Hopkins Sure Colonists to Have Winter Shelter

Admits Delay in Construction
FERA Head Tells Senate Extra Workers Will Be Sent to Alaska

By James L. Wright
FERA construction engineer in Washington, D.C.

It is possible to give full assurance that facilities providing safe and reasonably comfortable living conditions will be completed before the winter.

That report on the Matanuska valley colonization project was submitted to Vice President Garner Tuesday by Harry L. Hopkins, administrator of FERA, after he had admitted that the work in the valley is approximately three weeks behind.

All plans for the project have been executed according to pre-determined schedules with the exception of the actual construction work, Hopkins said.

"Three Weeks Behind"

"Construction activities as a whole," Hopkins reported, "are approximately three weeks behind schedule.

This delay has been caused by unusually heavy weather, some delay in the arrival of materials, and by ordinary varying difficulties which were encountered on the job.

Materials are being received satisfactorily. Action has been taken to correct administrative difficulties and a sufficient number of additional workers has been engaged to make up for the time lost.

The very nature of the project, its distance from sources of supply, the short working season, the hazards of weather, make it impossible to give positive assurance that all construction will be completed according to schedule.

"It should be noted that all materials and supplies required for the maintenance and maintenance, as well as for construction, are being procured in the United States and transported to Alaska," Hopkins pointed out.

Hopkins reported that a total of 1,336 persons have been transported there, of which 432 are nonprofessional workers, 807 colonists and 14 supervisors.

He said the transplant workers were selected from a pool of 1,315 persons who have been transported there, of which 432 are nonprofessional workers, 807 colonists and 14 supervisors. He said the transplant workers were selected from

But Think of All the Fun We Have

By LESTER W. TIBBETTS
BECKMAN COUNTY JOURNAL

In schools they have what they call "hooligans." If nations held 'em I don't believe we would call them that. They would call us a lot of 'hooligans.'

One way that hooligans would find a lot of fun is to spend just two days in England last year. Ever since it took one whole month to figure it out. And Mexico laughed the flying off of their country before lunch. Then there was "hooliganism," which we took seriously for over three months.

There is still a lot of monkey in us. Throw anything you want into our cage and we will give it seri- ous contemplation.

WILL ROGERS

25,000 transients on relief in California having been chosen for their skill in construction.

"Gave Good Service"

"While a few of these "hooligans,"" said Hopkins, "have become dissatisfied and have left, they have as a body rendered excellent service, working without regard for hours and maintaining a high morale. Their relief pay is $1 per day and board."

Hopkins told of how the colonists were selected from the lumbering and mining regions which "have been definitely abandoned."

"If should be remembered," he said, "that these families were definitely stricken where they were, and totally dependent on the government for their living, and had no hope for employment and were de- signed in as a group to accept completion of their work in the Colonies."

Hopkins said that for the time being the colonization is to be continued in four principal towns, board on the side and equipped with dormitories.

An emergency hospital is maintained in four of these towns and equipped with a small number of hospital beds.

A public railroad and telegraph line is under construction.

Jim Hopkins declared.

Food Supplies, View

After inspecting the food available there, he stated that: "in some cases meat may be high, but it is because of high cost of transportation. Because of this fact, in connection with the work which the colonists do on community projects, there is complete satisfaction."

"There are few good roads available, but new railroad construction is a part of the project." To this, he said a direct connection with Anchorage, 60 miles away, and with Seward, the port 125 miles distant.

Food supplies among all phases of the work, were preserved by experimental drying and other means, to be the variety afforded in stores at the average city of the United States. If this proves, as it appears to be the fact, there is complete confidence that dietary needs are adequately met.

Radio reports are received by the federal emergency relief administration every two or three days from the administrator of the project in Alaska.

Most Popular Visions Want to Stick

Strike of Transient Workers Quit Jobs in Colony

Dissatisfied With Tasks and Pay, They Leave Alaska to 'Mosquitoes and Suckers'

By ARVID SCHELEVEN
THE SEATTLE TIMES

Palmer, Alaska—(By Radio)—At least 15 transient laborers quit the Matanuska valley colonization project in a group Monday because of dissatisfaction with conditions. Four others were fired for drunkenness.

This reduced the construction division personnel, whose inmats came from California transient camps, to 60 men just at the time when every man is needed and Frank U. Bliss, director of construction, is calling for more help because he is in a bind.

He has promised 60 lumberjacks from Washington state.

Mismanagement Charged

"All I can say," Bliss said, "is that these men were dissatisfied with life in Alaska and this kind of camp life. Their quitting is not unexpect- ed and we expect more quitting. The reason this came to a head now is that we are just starting to knock down on the work schedule and they didn't like it."

The men said they quit because of mismanagement. "They claim they signed up in California to do some kind of work and have been doing other kinds here," Bliss said.

"I'm a carpenter," one said, "and I've been sitting more than I ever saw in my life. I had them working in the kitchen."

Another explained that he had signed as a stoneworker and that there was nothing but logs to work with in Alaska. Others claimed they were marinated or truck operators and had been handling freight or brushing.

Had to Pay Own Fare

These men asserted that they were promised full pay for the work they were fitted for but Bliss said they were simply classified and told they would have to do whatever work was available. "They were not hired for the work, in which they were trained," Bliss said, "and no such training was necessary for the work they are doing." They were paid $6 per week for food and the work and the fact that they didn't know what their wages would be. The agreement was that they would do the work on a month's wage.

All 20 men were required to pay their own railroad transportation to Seward, costing $15. This will be handed to Alaska on the government-centered North Star. The railroad fare comes out of money they had coming from the government for their labor.

"Oh, they are not protected at the fare. "I could walk and make wages."

Finished Their "Chapter"

It was an old story when they boarded the train. Many didn't have a dollar in their pockets. They car- ried blankets and old suitcases and bussed about being worried.

"We've written a chapter and that's enough," they said. "Let the suck- ers stay here with the mosquitoes and finish the book."

Their references 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 members who happened not to be working had moved down to the tiny station to see their off and made bets about who would have the best stake in November, those who stayed or those who left.

When the train pulled out past the construction camp, two miles from the station groups of workers gathered and waved and shouted goodbye. The men on the train stuck their heads out of the windows and cried "so long, Alaska, so long, old mosquitoes, etc."