

these factors goes beyond the simple change in percentage in some of these effects. These differences, whatever their origin, are certainly causes contributory to the relative social conditions in the two towns.

In Arvin 8 out of 10 families depend upon wages for their livelihood. In Dinuba 5 out of 10 are wage earners. These workers, especially those who are agricultural workers, have little economic or social investment in the community. Furthermore, they do not supply the leadership for social activities, which almost without exception comes from farmers and white-collar workers. The fact, therefore, that in one community there are approximately 1,000 families which make up the category from which such leadership normally arises, while in the other only about 250 families are in that position, is extremely important. It influences other demographic factors as well as the development of social institutions. This differential is, in turn, very largely a direct result of farm size—a simple arithmetical certainty. For the number of farmers that can be supported by a given resource base is a direct function of the amount of resources each one controls. The influence of size of farm on size of the merchant and other white-collar categories is less direct, but there is good reason to believe that such influence exists, as will be developed below.

HISTORIC FACTORS

There are two pertinent facts about the history of the two communities which have an influence upon the character of their social institutions. These are: (a) The relative age of the two towns, and (b) the different epochs or periods in which they came into being. Each deserves careful analysis.

It is difficult to say what point in time represents the beginning of a community. In Dinuba the year 1888 is generally accepted. It was in this year that the Alta Irrigation District was formed, that the post office was created, and the town officially inaugurated. Irrigation development had been coming in under a private corporation for 6 years. The following year a school was established at Dinuba, though schools had existed in the area nearly 10 years previously. A comparable date in Arvin is also hard to establish. Schools existed within the area in 1902, but none was created in Arvin proper till 1914. The earliest continuous settlement in this area based upon irrigation took place in 1910. The date should, therefore, be set between 1910 and 1914. Nineteen hundred thirteen, the year prior to the establishment of the Arvin school, is most comparable to that of 1888 for Dinuba and places the two towns just 25 years apart in point of origin.

The rate of growth in the two towns was nearly identical, though somewhat faster in Arvin than Dinuba, and the absolute figures are nearly the same. The Arvin figures are somewhat inflated, since one school was included which gets half or more of its pupils from outside the area of the community as delineated, while school lines and community lines in Dinuba are in close agreement. This accounts for the fact that the 1942 Arvin school attendance figure appears to be greater than Dinuba's on this graph (fig. 20), while schedule data showed Dinuba's population to be about 20 percent greater in 1944. This inflation is probably about 20 percent, but the effect of this on the rate and timing of the growth of these towns is not significant.