

Egg Profits

S. T. Crisp, Dillsboro, Jackson county, reported to his farm agent at his flock of 200 white leg-horn hens gave him a clear profit of \$221.48 above the feed cost last year. Mr. Crisp kept a careful record of all expense and income.

Transferred

Soil Conservation Service headquarters for the Southeast, originally at Spartanburg, S. C., have been transferred to Atlanta, Ga. States in the Southeast area are: North and South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi.

Start Poultry Shipments.

Columbus County farmers have begun their cooperative shipments of poultry for the new year. C. D. Raper, assistant county agent, reports that 3,000 pounds were loaded last week at Whiteville and Chadbourne.

Clover Pasture

A new idea in pasture improvement has been developed in Madison County where the farmers seeded crimson clover on their pasture sods last fall. Sponsors for the idea say the clover will improve the land, increase the grazing and probably allow a second harvest.

The World's Fair At Your Door



Millions of miles will be covered by visitors who travel from all parts of the nation to the New York World's Fair, and additional millions of miles will be traversed inside the Fair grounds, where 156 specially designed passenger buses will be in operation to take tourists on sightseeing trips. To those, however, who see the New York World's Fair 1939 Preview on Wheels and Southern Motorcade, now touring the South, there is no need to travel, for this advance showing comes to a stop at 368 Southern communities for all to view. Over more than 11,000 miles of Southern highways, the cavalcade will bring its story of

the Fair, presented in large-scale dramatic form. Officially approved by the New York World's Fair, and sponsored by the distributors of Arcadian Nitrate, the American Soda, the exhibit presents models of the Fair's Theme Center, with its famous Trylon and Perisphere; the buildings: state, national and international; the visiting crowds, and a scientific exhibit of the distribution of Arcadian Nitrate, the American Soda. With floodlights thrown against a 60 foot background panorama on canvas, the entire exhibit becomes vivid, dramatic and realistic; a foretaste of what the World's Fair has to offer.

Star Dust

- ★ Pick of the New Crop
- ★ Tone Takes Up N. Y.
- ★ Kerrigan Still Leaving

By Virginia Vale

IF YOU don't believe that "Motion pictures are your best entertainment," but that only really good pictures can come under that heading, you'll be interested (I think) in knowing which ones an expert has selected as the best of the new crop.

The expert is W. G. Van Schmus, managing director of the Radio City Music Hall in New York. Mr. Van Schmus is on a spot, always. Visitors to New York, as well as natives, troop to his theater. He can't let them go away saying that the show was good but why in the world did he select that picture to go with it!

Ushering in the new year with "Topper Takes a Trip," co-starring Constance Bennett and Roland Young, he picked "There's That Woman Again," (Melvyn Douglas and Virginia Bruce), to follow it. Then "Trade Winds," (Frederic March and Joan Bennett), "The Great Man Votes," (John Barrymore, Virginia Weidler), "Gunga Din," (Cary Grant, Victor McLaglen, Douglas Fairbanks Jr.), "Made for Each Other," (co-starring Carlo Lombard and James Stewart), "Love Affair," (with Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer), and "Stage Coach" (with Claire Trevor, John Wayne, Andy Devine, John Carradine, and Louise Platt).

Each film is scheduled for a week's run. The theater accommodates an audience of more than 6,000 persons; the picture is shown five times a day. It has to be good, you see!

Franchot Tone bobs up all over New York these days; leaving Hollywood certainly didn't mean leaving the limelight. He is appearing on the stage in a new play, doing a



FRANCHOT TONE

bit of radio work, and recently shared honors with Abe Lyman and Dick Foran as a celebrity at the first of the International Casino's "Sunday Night Informals," dedicated to celebrities.

When J. M. Kerrigan arrived in Hollywood eight years ago he said that he'd stay long enough to play the film role he'd been engaged for and then he'd go back to Ireland. He was then one of the Abbey players. He's still in Hollywood, (a role in "The Great Man Votes" was the most recent bait), and still thinks that, as soon as he can get away, he'll go back to Ireland.

Edward Small is in favor of giving new people a chance in his pictures. It was he who brought Robert Donat to this country to appear in "The Count of Monte-Cristo," and recently he made Louis Hayward a star in "The Duke of West Point." In his current production, "King of the Turf," starring Adolphe Menjou, it's 15-year-old Roger Daniel who gets the big break. With radio and stage tempting movie stars to lose interest in motion picture-making, it's a wise producer who can spot talent and cultivate it—and put it under contract!

