Workers Quit
Jobs in Colony
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and joked about being through
making history.

"We've written a chapter and that's
enough," they said. "Let the au-
crels stay here with the mosquitos
and finish the book."
Their reference was to the fact
that some foremen have been telling
the men how they are going down
in the history books for their work
done in Alaska.
Construction crew friends who
happened not to be working came
down to the tiny station to see
them off and make bets about who would
have the best stake in November,
when the men said they quit because of
mismanagement. They claim they
signed up in California to do one
kind of work and have been doing
other kinds here.

"I'm a carpenter," one said, "and
I've been cutting more bacon than
I ever saw in my life. They had me
working in the kitchen."
Another explained that he had
signed as a steel worker and that
there was nothing but logs to work
with in Alaska. Others claimed
they were machinists or truck opera-
tors and had been handling freight
or brushing.

Had to Pay Own Fare

These men asserted that they were
absolutely promised the kind of work
they were fitted for but Blais said
they were simply classified and told
they would have to do whatever
work was required. Blais was borne
out by the work agreements, in
which the men agreed "to perform
such technical, manual or other du-
ties as directed by superintendents"
for 48 hours weekly.

Some men also complained about
the hours of work, the food and the
fact that they hadn't known what
their wages would be. The agree-
ments said no less than $30 a month
wage.

All 26 men were required to pay
their own railroad transportation to
Seward, costing $8.65. They will be
hauled to Seattle on the government
chartered North Star. The railroad
fare comes out of what money they
had coming from the government
for their labor.

"Gosh," one protested at the fare.
"I could walk and make wages."

Finished Their "Chapter"

It was an odd scene when they
boarded the train. Many didn't have
a dollar in their pockets. They car-
rried blanket rolls and old suitcases
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