

## COVERED WAGON ERA BACK, BEGIN TREK TO ALASKA

The pioneering days of America, St. Mihiel, which is now held in reverence generally regarded as a completed chapter in the country's history, are by no means at an end, it appears. Economic conditions, drought, dust storms and other factors have conspired to create, on a smaller scale and in a less primitive way, a second covered wagon era.

During May 1,500 men, women and children, representing families in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, who are at present on relief rolls, will begin a trek of approximately 3,500 miles by land and water to reach the wooded valley of Matanuska in Alaska. There the settlers will begin clearing the land for truck gardening, farming and dairying.

The valley of Matanuska is now inhabited by 117 families. In laying out the homesteads for the incoming settlers, the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation proposes to provide forty acres of land for each family.

It is a veritable land of promise toward which the 20th century pioneers are gazing eagerly. The temperatures correspond roughly to Chicago in the summer and to Boston in the winter. There is abundant summer rainfall, and drought has never been experienced.

Those who have never visited Alaska sometimes envision the country as comparable to the Siberian steppes, with reindeer subsisting on the unappetizing lichens which, for the greater part of the year, represent the only vegetation. This mental picture is in direct contrast to the fact. The exhibits at the autumn fair in Anchorage, Alaska, last year included strawberries six inches in circumference, cabbage weighing 18 pounds, rhubarb as thick as baseball bats and cucumbers as fat as quart milk bottles. Such flowers as dahlias, phlox, asters, chrysanthemums, gladioli, lilies and many bulbs reach record sizes.

### Growth is Rapid

Because of an excess of sunshine during the summer months, growth of vegetation is rapid. There is a twenty-hour growing period each day in the Matanuska Valley. Even at midnight the country is not as dark as the average room or hall in a city at noon.

There are several varieties of wheat which mature in ninety days in Alaska. Wheat and oats grow very long stems and the heads are large and heavy. Oats grown in the valley are heavier than any in the United States. Agriculture attempted in Alaska has given surprisingly good results, the yield in bushels per acre exceeding the average yield in the United States as recorded in the statistics of the Department of Agriculture.

For example, oats raised in Alaska averaged 33 to 42 bushels as compared with 30 bushels in this country in 1932, a normal year. Barley produced 24 bushels as against 22.5 here; wheat from 17 to 32 bushels compared with 12 to 15; potatoes, 35 to 138 bushels as against 106. In bumper years potatoes have yielded as much as 300 bushels.

All farm livestock thrives in the Matanuska Valley region. There is abundant forage, excellent water and a milder winter than Kansas has.

Secretary of War Dern is co-operating with Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, in the colonization of Alaska. Secretary Dern has approved the temporary re-commissioning of the army transport

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### 200 Families Chosen

Two hundred families of settlers who will make up the permanent population have been tentatively selected and will be transported in two contingents. The first, consisting of about 700 persons, 165 of them women and children, will sail from San Francisco May 1. The second contingent will embark on the St. Mihiel at Seattle about May 15. This group will comprise the rest of the settlers and includes 535 women and children.

Mr. Hopkins has announced that in addition to the settlers, approximately 400 men from transient camps will form part of the first contingent and will take a temporary part in helping to build the new community. They are expected to return to the United States in the late fall of this year.

The Secretary of War has placed the responsibility of the movement by water under the control of the Quartermaster General of the Army. Steps are now being taken to commission the St. Mihiel and to have the vessel ready to sail from San Francisco not later than May 1. In charge of this phase is the superintendent of the army transport service at Fort Mason, San Francisco.

Creation of a small town around the village of Palmer, Alaska, is visualized by the community being developed by the rural rehabilitation division of FERA, operating under Col. Lawrence Westbrook, administrator, in co-operation with the United States Department of Interior. Palmer is situated on the Alaska Railroad, where the settlers will debark from the army transport St. Mihiel.

Household effects, farm implements building materials and miscellaneous supplies of all types are expected to be shipped with the settlers on the transport. Livestock and some of the freight will go by commercial steamship.

### RUSSIANS SEEK TO END SALE OF CHILD BRIDES

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R., May 31—A lively, springtime trade in child brides among the Moslem peasants of Kazakhstan has brought an indignant protest from communists and a demand that somebody do something about it.

Maintaining the old central Asian tradition that young girls may be sold like so many heifers, one "worker of the vozvishensky state farm sold his daughter, Batana, to a tractor driver for 300 rubles," reports a correspondent of the Moscow communist organ, Pravda. "Another worker sold his 13-year old daughter, Fasika, to a neighbor, while in another village a 13 year old school child, Raia Manatov, was sold by her parents for 500 rubles."

Similar tales are reported from half a dozen other villages in the vicinity of Karaganda, according to this Pravda correspondent, and the local authorities—who are themselves often steeped in local tradition—refuse to take any action.

### FRANCE HONORS DAL' PROFESSOR

PARIS, May 31—Francois Gautheron, professor of French literature at Dalhousie University, Halifax, today was named Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

## MIDWEST TREK TO ALASKA DONE IN DE LUXE STYLE

Families Made Trip via Train and Boat, With Food All Provided--The New Homeland is Like California.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 29—It's pioneering deluxe, this exodus of mid-western families to a corner of Alaska that is more like a sunny California valley than the land of ice and snow the far north is supposed to be.