By the way, in "The Duke of West Point" you'll see some old-timers—Mary MacLaren, William Bakewell and Kenneth Harlan.

All of the music that Frank R. White, organist on Dr. William L. Stidger's "Getting the Most Out of Life" program, writes for the Stidger hymns must stand up under Mrs. White's "24 hour test."

When he writes a new hymn tune Mrs. White plays it twice on the organ. Then if she's able to play it from memory the next day White feels sure that the public will remember the tune without any effort. But does he make allowances for the fact that Mrs. White probably has an unusual memory?

ODDS AND ENDS—Joan Fontaine can claim to be one girl in a thousand; the cost of "Gunga Din" numbers about 1,000, and she's the lone female in it. . . . Gabriel Heatter has a private telephone number but this host of "We, the People" gives it to so many friends that it might as well be in the phone book. . . . Sam and Abner frequently telephone former neighbors in Arkansas in order to keep the right vocal inflections for their radio work. . . . Richard Hinckley's commitments for this year include three different programs on the three different networks for three different sponsors.

Pioneering In Alaska

By C. J. LINCKE

In pointing out that independent colonization projects, like those carried on by the Mormon church in Utah, and that now developing at Homer, a fine agricultural section bordering on Cook Inlet, should prove a success, I have in mind the grotesque other departure of a sort of bungling communism.

There is no such thing as free land in Alaska, unless it is in the perpetually frozen zone along the Tanna river, 400 miles distant from tidewater. Even this is allowed with eventualities. That is the great placer country.

Under the homesteading laws, as yet unchanged, one must declare that, to his best knowledge and belief, the land does not contain mineral. Mineral, including gold—lode and placer—has the first right on all public lands.

Hence one might dig a well, or thaw it to bedrock, to discover that it contained placer gold. His well is likely to penetrate the ancient paleolithic mucks and gravels, containing the remains of a mammoth or cave bear, still containing the hair and fragments of hide, not to mention the refrigerated putrescence of decayed flesh.

Even Fairbanks must secure its water from sources immediately above the pleistocene, or glacial scours, geologically classified as the quarternary, or "recent."

Here one may grow No. 1 hard wheat, hardy vegetables and other grain.

This is due to the sub-irrigation, caused by solar action on the perpetually frozen soil.

All other agricultural land lies south of the main Alaska mountain range, and principally that section embraced in the Matanuska valley, 147 miles from the coast, and intervening valleys, insular.

But you cannot stake a homestead south of the Chugach divide, a distance of 60-odd miles without special permission from the Bureau of Forests.

Every foot of land contained within the length of this region and for 30 miles on the western side of the Alaskan Railroad, is held under Forestry regulations.

Within this one may secure a free homestead—by special permission—purchase a five-acre tract or a lot 300 feet in length and 100 feet in width.

For a time these lots were subject to the tidewater regulations, withholding a strip 80 feet wide along all streams.

There are residents of 30 years duration living along lakes and streams like the Kenai river, who have as yet been unable to secure title.

These who have discovered placer gold have secured the surface by performing \$100 worth of work on each 20 acres per year, and may eventually patent it under the mining laws.

This will cost approximately as much as a 160-acre farm in the marginal belts of the United States.

Opposition by the Bureau of forests to land settlement has often cropped out, resulting in turning many prospective settlers back, after learning that when they were up against in the form of bureaucratic regulations and a sort of satrapry exercised by those employed by the Bureau.

Ask one such about a homestead and he will tell you that 160 acres is too much; that five acres is sufficient to grow anything one wishes to grow.

When you tell him that a man must have pasture for cattle and sheep, he will tell you that no cattle or sheep assays yet, wisno, mltle or sheep are as yet in the forest.

I have just unraveled a puzzle which has been the means of turning a number of settlers back to the States this winter, and who were enroute to the lower Kenai Valley in search of homesteads. Among them were agents of Swiss cheese makers, seeking a region comparable with Switzerland to place cattle and begin industry.

During September a sudden flood carried away a section of automobile road, built along a high glacial bluff. It also took out the ramps of the bridges of a stream flowing into the Kenai river.

After being marooned for a month, awaiting the action of the Bureau of Public Roads in providing some emergency method for negotiating the 45 degree angle bluff, and crossing the stream in question, and receiving no relief, settlers placed poles across and "cooned" them to the other side, crawled along the bluff to where the roadway remained intact.

Several trips were made by the Regional Forester, from Juneau, the district engineer from Seaward—75 miles away—the foreman of the district project, and the district forest supervisor, and a survey party, which made three examinations.

