

naturally, makes the colonization costs soar over original estimates. In fact, there are definite indications that the cost may be double the approximate million dollars allocated.

Reasons for Delay

The labor problem is further complicated by the quitting of a score of transient workers Monday.

There are three obvious reasons why the project—which in itself seems entirely practical—has hit rough going:

First, inadequate or careless preparations for problems to be faced in a virtual wilderness—and an isolated one at that.

Second, an unexpected wet spring which added tremendously to transportation difficulties in the valley.

Third, mismanagement, probably not so much here on the scene as in shipping of supplies from the states.

Of immediate concern is houses for the settlers. They will not get the houses promised. The anticipated running water in every home, by means of a well pump in each kitchen, has been definitely abandoned for this season, according to N. Lester Troast, supervising architect. It is nearly certain, too, that much of the inside finishing work, such as built-in cabinets, cannot be done on schedule.

Wells Show Errors

Troast has told the colonists now that instead of each having a well, they will have to get along with one well for each group of three or four, and that few if any attempts will be made to put wells in homes. Some colonists have asked him, "What about the running water we were supposed to get?" Troast has replied, smilingly, "Your running water will be the well."

The well situation is a particular instance of inadequate preparation for, and misinformation on, the project. Officials in Washington were told that water was available anywhere in the valley at 15 to 60 feet. To date wells are being dug for eight camps of colonists—and all not finished—and water was reached at less than 60 feet only in the headquarters camp. Several wells are now down more than 80 feet and the water supply is still inadequate. This has delayed other colonization work and added to the costs, with wells estimated at about \$150 costing perhaps twice that much.

With the manpower now available and in immediate prospect, it will be impossible to clear 12 acres of land for each settler this season, as they were told would be done. Some will be lucky to get more than their homesites cleared.

very much discouraged by the school outlook. He had planned for 18 teachers but said that he could see no reason for signing all of them now, when the building has not even been started.

The Log Problem

Another difficulty must be surmounted in getting out logs for the settlers' homes. At first the settlers were told that the logs would be squared on three sides, which would insure tight houses. Then Troast announced several days ago that because "there are less than 120 days until snow flies," the settlers would have to get along without squaring, much as the administration regretted that necessity. Now it has been decided to run portable mills 24 hours a day, with three shifts of colonists, so that the logs can be squared.

While three shifts may solve the squaring problem, it doesn't solve the log problem. There is plenty of spruce in the valley as advertised beforehand, but much of it is so far away that it will take far longer to utilize it than was anticipated, due to necessity of hauling.

And Now Dust!

Settlers had come here believing that all they had to do was step out on the land and cut all they needed. That is not true. Many haven't suitable timber on their own

property and will have to get it from friends or off government land.

While most colonists have been whacking away at logs for homes and some have entire supplies ready for squaring, the majority have not had their homesites selected. Authorities are doing this "as soon as possible"—which is becoming a stock phrase with them—but unfortunately this may not be soon enough.

And in addition to all these delays, the colonists have something else to put up with which they never expected. Heavy clouds of dust have been rolling across the valley for several days!

The extremely fine textured soil sweeps off the community fields, planted or being planted, and off the dirt roads. At times the dust is so thick that the colonists have had to stop work. Their eyes clog with dirt and they choke.

The most serious effect is on traffic. Drivers transporting supplies to the various camps are forced to stop when they meet another vehicle because vision is almost wholly obliterated. Slow signs have been placed at the various camps to alleviate the distress from the dust kicked up by wheels.

"We get occasional dust blows like this in some seasons," explained Harry Sears, in charge of the colony planting. "There is plenty of moisture an inch down but dry surface ground—as fine as powdered sugar—gets to whirling. Sometimes it's even worse. In winter I've seen it here with the ground frozen but the snow blown off the fields and everything black."

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to know the sentiment of colonists about frame houses, since it might be necessary to resort to them.

Later Architect N. Lester Troast said that he didn't know whether there were sufficient logs for 200 houses and that a survey was being made to determine this point.

"No Timber to Spare"

Councilman Allen Frederick, whose tract is situated where there had been said to be an abundance of timber, declared: "I think we have enough for the 18 families in Camp 9 but we won't have any to spare. On three tracts there is practically no timber."

The timber situation is just another instance of mismanagement somewhere along the line, such as is being revealed each passing day. Workers have been here since May 10, and not one permanent building anywhere is nearly constructed. In fact, not one settler's cabin has been actually started.

It is admitted by many persons that conditions are becoming alarming, especially in view of the fact that July is a rainy month, when potential production of any group of men will be materially reduced. Temporary housing and office facilities, consisting almost exclusively of tents, went up well enough, but the permanent construction program is bogging down.

"It's been going down and down," a sub-official wailed. "Things have got to be done in an awful hurry or we'll have terrible trouble on our hands."

Saw Works Slowly

The problem to be confronted in construction of cottages alone was indicated this week when 20 colonists finally got a portable saw mill in operation. Two experienced sawyers estimated that it would take the machine 64 hours to square logs on three sides for just one house. Thus if the mill operates 14 hours

der present circumstances. Others feel they can get out and do all the work themselves if necessary before snow flies.

"I think Lawrence Arndt and I can make the grade on our places," said Les Monroe from Hiles, Wis. "He knows how to build a cabin and so do I. We're not looking for squared logs. We want ours round and we'll have places that'll be warm, but, of course, they won't be much finished inside. But some of these other guys—you can tell they don't know the woods—I don't believe they'll get under roofs without a lot of help soon."

Martin McCormack of East Tawas, Mich., has been helping get the second portable sawmill ready. "We may be all right," he said, "if we can get a proper pulley and if the blade holds up. We had a wrench for the teeth we'd pull every other one. You can do that on this soft lumber and that would give us extra teeth when some break."

Certainly it is apparent that the difficulties the project finds itself in cannot be blamed on the colonists. To be sure there are dissenters and lazy ones among them, but the big majority have done the best they could with what they had to work with. They have gone out into the woods and slashed down building timbers with limited tools. They have organized crews to speed up cutting. When Irwin called for colonists to run the sawmills three eight-hour shifts daily he was swamped with volunteers.

"Sure we'll do it," they shouted, "it don't make any difference what time of day you sleep here. We want to get things started. Just turn us loose and we'll turn out the work."