Alaska Colonists Find Seattle a Perfect but Strenuous Host as Rail Journey Ends

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Seattle, Wash.—Are these pioneers or conquering heroes? Were these their fathers and their fathers' fathers welcomed into Wisconsin and Michigan—or any other land calling them pioneers—by a state governor? Were any other pioneers ever overwhelmed by greeters, feted, cheered, shown moving pictures and introduced over the radio?

These questions are pertinent. These things have happened to the streamlined pioneers of 1936. The 600 Wisconsin and Michigan persons now in Seattle while on route to new homes in a government-sponsored colony in Alaska.

Find Old Friends

They thrashed around the "pioneers" and stumbled along behind while the horses legged baggage and affection to the Fyrx hotel, leased by the Washington state emergency relief administration for their two-day stay here.

Among the crowds, friends and relatives of the pioneers sought familiar faces. Many a hug and kiss of greeting was exchanged, as many a bug and kiss of farewell had been exchanged back home.

"We are your nearest neighbors and will buy your products. We admire you," etc., and then undertook personal greetings to adults and infants, doing most everything but kissing the latter.

"Glad to see you," he would say, shaking hands. "Happy to see you."

"Ah, here's a baby. How old is this one? How old is this one? How old is this one?" He's that's fine. Well, you're just as tall as I am. You ought to make good in Alaska. You're equipped for it.

"Ah, here's another baby." (A split second later.) "Say, is this the same one I had my picture taken with before?" (It was.) "I wish, thought so, it's the same size.

"Baby" is a Dog

Parents carried many of the infants in baskets. Once the quizzed governor spied a father with such a basket. "Oh, father has one, too," he beamed, lifting the covering and showing a smiling youth. The laugh was well done. What father had a dog, blanketed decoratively in his market basket. But it was all in fun, and it hadn't really meant to fool anyone.

The genial governor took the job of himself and it helped to elevate the high mood of the programs, during which your correspondent interviewed six of them.

The colonists are supplied with nondescript labeled "Matanuska Pioneers," which give them free transportation on street cars. They used these to follow Friday's schedule, which included a sightseeing trip, a picnic, a free pint through the vaudeville entertainment and another radio program.

As the train started the coast, the greeting of their men. Our pioneers receive 200 to bridge.

Shake Hands With Waileters

Mothers on route appreciated what the dining car attendants did for them. Any hour of the day or night they could bring into the dining car milk or hot water for their babies. Some, think hands hands heartily with the negro wailers after their last meal as the women of Wisconsin and Michigan can be proud of their. 