, boarded up with slabs. The house is to rest, not upon a cement foundation, but upon spruce pilings. Even this much looks doubtful, for the only house under construction is being placed upon the ground without any foundation of any kind."

No Time for Cellars

Her wire explained that the colonists were told that there was insufficient time to dig cellars and put in a foundation, and that the house framework was to be green lumber, although planed lumber is standing in the rain here. It continues:

"The corporation was to furnish

Inquiry Asked

Colonists Ask Probe of Project

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would pick up oil drums along the Alaskan coast. Then, if there were not enough drums, a kitchen range furnishes a lot of heat.

"No new roads have been constructed except the trails cut by the colonists. There are 41 families located eight miles from town, with no road built or under construction except the trail which was cut through by the colonists' own donated labor at their own expense.

"Our contract states 'the corporation will furnish subsistence to colonists at actual cost—until such time as the products which the colonist and his family raise will enable him directly to furnish subsistence for himself and family.'

"We have found that actual cost means retail price in Anchorage plus freight to Palmer, which raises our cost of living to an exorbitantly high level. Very little food which has been ordered and sent to this colony from the United States has arrived. We have been told that two carloads of food and a carload of tools arrived at Seward. It seems strange that carloads of foodstuffs can be lost for weeks on a railroad less than 500 miles in extent. Two protests have been made, but to no avail. We also have been told that food will be furnished on credit for a year and that at the end of the first year we were to begin repaying our food loans.

Livestock, But No Shelter

"Most of our farmers have not cleared a foot of ground and there is no evident sign of even getting any cleared until the colonists are able to do it themselves. Will this new ground yield sufficient return by next May or June to furnish our subsistence?

"After six weeks in the valley, no apparent effort in constructing a school has been visible. To date, the land for it is surveyed and partially cleared and some materials have been delivered, including storm windows, screens and cement.

"Livestock has arrived, but no means of caring for the stock has been made, such as shelter and protection from weather, mosquitoes and flies. There are no provisions for taking care of the sick stock that has arrived. Grazing is plentiful.

"The only thing that seems to be progressing normally is the farming of land owned or leased by the corporation and which has previously been tilled. All crops have been planted in due season.

Pick Political Plums

"We have learned from an authentic source that men from Juneau are being sent out to fill positions already filled, and at higher salaries. These men are unqualified and inefficient in these respective positions. To date thousands of dollars have been squandered with no apparent accomplishments. One at a time Washington officials have been removed to fill lesser jobs. At the present rate we will be