

portance. For example, in Macon County, Montezuma took steps to add waste treatment facilities, while the county itself has started on a tax reevaluation program. In Greene County, plans are underway for a detailed study and for a program of development of an industrial arts program. Each of the six counties is in the process of organizing a rural development committee, whose purpose will be to assist in identifying and solving problems within the county and areas pertaining to the total development of the human and natural resources. Hancock County has initiated a master corn program, with assistance from the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Georgia. The extension service is initiating soil analysis and use programs in some of the counties.

The State chamber of commerce and the department of commerce have cooperated in connection with a small industrial prospect for Taylor County, and the State chamber has also engaged in negotiations with well-rated industrial prospects who are considering Vienna and Sandersville. Georgia Tech's Industrial Development Branch has completed the collection of available resource data on Sandersville and will undertake a similar inventory of communities in the other counties early in 1961.

As this report is being drafted, each participating agency is proceeding independently to provide whatever assistance it can toward the solution of existing problems and toward the more effective development of each county's resources. An example is the contract which Washington County has signed with Georgia Tech for research and technical assistance in industrial development. Through the contracted work, Sandersville and Tennille will be made "model" or "demonstration" towns in a project which is designed to carry both communities step by step through an industrial development program over the 3- to 5-year period. The entire area is expected to benefit from the new economic growth which is the project's aim.

COMMITTEE FINDINGS

The following findings stand out from the many conferences and factfinding sessions:

(1) The changing nature and increasing efficiency of agriculture has released large numbers of farmworkers in the six counties, as is generally true throughout the State. Unfortunately, new jobs have not been created rapidly enough to keep either these farmworkers or high school and college graduates in their home counties. As a result, hundreds of persons have been forced to migrate to large cities or out of the State to find suitable employment.

(2) A primary reason for the participating counties' failure to attract new payrolls rapidly enough to stimulate healthy growth has been a lack of information about their resources. Until a thorough audit and analysis of the economic resources of each county has been completed, local development groups will continue to be forced to try to attract industrial prospects with a meagerly stocked "sales kit." With competition for new plants becoming keener year by year, this lack of information is becoming a steadily increasing handicap.

(3) A second major handicap experienced by each of the counties is the lack of technical assistance needed to carry out an effective development program. Technical help is needed not only in the programing of local development efforts and in the auditing of industrial resources, but also in the promotion or selling of any advantages found to exist locally. An adequate technical assistance program exists at the present time only in agriculture.

(4) Industrial arts and industrial vocational training are virtually nonexistent in the six counties, despite the fact that such training is often essential to attract new payrolls. Unless strong industrial training programs can be provided it is certain that some companies which might otherwise be attracted to the six counties—and to others similarly deficient—will go to some other location where they can find labor which is better prepared to work in manufacturing plants. Since more Georgians are employed in manufacturing than in any other occupation, this need is much more acute than has generally been recognized.

(5) Comprehensive agricultural programs, based on more than a quarter of a century's experience, are already in effect in each county. County farm and home program development committees, assisted by agricultural workers armed with research results and guidelines provided by a strong State extension service program, have assayed the situation and outlined agricultural goals and potentials over a 5-year period.

(6) The "model" or "demonstration" town project initiated in Washington County by Georgia Tech's Industrial Development Branch in November appears