

MATANUSKA OFFICER VIEWS IT AS BONANZA

Will Be Worth Its Weight in
Gold, Says Col. Hunt,
Ending Building.

Anchorage, Alaska, Nov. 5.—(AP)—
The federal government's Matanuska valley colonization project eventually will be worth "its weight in gold," Lieutenant Colonel Leroy P. Hunt, United States marine corps, project construction officer, said today prior to his leaving for Washington, D. C.

His departure marked the close of the construction period for the colony.

"The project is bound to be a success," he said. "Three thousand families have applied for permission to join the colony."

"We have only scratched the surface by building shelter and physical equipment for future work."

"The yelling in the states by colonists who quit and who say the project is folly is nothing more than an attempt to justify their returning."

"The germ has been planted that will grow into a thriving plant and prove that Alaska is capable of supporting a population of three or four million."

The departure of Hunt with his staff to report to federal authorities in the national capital left administration of the colony in the hands of a board of directors, consisting of Colonel O. F. Ohlson, manager of the Alaska railroad, president, and other members residing along the rail belt. Hunt said the colonists now are happy and comfortable.