REPORT OF THE SURVEY OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

I. TYPE, SIZE, AND POPULATION

The City of Fresno lies in about the middle of the great agricultural San Joaquin Valley. This valley forms the concavity of a great saucer, in the middle of the south half of the State of California, whose edges are mountain ranges. Fresno is 230 miles northwest of Los Angeles, 185 miles southeast of San Francisco, about 166 miles from the Pacific Ocean at Santa Cruz, and approximately 100 miles from the highest points of the Sierra Nevada Mountains on the east. This location will be seen to be strategic from the point of view of trade.

It is a city with a present population estimated at 54,000, and it is provided with adequate educational and other cultural facilities. Its city school system is comprised of 13 kindergartens, 19 elementary schools, one four-year vocational school, one senior high school, two junior and senior high schools, two junior high schools, two night schools, one continuation school, and one parental school. This school system is comprised of 503 teachers and a total enrollment of 19,595 pupils. Fresno State College is located here, with an enrollment of close to 2500 students, conferring Bachelor of Arts degrees. One particularly unique feature of the State College is that the summer session is held in the High Sierra Mountains in the eastern part of Fresno County.

Fresno County has a free library with 61 branches, the main library and several branches being located in the City of Fresno. In the city are almost 100 churches, representing 12 well-known denominations and several miscellaneous sects. The city contains one principal and four smaller public parks, the largest of which, Roeding Park, consists of 157 acres. Three national parks in the Sierra Nevadas are within three or four hours' drive from the city.

The city has numerous private clubs and civic organizations and is kept in close touch with current news throughout the world by a prominent daily newspaper, one or two minor weekly newspapers, and a broadcasting station.