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2 of 5

Merced

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## MERCED COUNTY SYNOPSIS

(Interviewing, Merced, California - January 23, 1945.  
Katharine Luomala, Community Analysis Section.)

All respondents except one claimed that 99% to 100% of Merced County is unsympathetic to the rescinding of the ban and the return of any Japanese. The exceptional respondent, Mr. C. H. Kinsley, County Agricultural Commissioner and Post Commander of Veterans of Foreign War, who did not speak in percentages, said feeling was spotty. He knew of people who would welcome Japanese back and discounted loud opposition talk as not having much behind it because most people are fairly stable and decent. Violence would come probably from a few who talk tough after drinking and get a party together to "visit" evacuees and terrorize them. Kinsley was more concerned about psychological terrorizing and hazing of evacuees than about their physical danger.

Because he believes Merced County Japanese to be of a higher type and to have had their properties managed better than in most counties, Kinsley expects the return to be easier. Several Japanese around Livingston in township 5, where 81 of the 107 Japanese operated farms were located, have G. A. Momberg as agent-manager. County agricultural officials claim he has made more money than the evacuees could have if operating the farms themselves and has surpassed their production records. On January 12, 1945, some of these Japanese signed contracts for Momberg to continue to operate until next November.

Of the 107 farms operated by Japanese in Merced County, 60% were fully or partly owned. My study of U. S. Census records of 1940 shows this to be the highest percentage of Japanese ownership in any California County having 100 or more Japanese-operated farms. Mr. Kinsley's records made at evacuation show several of the farmers to have lived as long as two and three decades around Livingston.

Because almost no Merced County Japanese worked for other than their own race, Mr. Burchell of the AAA and War Board does not expect them to apply for jobs available in the county. He has a negative attitude like other county officials interviewed (except Mr. Kinsley) though he said evacuees were free to apply for the jobs.

Opposition to the Japanese, Kinsley said, is based on economic competition and Pearl Harbor-Pacific losses. Because his officer son states that his Army friends fear that if it can happen to the Japanese in America "it will be us next," Kinsley discounts claims that soldiers oppose the lifting of the ban.



Other respondents brought out in interesting form the common arguments against Japanese, and unlike respondents in most other areas "yarned" about the historical background for Japanese prejudice in the Valley. One or two showed a perverse pride in keeping up the tradition. Clarkson, who is in Kinsley's office said humorously he doesn't like Japanese because his father did not, just as he voted like his father for a long time. He feels "the same way for the same reason about Japanese as about rattlesnakes." The County Farm agent, Mr. Allison, like the County representative of the Soil Conservation Service, feels it is too early for the Japanese to return and they should wait till after the war. However, since the government approves of Japanese returning, they say people will have to make the best of it.

The owner of the Merced Dairy and Ice Co. said with a heavy foreign accent that the Japanese took their trade outside the county to other Japanese, did not patronize local businessmen, "beat" their bills, and sent their money to Japan. Businessmen like himself, he said, have to trade with evacuees because of the "Fair Practices Law" but they would not lay themselves out.

The County Farm Bureau approved the State Bureau's Anti-Japanese resolution. The office secretary thinks it terrible that Japanese are coming back while we are still at war with them (sic).

At the time of interviewing, no violence had occurred in Merced County, except some time ago when rocks were thrown through the windows of a home where a Nisei war widow was visiting on military permit. A day or two after interviewing, the hazing Mr. Kinsley had feared started. Shots were fired near the ranch home of returned evacuees in Livingston. A day or so later, Mr. Geo. Rundquist went, I believe, to Merced from Fresno to organize a civic committee to aid returning evacuees. Further information in Merced should be obtained from him for he probably had a less one-sided sample than I.

Most of the county agricultural officials probably could, without too much effort, be brought to take a more responsible attitude and not parrot the popular anti-Japanese sentiments. Although other respondents give me a friendly reception, the County War Board representative seemed rather negative.



Merced

UNFRIENDLY

1. Mr. Allison, Co-Farm Advisor, interviewed.
2. Owner, name not obtained, of Merced Dairy & Ice Co., interviewed.
3. Mr. Clarkson, Asst. Co. Agr. Commissioner's Office; interviewed.
4. Soil Conservation Service representative, name not obtained; interviewed.
5. Mr. Birchell, Co. War Board & AAA Office; interviewed.
6. Mrs. Fulton, Secretary, Farm Bureau Office; interviewed.
7. Mr. Casad, State delegate of Farm Bureau and employee of P.G. & E. Co.

