

were lost, and the community came to the verge of bankruptcy. Prevalent local opinion does not blame this on corruption within the community, but rather on a combination of overoptimism and sharp sales practices during the inflation period after the last war.

A process of refinancing has been carried on during the past 7 years. The result is that the town is virtually debt-free. The largest block of bondholders agreed to accept 60 cents on the dollar for outstanding debts, which are now fully paid. Other bonds are still outstanding, but the city is trying to buy them up as fast as possible. The city took over property for taxes, and has sold most of it, so that it has money to buy bonds, but the holders are now unwilling to part with them, as there is a good rate of interest on these investments.

The two parks are exceptionally well kept. One is near the center of town, the other larger one at the outskirts. It has playground and picnic facilities. The schools furnish additional playgrounds and playing fields. The city has planted trees in a third park, but will not plant shrubs and lawn until the trees are sufficiently mature.

A chamber of commerce sponsored dinner on postwar planning, which took place the first evening of field study in the community, demonstrated the type of civic cooperation, the quality of leadership, the nature of local friction and rivalry, and the spirit of loyalty among community leaders. It was held at one of the churches; the ladies' aid prepared and served the dinner as a means of increasing their funds. The dinner was sponsored by two business organizations cooperatively, and about 150 persons participated in the event. More than a dozen civic leaders spoke on topics ranging from industrial activities and city finances to the development of a youth center and the planting of victory gardens. The ultimate purpose was to develop interest in postwar planning for the community. The dinner followed close upon the heated city elections, and the traces of ill-feeling remained, though officially denied.

This privately sponsored meeting was not attended by representatives of farm laborers or other laboring groups. Since it was an open meeting, they could have participated if they were sufficiently motivated, though with the same psychological and social barriers that would keep them out of such a meeting in Arvin. The absence of laborers is not felt so keenly since they form a smaller portion of the population than in Arvin. However, the principle remains.

SCHOOLS

The first school in the Dinuba area started in 1879 with 13 pupils, the second in 1884 with 20. In 1889 an elementary school was opened in Dinuba proper with an average daily attendance of 43. In 1944, the Dinuba Elementary School, housed in four separate units scattered through town, has an average daily attendance of 605, but at one time had as many as 940. In the rural area there are four schools, and a portion of another from which the children come to the Dinuba High School. These rural schools have an average daily attendance of 350, but at one time had 450. The highest combined average daily attendance was in 1922-23, when the figure was 1,251. The boundaries of these school districts fit very closely the boundary of the community as delineated.