settlements were established, and the territory that is now the state of Montana was inhabited by these early pioneers. They faced numerous challenges, including harsh weather conditions and the need to clear land for farming. The excerpt below describes the challenges faced by settlers in Montana:

"The land does make an impression on anyone who knows anything about farming, especially when compared with the sterile stuff the colonists abandoned. You can see in the patches under cultivation how well it works up. No rumps, no big rocks, no sandy wastes—just jet black, fancy soil that needs only the right growing weather to return heavy yields. Undoubtedly some of the soil in the valley is sour. Moss is one indication of that. Director Don Irwin of the colonization, says, however, that in laying out the farm tracts efforts were made to avoid sour soil through tests. Of course, even though some sour areas are found on the tracts, commercial fertilizer could restore the land's sweetness in a year or two.

Uses Milwaukee Drier

One farmer in the valley, A. A. Schmoeck, has used commercial fertilizers successfully. He has considered a large scale farmer, having some 150 acres under cultivation. One piece of his equipment, a hay drier made in Milwaukee, cost him $12,000 last year. It is the only one in Alaska. Through oil heat it makes wet hay dry in 20 minutes. John Griffiths came into the valley from California several years ago and has had no trouble getting good crops. His trouble has been finding a market for his products, but he expects to have the colonists of Palmer co-operative—as do many of the other settlers—and hopes that it will solve the marketing problem.

Incidentally, Griffiths' biggest disadvantage in Alaska is he has been on the north. He brought a cow with him from California. She produced a bull calf which was fine. He bred her to another ox, and...

"Dammit, I got another bull. Now I've got to see more bulls in a row and no envos. What I want is cows, so I can get some milk. Well, my old cow is -th calf again and this time I'm hoping the colonists' being here will change my luck."

Irwin plans that the colonists' main cash crops will be peas, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, parsnips, beets, turnips, onions, lettuce and various berries and fruits. He expects wheat, oats, rye, hay, barley and flax to be principally for subsistence.

"Let Me Roll in It"

"This soil can't be beat for any of that stuff."

The colonists already have been amazed by the stories of the land they dream of—grass four and five feet high, beans as big as a man's head, strawberries the size of coffee cups. When you see day merge into night and night merge into day with injury an hour of darkness and when you cup Montana's soil in your hand and sniff it, its sweetness, you're inclined to explode, as Perle Arches of Utah did.

"Brother, let me at that land. It's beautiful. It makes me want to go down and roll in it."

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