

Alaska Colony Grumbles About Shortage of Tents

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Palmer, Alaska — Dissatisfaction has appeared in the ranks of the Alaska colonists.

Many families, unable to get located in camps near their land allotments because of a tent shortage, are grumbling openly, as are those unable to get their household goods because of a shortage of trucks.

Families are forced to double-up in tents. Men are walking miles across country to get from campsites to their acres.

Heavy Rains Blamed

There are now nine campsites through the valley, but only a few are developed. Don Irwin, the project manager, says the hitch in completing the camps and getting the colonists located must be blamed on the rains which preceded arrival of the Wisconsin-Michigan contingent. Irwin says the spring rains were the heaviest since 1917. Trucks were bogged in the muck and couldn't get through to the various campsites.

The Minnesota pioneers, who arrived here two weeks before the Wis-

consin-Michigan group, had a much easier time getting established.

There have been a few complaints about the lack of water and food in the camps. This, too, is because of a shortage of trucks. Men in the main commissary have been working night and day alloting foodstuffs and water to the various camps, pending the establishment of sub-commissaries and the digging of wells.

Some Land Too Rough

Several of the settlers have found their tracts too wet to work and have been relocated. Others have found their sections too rough for cultivation and have also been moved. The fact that the government owns most of the land in the valley makes such relocations a simple matter.

Seventy cows and 69 horses arrived here Wednesday from Seward, having been brought there from Seattle on the North Star. Until the colonists are permanently located, the animals will be corralled here. The settlers have started getting fresh milk, something they have missed.

The horses, after a week's rest, will be put to work supplementing

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Lack of Tents Irks Colonists

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the tractors in yanking stumps and snaking logs out of the woods for the colonists' homes and for temporary community buildings.

The colony got its first industrial order Wednesday—for 25 carloads of mine props from Alaskan mining interests. The colonists will get 22 cents each for eight-foot spruce props. This will net each colonist about \$30. These props will be ends left over from logs cut for homes and community buildings.

Hunting Is Restricted

Palmer had its first fire Tuesday. It damaged the administration mess tent, the only tent in the valley not having a stove. A lighted cigaret was blamed. The canvas was burned but the wood frame was undamaged.

The colonists have been taking advantage of the bright nights to hunt and fish, but a territorial game warden has broadcast that a license is necessary for hunting. A year's residence is necessary to obtain a license or a non-resident license can be purchased for \$50. None of these settlers has \$50 for such a purpose. The settlers had been potting spruce hens especially. Some have seen black bears near the camps and there are indications that there are moose around.

And a Ball Game!

There are no restrictions on fishing and the settlers have been dragging in the big ones throughout the valley.

The Matanuska valley also had its first baseball game late Tuesday. A pick-up nine from the camp played Wasilla village and won, 13 to 5. It was a sweet victory, particularly because Wasilla had a "ringer" pitcher imported from Anchorage. There was a good crowd but it didn't include many of the colonists. They're too busy.