INTERVIEW WITH MR. ALEXANDER NOBEL, Secretary
PROVIDENT MUTUAL LOAN ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, California

"We are confining our lending to the Bay Region, but a large majority of our loans are in San Francisco. The average loans which we are currently making are from $2300 to $2500, and we are finding no trouble in placing our funds. In making loans both age of property and the district in which it is located are taken into consideration, and our terms are regulated accordingly.

"We make partial use of independent appraisers, but most of this work is done for us by John Reid, our Vice-President, who is a retired architect. Our loans will run approximately 75% purchase money, 10% refinancing, and 15% construction.

"We were never in serious difficulty during the depression period, although our investment accounts went down from $324,000 in 1929 to $142,000 in 1937. We took advantage of the State Emergency Moratorium Law but never refused some kind of a payment to those seeking to make withdrawals, and are now making payment on demand.

"We ceased lending entirely for about two years, liquidating our loans as rapidly as possible without acquiring any great amount of real estate. The comparatively small amount of real estate which we acquired has been listed with brokers at market prices, and about half of it has now been sold. This has entailed a considerable loss to the association.

"We feel very friendly toward the Federal Home Loan Bank, which has been of material help to us in solving our difficulties. We have an application pending for the insurance of our accounts and are considering Federalization."