Winter winds and snows may change the picture, the Matanuska Valley presents in May and June, but today the "pioneers of 1935" are literally and figuratively on top of the world.

Many of their forefathers put a pot, an axe, a sack of flour and a bag of seeds into a covered wagon and started on an uncharted trail for an indefinite destination. They had to kill game and pick berries to sustain their families. They had to search—often with parched and swollen tongues—for waterholes along the way.

When the pioneers of the last century reached a spot on the Nebraska or Kansas plains that looked likely they had to use the trial and error process to determine what crops to grow. They had to wrest their food from the game of the forests, the wild plants of the land. They had little money and few implements.

### Travelled in Style

It was a precarious business—pioneering in the 18th and 19th centuries. Our pioneers of today, the 200 Minnesotans, Michigans and Wisconsin families selected by the federal government to populate the Matanuska Valley of Alaska, have few of the hazards to face that their ancestors met and conquered.

The Matanuska colonists rode to their new homeland in comfortable trains and on a staunch transport ship. Their food was prepared and served in de luxe diners aboard the trains and on the transport. Chicken, beef, turkey and pork were served them on the U.S.A.T. St. Mihiel. Fresh milk, oranges, apples and sweets were abundantly available.

For one year, perhaps longer, the government will continue to supply these settlers with their food.

Experts from the agricultural division of the College of Alaska selected the tracts on which the colonists will be placed. Soil and drainage factors were considered. The 200 40-acre farms are the best in the valley.

### Start With \$3,000

The same experts have determined what kinds of crop grow best and what type of farming will be the most successful.

The rural Rehabilitation Corporation of Alaska, grandchild of the FERA, is advancing to each settler a credit of \$3,000 to be repaid within a 30-year period. Interest will be less than three per cent. No interest or principle will be collected until the beginning of the fifth year.

The food given the colonists, the farm equipment, including 20 tractors and livestock, the cabins in which they will live and the seeds for the initial crop will be charged against this fund.

The Matanuska colonists have practically everything in their favor for success. There are some drawbacks, but from the standpoint of the men who followed the grass yesterday, the pioneers of today are starting out in de luxe fashion.

## NEED CHAIN OF FIXED EVENTS FOR COLTS

NEW YORK, May 31—In announcing that he is going to point his harness horses for the fall fairs instead of trying to beat those of Grand Circuit class at early meetings on the half mile tracks, Harry Whitney remarked that what is needed most by trainers, owners and breeders at the present time is a chain of fixed events for colts on Eastern half-mile tracks, with conditions somewhat similar to those of the Kentucky Futurity or the

## HALF HIS ESTATE LEFT TO U. S.

WASHINGTON, MAY 31—To the United States Government which he served so long, Oliver Wendell Holmes returned in death more than half the money with which it had compensated him.

The great jurist's will, probated recently, revealed an estate of slightly more than \$550,000. It distributed specific bequests of \$283,500 and then incorporated this unusual clause:

"All the rest, residue and remainder of my property of whatsoever nature, wheresoever situate, of which I may die seized and possessed, or in which I may have an interest at the time of my death, I give devise and bequeath, to the United States of America."

As residual legatee, the Government will receive some \$250,000. In his 29 years on the supreme bench and his few in retirement, Justice Holmes received approximately \$490,000 from the Government.

Edward J. Holmes of Boston was named principal legatee, receiving \$100,000; all of the jurist's editions of the works of his two grandfathers, his more famous father, and of himself. Small legacies to more distant relatives and to those who served him through a long lifetime were numerous. Charitable bequests included \$25,000 and the greater part of his library to the Library of Congress; \$25,000 to Harvard University; \$25,000 to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and certain portraits to the Massachusetts Historical Society.

cial basis not so high as to attract youngsters of the first flight.

Hambletonian Stake, but on a financial

"The Reading Futurity was originally intended to be something of the right sort," he said, "but see what it is today. I shipped Miss Willing over there last season and found that to win he would have to beat a three-year-old trotter that had won a heat in the Hambletonian and that went from Reading to Lexington, where she beat the Hambletonian winner in the Kentucky Futurity. My filly won the first heat from Princess Peg in 2:07½ over the half-mile track at Reading and made her trot in 2:06½ to win the second heat, but all Miss Willing got was second money."

Whitney bought Miss Willing for \$160 as a yearling at the Old Glory sale, acting for Thomas I. Havens of Flanders, L. I., who sold her for \$5,000 to foreign buyers soon after her Reading race.

Farming within the limits of New York City has increased 350 per cent, since 1930, but some of the best farm sites are still occupied by skyscrapers.



