

to be about 60; a large proportion of the men working in the industries were in their sixties and seventies. But with shrinking employment opportunities in the area, there has come a reduction of the skilled labor force. The Consolidated Cutters and Shavers Union of Fulton County (now part of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers) dropped in membership from 2,000 before the war to 850 in late 1953. This decrease was in part due to the fact that members that died or retired were not replaced.

By the community and local authorities

Gloversville faces considerable handicaps in attracting new industries. There is no suitable factory space to move into. The vacant glove factories are usually several stories high, with small rooms, and of unsound construction. The buildings would be suitable for the apparel industry, but local interests are opposed to this type of industry because of the high turnover of the firms in it, and also because the apparel season coincides too closely with the glove season. Gloversville also lacks railroad facilities. There is no rail passenger service, and only a single track spur for freight.

Late in 1953 a group of Gloversville residents began to make a study of the community's social and economic problems, and investigate possible solutions. Their efforts resulted in a mimeographed "Report on Gloversville" in early 1954, dealing with all problem areas, but offering no remedial proposal other than greater community cooperation in general.

About the same time the Gloversville Development Corporation, more recently merged with a similar Johnstown organization to form the Fulton County Development Corporation, began its efforts to attract new industry.³¹ The first major newcomer was a record manufacturing company (Decca-Brunswick), which established a plant in Gloversville, employing 300 workers in early 1954. The development corporation raised \$30,000 by selling stock to local businessmen at \$10 a share. Two-thirds of the proceeds were spent in buying the lease on an abandoned plant, and paying transitional operating expenses, while negotiations were in progress. The New York State Department of Commerce assisted the development corporation through the negotiations, and the New York State Employment Service helped in screening applicants for the new plant. The development corporation since then has encouraged other small industries to locate in the county, and has helped at least one local industry to expand.³²

AN ILLUSTRATIVE TRADE ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

Introductory note

A detailed program of industrial diversification would have to be preceded by a survey of all opportunities for establishing new industries in the area. Not only would these industries have to be screened for the size of their employment multiplier, but also for impervious-

³¹ Also formed was the Joint Industrial Development Committee of the Gloversville and Johnstown Chambers of Commerce.

³² A New York Business Development Corporation was set up in February 1955 (Laws of New York, ch. 863 of the Laws of 1955, art. V-A of the Banking Law) which finances small businesses in need of medium term credit.