

Third, the importance of causal differences varies greatly. Two levels of importance are indicated on the chart. Those with significance which seems beyond question have been indicated with a solid line. Those which appear likely, but for which no specific evidence exists, and those where the presumed causative force or the observed phenomenon showed very small differences, have been indicated with a broken line. These differences are admittedly evaluative, and rest upon the content of preceding discussions. At the same time not all possible causal nexuses have been shown.

Finally, the causative analysis of why farms are large in Arvin and reasons for the belated development there were not subjected to specific analysis. Such analysis as was made shows that the character of the Arvin water supply was an important cause for both. It also indicated that other causative forces were partially responsible for each. Since the analysis of such forces was not made, they were simply lumped together as "other causative factors."

CONCLUSIONS

What, then, is the effect of scale of farm operations upon the character of the rural community? This is the question toward which this study of two California communities has been directed.

In the course of the analysis it has been shown that the two towns, selected for their divergence in scale of farm operations, were similar in most fundamental economic and geographic factors, particularly richness of potential resources, agricultural production, relationship to other communities, and the more general techniques and institutional patterns of production. At the same time they were found to differ in certain other, presumably fundamental characteristics, especially the kind of commodities to which the land was devoted, the age of communities, and the era of major growth. A number of less important differentials were also found to exist, of which origin of the population and tenancy rates were the most significant.

In the realm of social conditions, the two towns showed great divergence. In a series of measures of community character one community was found to meet the standards normally accepted for community life in America far better than the other. The differences were considerable in degree and consistent in direction, so that a causal explanation is immediately invoked.

The fact that the community surrounded by large-scale farm operations offered the poorer social environment according to every test made, could not suffice to show that scale of operations was, in fact, the crucial causative force. The relative importance of this fact and other known differences between the two towns had to be evaluated. As a result of such analysis a detailed hypothesis of the causative forces creating social differences was developed.

Large-scale farm operation is immediately seen to take an important part in the creation of the conditions found in Arvin. Its direct causative effect is to create a community made up of a few persons of high economic position and a mass of individuals whose economic status and whose security and stability are low, and who are economically dependent directly on the few. In the framework of American culture, more particularly that of industrialized farming, this creates immediately a situation where community participation and