When asked why, at least, a foot trail and temporary crossing was not provided, necessitating the labor of two men for a few days, the district engineer replied that there was no provisions of funds for such an emergency; they were not decided whether to rebuild the old road or a detour of a mile and cross above; that the matter had been reported to the Juneau office, which, he was informed, would take it to Washington, and await action.

Since the district forester employed a crew of CCC men smoothing out a stub automobile road over a distance of nine or ten miles, and this road being a connecting project and designed to eventually penetrate the interior of the Kenai Peninsula, appeal was made to him.

This is what we learned:

The Moose Pass highway, extending from the railroad to Hope, a famous old mining camp, was under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Public Roads. The Quartz Creek road, the connecting link with Kenai Lake, was built by a previous district forester. Not liking the grade or route, the B. P. R. refused to take it over, hence the CCC camp.

This connecting link exists at a bridge across the lower end of Lake Kenai. From there on, a distance of seven miles, the road is under the B. P. R. From there on the trail under the jurisdiction of the Interior Department, because it is where the Forest Reserve ends.

If the district forester with his CCC crew had intruded on the B. P. R., preserves he would have been outside his jurisdiction and subject to reprimand.

It must be said to his credit that he threatened to ignore the conflict of authority and send a few men down to shovel a foot trail across the bluff and build a footbridge across the creek.

At this writing three months after, he must content himself with using his CCC crew in blasting out a rock grade alongside his own poorly constructed road, while some 75 residents below the washout are compelled to crawl on all-fours along that dangerous bluff to get to the nearest post-office and base from which they can secure food.

That is what one finds all over Alaska.

Despite the fact that almost every agricultural possibility, has been brought within the fold of bureaucracy's clutches, the work of withdrawals and "verboten's" continues: Not content with reserving 2,000 square miles as a national park around Mount McKinley, an esthetic sight of the Regional Planning Board, named by Secretary Ickes to learn what was the matter with Alaska, ends the report with an appendix advocating bringing the entire territory under the scope of the recreational planning for the nation. He would withdraw therein, and invite the plutocratic proletariat and the economic royalists to put out the cat, notify the milk man to cease delivering, and, treak to Alaska to revel in the booby dells, where the biting flies run 1,000 to the square yard, and mosquitoes sing a solemn requiem mass over the souls of what Bores has left of the mammalian herds that wore.

I hope to see that day. It will at least compel the girls to return to red flannel petticoats and tungen steel steps, instead of encouraging the nudist cults.

The region in question, in 1938 produced about \$8,000,000 in placer gold and contains something like \$600,000,000 in the area thus far tested with drill.

The entire stagnation of Alaska is due to this experiment in economy. While three Pacific Coast states have developed in excess of \$40,000,000,000 in tangible assets, Alaska, into which you

could drop them and be compelled to pan a week to find them has gone static.

All that is left for the final climax is the putting into effect of Secretary Ickes' recommendation that minerals be withdrawn, and the privilege of prospecting and finding place or lode gold be under lease, instead as the magnet for drawing men further afield.

When that happens, the last glow of the encarnadian rainbow which has tinted the frontier, and given birth to romance and adventure will have vanished.

It will be like denying a youngster the privilege of hunting hens' nests in the hay loft.

Without going further and evoking the charge of befouling my own nest, I will say, that unless a radical about face is executed by the federal government, in a "hands off" policy, which will allow Alaska to work out her own salvation like those other frontiers in which I have spent a quarter of a century, I would advise none but those seeking a paying mining enterprise, of which there are many, and of which more will be discovered, to hold aloof from Alaska.

It is a long swim back to conventional life and things worth while. Having read of a settlement plan being carried on by a frightened Scotchman, in North Carolina, I would suggest: "Look into your own back yard first." I discovered gold while digging a root cellar into a hillside.

NOTE—My next article will deal with "A Test of Communism At Matanuska."

C. J. L.

Optioned

More than 1,000,000 acres of sub-marginal land were held under options on January 1 by the Soil Conservation Service under Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. Sub-marginal land is being acquired under this law as a means of restoring badly depleted land to grasses and forests and to supplement other Federal, State, and local measures to improve land use.

Better Corn

Forty-nine of the 58 corn club members of Green County, completed their projects and records for the 1938 crop and produced 2,500 bushels on 49 acres or an average of 51 bushels to the acre. The corn cost an average of 35 cents a bushel to produce and is valued at 60 cents a bushel.

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