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## Of Interest to Women

### GARDENING

## Early Spring Nourishment Provides Incentive for Quick Development

(By Gordon L. Smith)

Annual flowers are classified under various heads in the seed catalogues. Attention must be paid, of course, to time of blooming and color. Height should also be noted as a medium sized plant hidden by some bushy stocks or tall Cosmos, will be "born to blush unseen". But these are only the most elemental points which every gardener of a few years experience now notes automatically. There are other and finer distinctions. Certain shades blend well together and often a whole bed will be selected with this blending in mind. Of course for this sort of thing, all the plants must bloom during the same period. Fragrance should be taken into account, as there are some spicy things like Evening Scented Stock, Nicotina, Mignonette. Sweet Sultan and Verbena, which while rather plain as plants, fill the whole garden with a delightful odor, more especially in the evening. In shaded quarters, Tuberos rooted Begonias, Pansies, and wild flowers will do well. In fact, they prefer this location to any other. In partial shade, Clarkia, Annual Larkspur, Lupine, Nicotina, Phlox and

Verbena should be grown. On poor soil, Portulaca is a favorite as well as Alyssum, Sweet-scented Stocks, Linum, Calendulas Calliopsis Sunflowers, Schizanthus, Salpiglossis, Marigolds, Petunias and many others. These will also successfully resist dry weather. For cutting purposes, there is a long list to choose from, but it should include Gypsophila (Baby's breath) useful for making up bouquets. There are several hardy annuals which can be picked with long stems just before the bloom opens and dried for winter bouquets. These include the Straw Flower, Statice, Acroclinium, Rhodanthe and others.

### FRUIT FOR THE GARDEN—

A summer apple like Yellow Transparent, Astrachan or Melba should be chosen for dessert purposes, or Duchesse for cooking; for fall, Wealthy; for early winter the McIntosh or Delicious; and for late winter, the Northern Spy. In the Prairie Provinces or Northern Quebec and Ontario there are some new hardy types as well as good crab-apples available. Among sweet cherries, Windsor Bing and Tartarian are recommended, while Montmorency and Early Richmond are standards of the other type. Clapp's Favorite is one of the best pears, com-

ing very early, while Bartlett is a good later sort. Plums are grown almost anywhere in Canada, as well as currants, raspberries, strawberries, blackcaps, thimble berries, loganberries and gooseberries. Grapes are fairly hardy, and among the best are the Lindley.

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In the early spring the grass and other perennial plants awaken hungry from their long winter nap. What a voracious appetite they possess!

Unfortunately they are seldom satisfied as but few soils contain sufficient of the different elements of plant food to satisfy all the needs of the plant. We seldom fail to feed our dogs, birds and other pets but too often overlook the fact that plants must be fed.

Proper feeding of plants is one of the most important phases of gardening. We can exercise but little control over the sunshine and moisture required for plants nourishment. There is nothing that you can do in gardening from which you get a louder "thank you" from your plants, than that of giving them a complete, balanced plantfood.

This hearty response is expressed by a thick green carpet of grass; flowers that bloom in profusion; delicious early vegetables; in fact, healthy, vigorous plants of all kinds. If you have never given your hungry plants a real meal, do it this year and get a new thrill in gardening.

Prepared complete to use. Many garden lovers have found in plantfood the key to full success in gardening.

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### JAM FROM PAPRIKA

When the Hungarian chemist Szent Gyorgi discovered that the sweet red pepper that grows so abundantly in his native land is a rich source of vitamin C—the one that prevents scurvy—the food manufacturers saw their opportunity. Its Budapest correspondent informs the American Chemical Society that vitapric has made its appearance—a jam made from the juice of ripened peppers (paprika). It gladdens the eye with its rich red color. Children cry for it because it is sweet yet not so sharp as the raw vegetable. Housewives mix it with foods. The doctors bless the proceeding since the chemists have found that this paprika jam contains twice as much vitamin C as lemon juice.

### 40,000 STUDYING FOR DEGREES IN CANADA'S SCHOOLS

OTTAWA, May 31—Canada now has about 150 institutions of higher learning, with 40,000 students of university rank. The majority of these students qualify as bachelors of arts or science—approximately 3,000 each year. As a rule about 600 qualify as doctors, 400 as engineers, 400 as clergymen, 300 as lawyers, 200 as druggists and 100 as dentists.

In the present century co-eds have invaded academic circles in no uncertain manner. About one third of the bachelor degrees now go to them, though the proportion continuing to higher degrees is smaller. At the current rate of graduation, roughly 1 3-4 per cent of the Canadian women of the future will have completed a university education, and four per cent of the men.

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### UNEARTHED RELIC OF ROYAL WEDDING

MONCTON, May 30—While digging his garden yesterday, Mr. Albert E. Gould, 62½ St. George street, unearthed an interesting relic in the form of a medal commemorating the marriage of the late King Edward the Seventh, then the Prince of Wales, to the late Princess Alexandra of Denmark, afterwards Queen Alexandra, the parents of the present reigning sovereign, His Majesty King George V.

The medal is dated 1863 and bears the following inscription: "In commemoration of the marriage of H.R.H. Prince of Wales to H.R.H. Princess Alexandra of Denmark, March 10, 1863." On the face of the medal, in relief, are the heads of the royal couple, while on the border is inscribed "England's Future King and Queen."

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