FRIENDLY

1. Mr. C. H. Kinsley, Co. Agricultural Commissioner, Veteran Foreign Wars.

OTHERS WHOSE ATTITUDE WAS NOT ASCERTAINED, BUT PROBABLY "FRIENDLY" :

1. G. A. Momberg, Agent-Manager of Japanese properties, Merced residence.
2. Cy Stringer, Prod. Credit Manager, probably lives at Livingston.
3. C. G. Adams, editor, Livingston paper. Recommended as source of information on upper county area.
4. Hugh Griswold, Merced attorney employed on Japanese properties with Momberg.
5. Rev. L. Hawley, Methodist minister.
6. C. J. Carpenter and E. J. Callister, Livingston H.S.; bought Japanese properties at evacuation.
7. Frank Arnold, Merced real estate man, involved in Japanese property matters.



- 1 -

#### RESPONDENTS

Interviews in Merced, Merced County, California, on January 23, 1945, have not been written up separately but are incorporated in this article.

Principal respondent was Mr. C. H. Kinsley, County Agricultural Commissioner, and local Port Commander of the Veterans of foreign Wars, who also gave me copies of information gathered in March, 1942, on acreage, operated by Japanese with breakdowns for crops and type of labor employed. He also telephoned Hugh Griswold, Merced attorney who handles Japanese farm contracts and has been in contact with Attorney Horne at Amache, and tried to get on the telephone E. G. Adams, editor of the Livingston paper who is well-informed from long residence on county history. Mr. Adams was out of the office. Mr. Kinsley who has been seriously sick for more than two weeks came down to his office to talk to me. He also let me look over the stack of individual forms on which he had based his summary of Japanese agriculture in the county in March, 1942. There is a mine of valuable information in them.

Respondents briefly interviewed were:

Mr. Allison, County Farm Adviser.  
Owner, name not obtained, of Merced Dairy and Ice Co.  
Mrs. Fulton, secretary in the Farm Bureau Office.  
Mr. Clarkson, ass't. in the County Agr. Com. Office.  
Representative of Soil Conserv. Service, name not obtained.  
Mr. Birchell. County Agr. War Board and AAA Office.

Both Mr. Casad, state delegate of the Farm Bureau and an employee of the Pacific Gas and Electric Co., and Mr. Shirley, Farm Security Administration Supervisor, were in Fresno when I called.

Three people recommended by Mr. Kinsley as good sources of information, are G. A. Stringer, Production Credit Manager, and E. G. Adams, editor. All are in Livingston. Hugh Griswold, Merced attorney, would also be a source of information, but it would be well to get from Atty. Horne at Amache the data he has secured from Mr. Griswold in order not to duplicate effort.

As I had less than a day in Merced, these contacts were not followed up and information was not abstracted from Mr. Kinsley's numerous forms on Japanese Farms. I did not have the time either to go over back issues of the Merced Sun-Star, a daily, or other county news-papers.



- 2 -

1. U. S. Census, 1940 shows:

- a. 715 persons of Japanese ancestry in Merced County.  
234 alien, 481 citizens.  
133 family heads of which 112 were aliens, 21 citizens.
- b. Persons of Japanese ancestry lived in townships 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8.  
Twp. 5 had 78% (560) of all Japanese.  
Twp. 8 had 16% (114) " " "  
These two townships had 94% of the county Japanese
- c. These 5 townships had 107 farms operated by Japanese  
60% were fully or partly owned, the highest percentage of owner-  
in any California County having 100 or more Japanese-operated  
farms.  
Placer Co.---52 %  
Fresno Co.---49%  
Sacto. Co.--49%  
Tulare Co.---39%

California counties besides the four listed above which have 100 or more Japanese-operated farms are Alameda, Imperial, L. A., Monterey, Orange, S. Diego, S. Joaquin, S. Clara, and S. Cruz. Percentages were not computed for them as a glance showed them to be below the above counties in percentage of farms fully or partly owned by Japanese.

It will be interesting to watch whether similar or different patterns of community reaction to the returning Japanese develop in counties which have a high percentage of Japanese-owned farms.

