

T H E W O R K - S P R O G R A M

- - - - -

-- Works Progress Administration --

For Release to Morning Newspapers  
Friday, November 13, 1936

Delegate Dimond says Success of Matanuska Colony Assured.

The majority of the colonists in the Matanuska Valley, Alaska, will have paid off their debt to the Federal Government in a few years, and will be on a self-sustaining basis, in the opinion of Anthony J. Dimond, Delegate for Alaska, who has returned to Washington for the opening of the next Congress.

"I made two visits to the Matanuska colony before returning to Washington," said Delegate Dimond, "and my talks with many of the colonists convince me that the farm colonization project there will be a success. I found the colonists cheerful and contented and the great majority of them working hard to get their homesteads on a producing basis.

"The homes of the colonists compare favorably with farm homes in continental United States. They are well built and comfortably furnished. The community has every appearance now of an old settlement with all the activities of community life which the settlers enjoyed before they immigrated to the valley.

"Of course, the colonists will continue to need assistance for a time, but as more land is cleared and crops put in the necessity for aid will diminish. There

is a ready market right at hand for everything which can be raised in the valley. Demand now exceeds the supply and as the permanent population of Alaska increases this demand will increase.

"Hundreds of farmers will find their permanent homes in Alaska as the success of the Matanuska experiment becomes known. They will not need government aid, but good roads must be provided. The pioneering is now being done, but the pioneering period will be short. Not only is the growing of field and root crops financially successful but the colonists are proving that dairy and beef cattle, hogs and sheep can be raised to advantage."

The Matanuska farm colony, located a few miles north of Anchorage, Alaska, was sponsored by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. The colonists were selected from Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin and arrived in the valley in the early summer of 1935. This year the colony was augmented by several families which paid their own way to Alaska.

oooOooo