

# RED TAPE RETARDS ALASKA'S GROWTH

Territory May Become Depopulated Unless Conditions Are Changed

## BUREAUS HAMPER PIONEERS

Seattle, Sept. 17.—What is the matter with Alaska? John Barton Payne, secretary of the interior, answers that by the statement that Alaska's woes are caused by a shortage of population.

"That answer is also echoed by John Noon, of Seward, pioneer Alaska prospector, who is now in Seattle ready to visit Philadelphia and other eastern cities, to urge nation-wide co-operation in ridding the country of bureaucratic government."

"Alaska offers no opportunity for a poor man," declared Mr. Noon today. "The territorial resources are tied up by forty-three bureaus, commissions and departments. Few mines and mills are operating. A man taking up a 100-acre homestead in Alaska would have to have \$3500 cash on hand in order to live the first year, for the government in requiring that one-sixteenth of the land be cleared compels the homesteader to spend \$2000 in the first year for clearing expenses."

Mr. Noon cited the vast Matanuska coal fields as an example, the fields now reached by the government railroad and which contain an excellent coal for naval purposes. In the near future it is the hope of the government that this coal will supply the Pacific fleet with fuel. To inspect the Matanuska fields was one of the chief objects of the recent trip of Secretary Payne and Secretary Daniels to Alaska.

"A few years ago there were 400

settlers in the Matanuska vicinity," said Mr. Noon.

"When I left Alaska a week ago I was told that only thirty-seven remained. The same condition applies to other sections of the territory. Hundreds of families are leaving because of the lack of opportunity. Instead of restriction, the government should aid pioneers, instead of exacting a royalty for cutting wood or drilling oil or fishing, the government should give a bonus.

### THE DAILY NOVELETTE

In the Subway

By VIRGINIA KEYES

"Thank goodness, the whole thing will be done quietly," Mrs. Francis Talford murmured to herself as she stood watching the noonday crowds pouring into the subway. Her gown of gray, clinging material, with its wide, childish collar of delicate, white lace seemed strangely out of place among the smart, tailored suits of the working girls hurrying past. A

gray velvet hat with a single ornament of twisted silver ribbon fitted closely over her coiled brown hair. No, there would be no disgusting publicity. Somewhere a clock struck the half-hour. Mrs. Talford became impatient. Strange, Francis was late. He had insisted that she should meet him there and that they should go together, on the subway. How much easier to have called for him at the office with her little electric!

In spite of herself she began to think about the first time she had seen Francis. Then he had been a secretary in her father's office.

She remembered how curiously happy she had been the day he timidly invited her to a concert. How proud she felt, proud of his erect bearing, his energetic manner of speaking and his flashing smile. Then, too, the night she had given up a dance to go to walk with him, and he had told her that he loved her!

Mrs. Talford caught her breath hastily. She must not think of such things. One should not think of such things when one was going to a lawyer's to get a divorce. She must remember how impossible it was for them to live happily together.

A tired-looking man separated himself from the crowd and came hastily toward her. His well-fitting suit was worn and his cuffs were frayed, but he walked with a firm step and there was a steady, quiet look in his gray eyes.

"Sorry, Blanche," he said briskly. "There was a little extra work that had to be finished. However, this is the last time I'll keep you waiting, you know."

They entered the car and found a seat before her. Francis flashed by, spots of light and color, nothing more. The crowds ebbed and flowed. There was no station. They must be under the river. Mrs. Talford sighed with relief. It was probably waiting for another car to pass. Then the lights went out. Mrs. Talford had been afraid of the dark ever since she was a wee tot, who clung in terror to her governess's hands as

they went through the dark hall into the brilliantly lighted nursery. Now she shivered a little in the darkness and touched Francis's sleeve gently to make sure he was still there.

"His voice rang out clearly above the others: 'We will be going in a few minutes. The car often stops like this.'"

Mrs. Talford was reminded of the first month of their marriage, when she cooked for Francis in a four-room apartment. How happy Francis had been, no matter how disgracefully the dinner turned out! Something startled her from her thoughts, the low moan of a frightened woman. In the deadly stillness that followed there was a low, dripping sound. Mrs. Talford clenched her hands and began to count the drops in a stupid way. Now there was the sound of running water, no longer drops, it was the river. The car would soon be flooded.

"Francis," she whispered. Her throat was strangely dry.

"Yes, dear," he said softly, and she felt his arm close tight about her. Not a ray of light penetrated the darkness, only that maddening trickling. On the other side of the car a man was praying in a husky voice and a woman sobbed.

"Dear," it was months since she had said that word. "Dear," she whispered

again, and she felt his breath against her cheek. In that instant of happiness she forgot that she would soon die. In that same moment the car was flooded, not with water, but with dazzling light, and again they were rattling noisily through the tunnel.

Blindly they left the car. Mrs. Talford still clinging to her husband's arm, found herself in the street filled with sunshine. The crowds surged by unnoticed.

"Francis," she murmured, brushing confusion. "Do you suppose if we tried we could find a four-room apartment and move in tonight?"

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| 32x4  | \$54.45       | \$32.65    | 35x4½ | \$63.00       | \$37.80    | 35x5  | \$80.35       | \$48.20    |
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