Of the 107 Merced County farms, 67 were fully owned, 7 were partly owned, 8 were under Japanese managers, 35 had Japanese tenants.

- d. Of the 107 farms, 81 were in township 5, which, as far as I could determine, includes Livingston, Delhi, Cressey, Cortez, and Ballicol. This should be checked. 23 farms were in township 8; 2 were in township ~~7~~ 2; 1 was in township 4. Township 7, the only other with Japanese, had no farms, and had but one Japanese Family.
- e. Of 192 Japanese employed over 14 yrs. of age, 175 were in agriculture (106 as farmers and managers, 39 as wage farm-hands, 28 as family, unpaid farm hands; 2?); 5 were in professional or related services; 2 were truckers; 6 in wholesale trade; 1 in retail trade; 2 were domestics; 1 of unknown occupation.



- 3 -

2. WRA Evacuee Property Division gives the following data, which does not include, as in some other counties, a breakdown of types and numbers of properties and transfers:

124 farm properties of 6,999 acres with an assessed value (roughly about 40% of actual value) of \$455,720.

4 non-farm properties with an assessed value of \$23,615. I do not know what these properties were but will try to check with the Property Division on my return to S. F.

Total of all types of properties was 128. Total assessed value of all types of properties was \$479,335.

3. Data summarized from Mr. Kinsley's analysis of reports on individual Japanese farms in March, 1942. His complete report will be filed in the Washington Community Analysis Office. Mr. K's data include acreage overlapping into Stanislaus Co. Several Merced Co. farmers gave Turlock, Stanislaus Co., as their post office address. Approximately 2600 acres in Mr. K's report lie in other counties. A small amount of double cropping is not thought to change substantially the acreage for particular crops, for Merced County does not have much double cropping.

Total acreage in Merced Co. operated by persons of Japanese ancestry in 1942 was 10,673.73 acres.

Aliens operated 419 acres

Cits.	"	4930	"	
"	"	822	"	in farm companies managed by aliens.
"	"	4502	"	in farm companies managed by citizens.
		<u>10,673</u>	"	

Type of labor on Japanese operated farms.

419 alien-operated acres.

228 acres with alien relative help.

97 " " Japanese citizen help (no alien rel. help)

74 " " both J. citizen & alien rel. help.

0 " " without relative help.

20 " help not designated.

4930 citizen-operated acres.

1795 acres with alien relative help.

604 " " J. citizen help, no alien rel. help.

366 " without relative help.

1898 " with J. citizen and alien relative help.

267 " help not designated.



- 4 -

Type of labor employed by citizen farm companies not designated in Kinsley's report, but a glance at the form filled out by the State Farming Company, one of the major citizen companies, showed Japanese, Scandinavian, Mexican, and other names in the list of employes.

Almost no Merced County persons of Japanese ancestry worked for other than people of their own race. Furthermore, dependance was mainly on relatives for agriculture labor. There seems to have been almost no importation of Japanese help by Japanese in this county. What there was appears to have been mainly by the large Japanese farm companies who did not limit their employees to persons of Japanese origin.

Mr. Burchell of the County War Board and AAA in remarking on the tightly knit and stable employment system of the Japanese added that while there were opportunities in the county now for general laborers, milkers, and dairy workers, he did not expect any returning Japanese to be interested in such work, not only because they had never done such work in the past in the county but because of their usually having worked only for Japanese relatives. In view of Mr. Burchell's negative attitude toward the return of the Japanese, anyone interested in the jobs open probably would have a slow time being placed.

Type of crop on Japanese operated farms.

Delhi is known for its peach orchards; Livingston for grapes; peaches, raisins, sweet potatoes, and for being the main trading and shipping center between Turlock and Merced. In general the farming between Turlock and Merced is quite diversified. The acreage distribution of crops raised by persons of Japanese ancestry shows that grapes (3,257 acres), rice (958 acres), cotton (877 acres), peaches (589 acres), wheat (582 acres), almonds (351 acres), apricots (209 acres), and tomatoes (258 acres) lead. However, this falsifies the picture of the average farm. Glancing at the acreages listed on the form filed by the State Farming Company shows that all or nearly all of the grains--rice, ~~wheat, and barley~~, wheat, and barley, and cotton produced by Japanese were raised by them. Most other crops than those for which I have given the acreages above had less than 100 acres each. ~~Altogether~~ Altogether Mr. K. has 45 items on his list in addition to the 2,225 acres occupied by buildings, canals, dry yards, open land, etc. The average size of a Japanese farm was not ascertained, but it probably consisted of a few acres, except, of course, in the case of the large companies.



