

holdings in small units. In this way the community was built upon small farm operations, though a few big operators have always existed in the area. Though it is impossible to determine all the reasons for the development of small holdings, some of the important ones can be indicated. The Alta irrigation system was developed in the early period of California fruit production and, though large-scale field operations were prevalent in California, large-scale fruit operations were not then frequently attempted. It seems that the landowners considered their best opportunity to be in the profits from direct sales at the enhanced land values, rather than the more speculative operation in the new industry. Land costs were high at the very beginning of the development. A significant item in the predominance of small-scale operations is the fact that the land was developed by irrigation under the Wright Act, an act which was purposely drawn to assist the development of small farming. Some large growers have always farmed in the area, though none on the scale of the largest Arvin operations.

No adequate picture of the size of farms throughout Dinuba history is available, but in recent years some large-scale operations have developed. These have been created by the consolidation of holdings by packers and shippers, motivated by a desire to integrate their activities sufficiently to enable them to be assured of an adequate pack.

During the last 15 years successful packers have gradually increased their holdings. One of these operators was quoted as saying that by having holdings and a packing shed in combination he could make money when the small farmer could not. This could be accomplished by means of three advantages: (1) Growing a premium quality which brought 10 cents more per pack, (2) saving 5 cents per pack on commission, and (3) avoiding the direct packing charges. He considered he made \$250 per car more than the farmers did, and is assured of 200 cars per season through his own production.

The development of these integrated operations is viewed with some alarm by the small growers, who recognize that in times of unfavorable prices the packers can refuse to handle the independent operator's produce. Large-scale operations may become important in Dinuba but are not now, nor have they been a dominant factor in the community since the development of irrigation.

COMPARATIVE NOTES

The geographic bases of Arvin and Dinuba are quite similar. Both are surrounded by flat lands with good to moderately good soils capable of growing fruits and vegetables with good yields and quality, when supplied with adequate irrigation water (table 3). Arvin, however, has more good soil within the area, and is much less hemmed in by rival communities. Neither town has any great advantage with respect to climate. Arvin's is slightly favorable in that it can produce for an earlier market while Dinuba has a climate peculiarly advantageous to raisin production. Neither has any great advantage with respect to location. Dinuba is somewhat more central to the traffic within the State, and is slightly better supplied with railroad facilities; but Arvin is better located with respect to urban and eastern markets. Potential and actual oil deposits give an economic advantage to