

have been leaving the piles unguarded, awaiting the time to haul them to the ultimate destination.

#### Try to Visualize City

Like magic the gang from the construction division has brushed, stumped and burned over the community center land here in Palmer. Two days ago it was all overgrown with sprouting willows and mature spruce and birch. Now they are sheared to earth.

Singly, in pairs and in groups the colonists walk from their camps across the yet uncleared farm tracts to the townsite and try to visualize what is planned for them.

"It does not seem possible," they say, "that a city can grow out of this wilderness, but the government says there'll be one here."

What interests them most is plans for an elaborate school in contrast to the log one which served the area before. Many feel that, with so much work to be done getting homes built before the snow flies, it will not be possible to have the school ready unless construction is contracted for. Several plan to urge Don Irwin, project manager, to do this if possible.

#### The First Tragedy

One tragedy has marred the busy activity. The new Alaska's first calf, born after the arrival of the cattle in the valley, died when two days old. Paul Yahr, colonist with some veterinary experience, had struggled throughout the day to keep the baby alive. When it took its last breath of clear Alaskan air, Yahr looked up sadly at the group of volunteer aides standing with dreary eyes about him and said:

"Hell, boys, there goes somebody's milk supply for the winter of 1937."

The settlers had named the unfortunate infant Matanuska and now there'll be a similar christening after the second blessed event in the Guernsey world, expected within a fortnight.

#### May Transfer More

San Francisco, Calif.-(AP)—Emigration of 650 additional families from drought stricken and sub-marginal west farms to Alaska is under consideration by federal rural rehabilitation officials, it was revealed Monday by H. W. Von Morpurgo, assistant director of the California SERA.

H. A. R. Carlton, SERA director of transient relief and rural rehabilitation, is surveying territory adjacent to Matanuska valley, where the first consignments of 250 families are now pioneering, and will report, upon his return, to Col. Lawrence Westbrook, assistant FERA administrator in charge of rural rehabilitation.

Major M. J. M. for the army transport ship Mimi marked the close of its two journeys to the Alaskan settlement with depression ridden farm families from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. The vessel will depart June 11 for army service in Honolulu.

the colony, on knotty problems.

#### Record on Order Blank

At exactly 2:05 p. m. by Mrs. Carl Erickson's wrist watch the delegates pushed into the headquarters tent. Clouds overcast the evening sun so a gasoline lamp lighted the tent. The men and women sat on home made benches and boxes and four men lolled on a cot.

"Now the meeting will come to order" said Don Irwin, project manager, and temporary chairman. "First we want to get the names of the representatives from each camp."

"Mrs. Guilford Lemmon, Camp One," said a young woman dressed in blue corduroy pants and a zipper jacket. She was the first to answer the roll call. R. A. C. Atwood, chief corporation clerk, wrote her name and those of the other 17 delegates as they answered on a purchase order blank. That was the first record of the leaders who have come to build an empire.

#### Decision to Be Final

Irwin talked lengthily on colonization. "You represent 200 families," he said. "Your organization is the same thing as a house of representatives or a senate and the decisions you make, in the main, are to be final."

The women delegates studiously took notes on paper pads held in their laps. The men sat serious faced, with chins in cupped hands. Frank Swanda picked nervously at the fringes on his deerskin coat. Young Harry Campbell, impeccably dressed in a dark suit and a white shirt, kept straightening his tie.

Then came the election for chairman. Campbell from Abrams, Wis., Pat Hemmer of Wright, Minn., and Allen Frederick of Waukon, Minn., were nominated. Two men tore ballots from scratch paper. They distributed them and collected them in felt hats.

#### Wisconsin Man Named

"One vote for Campbell," the teller cried, and so on until it stood Campbell 6, Hemmer 6 and Frederick 4.

"It's a horse race," Atwood whispered.

"Another vote for Campbell," the teller droned. That vote decided it. The last vote was a blank, leaving Campbell 7, Hemmer 6, Frederick 4.

Mrs. Neil Miller, whose husband resigned as Blair (Wis.) High school principal because of his faith in Alaska's future, was elected secretary, receiving 10 votes to eight for Mrs. Lemmon of Little Fork, Minn.