- 5 -

### MERCED COUNTY SENTIMENT TOWARD THE RETURN

All respondents, except Mr. Kinsley, are unsympathetic to the rescinding of the exclusion ban and claim that 99 to 100% of the county feels the same way. Each county has its favorite percentage and slanting of cliches about Japanese. About that any county percentage means is that a majority of people who say anything about Japanese express adverse sentiments. It's the fashionable side to be on. These ~~whom~~ who would like to differ have learned to keep quiet if they do not want to be unpopular; the turn in the tide which will enable friendly people to speak up has not yet come. The only socially acceptable way now for timid souls to speak for the Japanese is to invoke the Constitutional rights and add that they don't like the Japanese as a group either though they knew some good ones. Of course, many <sup>are</sup> sincere in this sentiment, but those who are friendly but timid use it as a shield between the present popular opinion and their conscience.

When Mr. Allison, County Agent, said 100% opposed the return I asked, "what about the ministers?" He laughed and scaled it down to ~~99~~ 99 66/100 or "what ever the soap add says."

Mr. Kinsley did not speak in percentages. He said the feeling was spotty. He knew people who would welcome back Japanese. He has a particular friend, unnamed, he'd like to see back, but another who caused him and his inspectors constant trouble by running green grapes can stay forever.

He discounted the loud anti-Japanese talk as not having much behind it because most people are fairly stable and decent. But, he added, there are always a few who talk tough in a crowd after a few drinks and get a bunch to terrorize Japanese. This was the case, he thought in Auburn.

As the Merced Sun-Star had a first page report (UP) on the attempts to dynamite Sumio Doi's packing shed near Newcastle and Auburn, most Merced respondents referred to this as what might be expected wherever Japanese come back.

The only act of violence in Merced Co. reported thus far occurred a few months ago in Livingston, heart of the Japanese settlement in the county. A rock was thrown through the window of a house occupied by a Nisei soldier's widow who returned on military permit. That some evacuee farmers have returned to the county in the last month is not generally known. Mr. K. himself had not heard of their return until Mr. Griswold told him so. Mr. G. reported with amusement that the other day a man told him on the street what he would do when Japanese return; all the while a Japanese man stood unnoticed but in plain sight nearby, apparently waiting to speak to Mr. G. Few people distinguish an Oriental as Japanese unless they know him personally.



Locality Summary  
Merced County, Jan. 24, 1945

K. Luomala  
Community Analysis Sec.

- 6 -

At the beginning of the interview, Mr. K. who has a soldier's tin helmet hanging in his office, told me a story to show that physical violence is not the only danger to returning evacuees. The effort to cause mental torment, presumably as a legal way of frightening off evacuees rather than by violence, is now being used around Orosi where returned Japanese were visited by some 30 business men and farmers who gave them "counsel". Mr. K's story is then apropos.

In the last war, a number of Californians, including Mr. K, were picked out at Camp Lewis, Washington, for special overseas duty as cooks and the like. Sailing with them from Hoboken on the old General Grant was a Japanese soldier on whom the Caucasians turned. Merely by hazing and without laying a finger on him, they terrified him so that he was sea sick the whole trip. Long before the boat had reached its destination, he had collapsed into severe psychoneurosis. Mr. K. who probably had been aloof from the hazing, was ordered to care for the Japanese soldier.

#### PECULIARITIES OF MERCED COUNTY SITUATION

Mr. K. stated that 2 factors differentiate the Merced County situation from that elsewhere. Both factors will ease the return for Merced County Japanese, he believes.

1. Merced County Japanese are of a higher type than in most counties.
2. Superior management of Japanese-owned properties since evacuation will cause less friction in repossession.

The second point will be discussed first.

