

## CHAPTER IV

### THE PEOPLE OF ARVIN AND DINUBA

The population of the Arvin community is 6,200; of the Dinuba community, 7,400. The people in each community are directly or indirectly dependent upon agriculture for their livelihood.

In this chapter an effort will be made to show who these people are, their background, their education, their social and economic conditions. Not only does this involve comparisons between the two towns but an understanding of the internal variation of each.

#### NUMBER OF PERSONS

The population of Arvin and Dinuba was determined by the questionnaires, and may be accepted as reasonably accurate. The houses in each community were numbered in sequence and questionnaires were taken at each tenth house, on the basis of which the total population was estimated. The method of estimating the population is discussed in appendix D.

The fact that small farms support more population than large farms is in itself significant. There are 3.01 persons supported for each \$1,000 of agricultural production in Dinuba as against 2.45 persons in Arvin. Both communities require a seasonal labor supply and conversely furnish inadequate employment to resident labor, both in about the same degree.

Both communities have approximately half their total population within the congested area and half living in the open country (table 16). In Dinuba the congested area was defined by the city limits. In Arvin an arbitrary line of demarcation was established so as to include all more or less contiguous congested areas. (See figure 12, following p. 52).

TABLE 16.—Population of Arvin and Dinuba, 1944

|                             | Arvin  |         | Dinuba |         |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
|                             | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Town residents.....         | 3,139  | 50.3    | 3,750  | 50.6    |
| Open country residents..... | 3,097  | 49.7    | 3,654  | 49.4    |
| Total population.....       | 6,236  | 100.0   | 7,404  | 100.0   |

Source: Schedule data.

Both communities are predominantly of the white race. The schedules show 85 percent of the family heads are native-born whites in Arvin, 6 percent are Mexicans, 3 percent Negroes, and 2 percent European-born. In Dinuba, 81 percent were native-born white, 7 percent Mexican, and the remainder were persons from different