"I want to congratulate you, Mr. Campbell," said Irwin. "I wish you all kinds of success—and if things gets too hot for you don't call on me."

have a good hot stove fire we just open the lid and burn it. We don't have any garbage in front of our houses."

#### And What About Dogs?

The council then unanimously passed a motion that each camp have a garbage disposal committee and post bulletin board notices to that effect. That was the first law of the Alaska colony.

Swanda, from Pine City, Minn., with a determined glint in his eye, brought up the next subject.

"If the children don't stop goosing the horses tied out by the hay they'll be shaking hands with St. Peter," he started, then swung into "and another thing—we've got a fine bunch of hounds running around. The biggest part of them would just take a man about one day with a gun. I like dogs but I take care of them like my children, not the way some are taking care of them."

"I make a motion the dogs in these camps be tied up so they won't run wild," interposed Councilman George Conners from South Range, Wis.

"I would amend that motion that all dogs must be tied up unless out for exercise," Frederick added.

It was so amended and ordered posted and Mrs. Hopkins opened the next subject.

"Out to Camp Six," she said excitedly, "we got 52 kids and only two gallons of milk. I think milk should be divided more equally among the camps. We adults can get along but we gotta have milk for children."

#### And History Is Made

Irwin admitted a milk shortage and the council decided to take a census of children under 10 at each camp and allocate the present milk supply equitably until more cows arrive.

Chairman Campbell then reminded the delegates that it was getting late and they better adjourn. It was decided to meet each Tuesday. Swanda called out, "Okay, everybody, bring your grievances next week."

It was exactly 12:05 a. m. Wednesday by Mrs. Erickson's watch when the delegates filed out—but just to keep the record straight for history she announced that the watch was 10 minutes fast.

#### More Milk Coming

Seattle, Wash.-(AP)—On another voyage to Seward, Alaska, with supplies for the Matanuska valley colonists, the motorship North Star will sail Saturday. The cargo will include 190 head of livestock, 80 cattle, 60 horses and 50 hogs, lumber and other building materials, farm machinery, foodstuffs and general supplies.

the law—and they're backing it up with guns.

"What about people not tying up these poocher as per the council's orders?" Hemmer demanded.

"Make 'em tie 'em up. Make 'em tie 'em up," several in the crowd yelled.

"No, sir," a recalcitrant dog owner protested. "I'm not tying up my dog. Snodgrass' hogs go through the camp tipping over garbage cans, and don't that make a sweet song, maybe even sweeter than dogs."

#### The Motion Is Made

M. D. Snodgrass is a resident settler living just across the railroad tracks from headquarters camp. Five or six of his little red pigs have been getting fat off the waste of some colonists, who have been living high, since all they have to do to get food is to sign for it at the commissary.

"We're talking about dogs, not hogs," Hemmer stoutly asserted.

"I make a motion the camp tie up all dogs after dark," a mackawed, whiskered pioneer suggested. Hemmer repeated the motion.

"Whatdya mean, tie 'em up after dark?" the recalcitrant dog owner demanded of Hemmer.

"I didn't make that motion," Hemmer retorted.

"You said after dark and it never gets dark here."

#### Urges Use of Guns

"Well, make it 9:30 to 10 o'clock. Everybody in favor of that say 'Aye,'" Hemmer shouted.

There was a chorus of ayes and the men who had been talking so loudly about letting their dogs run wild emitted nary a negative peep. Maybe they thought there'd be no way to enforce the convention's edict.

"Well, all right," Hemmer continued in a satisfied tone. "Pooches are supposed to be tied up by 9:30 or 10 o'clock. If they're not tied up what are you going to do?"

"Use your .32," a grim visaged colonist shouted waving his fist.

The way his cohorts cheered left no doubt about acceptability of that type of enforcement.

#### More About Garbage

With that business disposed of according to the best traditions of pioneering, the boys—and the women, too, for many had brought their wives along—got to arguing about

heads  
batants  
insisted  
Ruddell