At evacuation, a number of Japanese owners placed their property under control of an agent-manager, G. E. Momberg, who for some 20 years had been the Fresno branch Bank of America's specialist in California farm land holdings and the administration of farm properties. As a result, fewer Merced County Japanese perhaps made hasty, unsatisfactory oral arrangements for forced sales. Mr. Kinsley played, I believe, a prominent role in advising evacuees about their property. He said, "We told them they could get a cheap man but the result would be just what they paid for. Mr. Momberg is a high priced man. "



Mr. Momberg was always spoken of with the highest respect. His qualifications for operating a number of ranches were always mentioned. I even got the feeling that it was regarded as something approaching an honor to the county to have him in their midst. He is said to be one of the rare persons, luckily for evacuees everyone felt, who has had experience in administration of a number of ranches. While many people might be qualified to run one or two places, few know how to manage several efficiently, respondents declared.

According to Mr. K. some of the farmers who left their property in Mr. Momberg's hands have made more money from him than if they had been running the ranches themselves. Mr. Allison, county agent, said that Mr. Momberg had not only maintained war production goals set for the farms, but had far surpassed them. However, he told this to prove that Japanese are not as good farmers as the public believes.

How many ranches are included in this arrangement was not ascertained. Mr. Griswold corresponded with Attorney Horne of Amache on contracts, repossession, etc. I did not inquire too closely at the time because people usually resent handing out information more than once to the same government agency. It would be advisable for the Community Analyst at Amache to talk to Mr. Horne and Merced County evacuees to get the picture from that end. Contracts were signed on Jan. 12, 1945. Although some farmers are already back, others will wait until the next season to return, so that it will be another year before they come back.

Return then, will be eased, respondents claim, for some Merced County farmers through the management of Mr. Momberg which has made them less financially disabled than farmers elsewhere. Furthermore, with the Agent-manager to act as psychological middle-man in turning back the farms to Japanese, respondents claim, there will be less resentment from present operators at relinquishing farms at a time when they are making money. The farms will be in pretty good condition, it is said.

Some of the people who individually leased or bought from evacuees include C. J. Carpenter and E. J. Callister, both of the Livingston High School. Frank Arnold, real estate man on Charles Avenue was said in the County War Board Office to have some connection with Japanese properties.



- 8 -

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Mr. K's first point that Merced County Japanese were of a higher type than in other counties. Before coming to Merced he had the same type of job for four and a half years in Los Angeles County and knew many Japanese around the market. he regards Merced County Japanese as superior to those he met in L. A. The Merced people, I gathered, are extremely stable; in the agricultural forms Mr. K. had I noted occasional Japanese who had spent 36 out of 47 years of their American residence in the same Merced County locality. There were younger men who also had spent most of their life in the same locality. Therewas, I would guess, relatively little moving about within the county since the percentage of fully or partly owned land is so high among the Japanese in this county. When I observed the forms from men who had spent 30-35 years in the region, I thought that there must have developed some close friendly bond with Caucasian neighbors. I asked Mr. K., "what do the neighbors of these old timers say about their coming back?" "You can imagine," Mr. K. said smiling.

Mr. K. said, however, that his office was relieved when the Japanese were evacuated because of the troubles the office had faced in enforcing regulations about standards. The one who would run green grapes through was a particular source of trouble. Whenever he hear an inspector was around, he would close up his packing shed and when the inspector had gone, open up and start in with the green grapes. The inspector then got detailed instruction to catch him at odd hours with the blessings of the office. At the L. A. Market, Mr. K. said, some Gardena Japanese would always put the big strawberries on top and the little ones underneath. Some Italians did the same.

More than half of the Livingston High School was Japanese before evacuation. Mr. K. thought most of the Japanese were Christians.

#### REASONS FOR OPPOSITION TO JAPANESE

Two major reasons for disliking Japanese, Mr. K. said were (1) economic and (2) Pearl Harbor and Pacific losses.

1. Economic. People resent minorities, especially those like the Japanese, who are physically different from Caucasians in appearance. The newcomers work long hours, save much, and spend little in order to get ahead. The older population resent this and do not want to compete. When the Armenians started to come into Fresno about 20 years ago, there was much hostility toward them for the same reason, Mr. K. said. (A Letter to the Fresno Bee on Jan. 27 indicating that informal zoning keeps Armenians out of certain Fresno residential districts shows that the prejudice is still strong) Anti-Japanese has always been strong. Mr. K. told of working as a deckhand out of Stockton and passing Shima Ranch 1, Shima 2, Shima 3, and so on. That was long before other interests succeeded in breaking Shim's potato and onion monopoly. About this time, Mr. K. said, the Sat. Eve. Post ran a lurid serial



- 9 -

serial about the region, telling about the beautiful young orphan girl who was nearly done out of her land "and other things ~~by~~" by a scheming Japanese who lurked around the ranch until in the finale he met the due of all novelistic villians.

