

# Matanuska Valley Pioneer

61° 30' N. Latitude

149° 15' . Longitude

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## DIFFICULTIES IRONED OUT AT TWO COLONIST MEETINGS

At a colonist meeting held last Friday evening in one of the unfinished bunkhouses, a committee of 3; William Bennett, Walter Huntley and Roy Wilkes, were chosen to put before Mr. Don L. Irwin three issues upon which they felt they should have some voice.

Hearing that Mr. Rex A. C. Atwood was to be returned east, they were to ask for his retention in his present job as Chief Clerk.

They were to protest the "framing" and "railroading" of Howard McKendrie back to the States, feeling that he hadn't had a proper chance to defend himself, and that none would be secure if such action was to be the rule.

The third issue was a protest against keeping Mr. Ed Cronin in his position as Fiscal Agent.

The committee reported at the meeting held Tuesday evening in the trading post.

## IRWIN'S ANSWERS REPORTED

At this meeting Mrs. Eino Wirtanen was elected Secretary of the permanent colonist organization which was set up. She promptly took her seat on a carpenter's horse before the steel table of a framing saw and the committee reported.

Mr. Irwin had informed them that there would be no place in the proposed administrative set-up for one of Mr. Atwood's talents, that there was nothing against him, and that his former position was waiting for him.

He also told them what had been fairly common knowledge around the camp; that is that McKendrie had freely admitted the charges against him. And in the matter of Mr. Cronin, Mr. Irwin said that Mr. Cronin was a very valuable man in his present place and that it would be almost impossible to replace him.

## HUNT GIVES TALK

After the reports were made Lt. Col. LeRoy Hunt addressed the group and told them: "I know you people. I haven't driven you home, visited with you and even helped hang up the laundry without learning that you are fine people, but...credit has gone to the heads of some of you, and the only way to keep that

situation from growing out of hand is to clamp down hard.

"The presents are all gone," he continued. "The Christmas tree has been thrown out onto the brush pile, and from now on you must manage to live within your budgetary allowance."

Col. Hunt explained that many would have to suffer for the actions of a few, and cited the case of the family of four who had run their bill up \$267.00 in one month. To illustrate what could be done he told of the family of five whose total since arriving here in May is only \$258.00. He called attention to the unreasonable demand that is sometimes made by telling of the single trip of the delivery truck with another brand substituted for Hills Brothers coffee, because they were out of the latter. And he told how thirteen families had sent their coffee back, demanding what they had ordered.

"This," said Col. Hunt, "is an attitude that has to change. "Imagine a man with four new, credit purchased firearms in his home cursing the corporation up one side and down the other because Mr. Cronin wouldn't OK his requisition for another.

"Get in, pull together in harmony, and you have the chance of a lifetime," he told them.

## SNODGRASS ALSO SPEAKS

M. D. Snodgrass who has lived many years in the valley followed Col. Hunt with a fine talk on the bright future for a wonderful community the colonists faced.

"No one will make a fortune," he said, "But we will live, and live well, and I'd much rather have my home where all have a little, than where a few have it all.

After Mr. Snodgrass finished Mr. William Bennett was elected permanent chairman. Regular meetings for the purpose of discussing their problems is the aim of the organization.

## ROMAN LEGIONS IN ETHIOPIA

Thursday dispatches from Geneva state that Mussolini's soldiers are in possession of 3600 miles of disputed area.

A dispatch from Rome: "We mowed them down with modern weapons."