Native whites comprised 76% of the population in 1930, foreign-born whites — principally Italian — 14%, Negroes 1%, and others 5% (Japanese 4%, Mexicans 4% and Chinese, Indians and Filipinos 1%). In addition to the foreign-born whites, native whites of foreign parentage — again principally Italian — numbered 21,279 or 23% of the 1930 population, so that native whites of native-white parentage represented only 53% of the population. This high ratio of foreign-born and colored races accounts for the high degree of illiteracy in Sacramento — 4.1% as against the state urban average of 3.2%.

LABOR AND UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

The bitter and violent labor strife which characterizes most other Pacific Coast cities is absent in Sacramento, principally because of the absence of large scale manufacturing industry in the city. Despite the fact that labor is well organized, there have been no major disturbances. This high degree of organization extends into the building crafts which average about 90% union affiliation. Dissatisfaction among older craftsmen with the type of workmen now being admitted to craft membership has led to the withdrawal of many of the more skilled workers who are now operating as independent contractors. This development has retarded somewhat the upward trend of building costs.

The relief problem in Sacramento County (the city has 66% of the county population) has been negligible in comparison to that in other cities of the state and in the country as a whole. The monthly average of 3,501 cases — including WPA — in 1936 constituted the peak load, and represented but one case to every 10 county families — far better than average. Although the average number of cases increased slightly during the first 7 months of 1938 over the same period of 1937, the 2,506 cases in this period equals only 1 case per 14 county families.

TAXATION AND BONDED DEBT

The total tax rate in Sacramento for the tax year 1937 was $46.30 per $1000 of assessed valuation. This was made up of a city rate of $16.10 and a county rate of $30.20. There is a wide differential in assessment basis as between city and county, and between classes of property within the city itself. The city's assessment basis is 70% of fair value on the land and 60% on the improvements, and the county's is 50%. The effective tax rate is estimated at about $20 per $1000 of fair value.

Changes in the tax laws of the state during recent years have resulted in some easing of the tax load in city and county in two ways. First, property of public utility companies, previously only taxed by the state, was returned to the county taxrolls in 1935, thereby widening the local tax base; and second, that portion of school costs formerly borne by the counties and financed through ad valorem taxes, has been shifted to the state. Both of these changes have been enabled by state income and sales taxes.

The county assessment reached an all-time peak in 1937 but much of the increase over the 1933 low was due to the inclusion of utility property. However, the levy for 1937, although 5% above 1936, was 19% under the 1931 peak. Collections have been consistently good since the depression year 1933 and accumulated county delinquency at the close of 1937 (last half of 1937 taxes were not due until January 30, 1938) is believed to be even lower than the 10% city accumulated delinquency.