2. Pearl Harbor. The attack on Pearl Harbor and losses of boys in the Pacific are important in feelings against Japanese.

Mr. K. said that while people talk about what the soldiers will think of letting the Japanese back, his son, who was commissioned while in Australia and has been in the Pacific more than two years, says that if it (evacuation and deprivation of Constitution rights) can happen to Japanese in America, it will be us next. The son says that his friends feel the same way.

Incidentally, Mr. K. said he had army times told the young people to give up the designation Japanese-Americans. He hates the term and thinks Americans of Japanese ancestry is preferable. When I mentioned the growing use of the terms Nisei and Issei which lack the emotional connotation and racial identification of the other phrases, he nodded approvingly.

Mr. K. was more aware than most respondents of the complex make-up of the Tule Lake population. He remarked that some were disloyal while others <sup>were</sup> merely unstable personalities.

#### OPPOSITION RESPONDANTS

Mr. Clarkson, bluff, plain, and good natured, brought out a fundamental reason for dislike of the Japanese. He said he did not like Japanese, he never did like them, not since the first he ever saw. He didn't know why he didn't like them except that his father didn't like them either and he probably learned to dislike Japanese from him. He said, in his half-joking, half-serious way, that it was the same way with voting. He voted Democrat all his life because his father did, but the last couple of time he voted Republican since his father was dead. He felt the same way about Japs as about rattlesnakes and for the same reason. He saw his first Japanese 50 years ago. The fellow sat on the store steps trying to peel and eat a cantaloupe. He could remember when the first Japanese came into the Exter-Lindsay area where he grew up. The two big orchardists hired Japanese to displace white workers. People got so mad they hitched up their wagons and drove the Japanese out. That's the reason why there never have been many down round Exter-Lindsay, Mr. C. said.

The Soil Conservation representative said his wife's bridge club with members from Livingston, Delhi, Cressey, Cortez, and Ballico (where Japanese concentrated) met the other evening and unanimously opposed the return of the Japanese. They feel Japanese are two-faced, tricky, untrustworthy, and war time is not when they should return, if ever.



Locality Summary  
Merced County, Jan. 24, 1945

K. Luomala  
Community Analysis Sec.

- 10 -

The County Farm Advisor doubts Japanese loyalty, says they ruin the land, and are not good farmers anyway. Besides he does not like them. Production under Momberg's management shows that Japanese are not as good producers as they are cracked up to be. Furthermore, they think they know all there is to know about farming, and will not listen to advice on farming. He thinks they should not come back until after the war because of hatred aroused by the Pacific war. However, since the government is sending them back even <sup>now</sup> the time is not ripe, people will have to make the best of it. The Farm Advisor, like all other respondents in Merced, regardless of their opinion, were extremely affable and polite. None took the opportunity to vent whatever feelings they might have against WRA or the Administration on the interviewer.

The owner of the Merced Dairy and Ice Co. spoke with very heavy foreign accent against the Japanese for sending their money back to Japan, buying cheaply through their cooperatives, and not trading within the community. He brought out an impt. economic reason for local hostility which one of the county farm officials also cited. The county Japanese had their own big co-ops, bought everything through them, and traded very little with Caucasian Merchants. Since their departure, a little village store in the Japanese region has enormously increased its business because Negroes and other newcomers had patronized it. Japanese, it is believed, traded cheaply among themselves to ruin local merchants and to save money to send to the old country.

The dairy owner added that Japanese were always beating their bills. He had a hard time collecting. Before evacuation, he just stopped trading with any of them because of bill-collecting troubles. When I asked if he would trade with them when they return, he said he would have no choice but to do so under the Fair Trade Act. However he and other merchants in the Merchants ~~Ass'n~~ Ass'n. did not intend to solicit Japanese business and would not put themselves out in any way. The dairy owner also fears sabotage and says the loyal cannot be distinguished from the disloyal.

The secy. of the Farm Bureau said that the Bureau last Sat. went on record as favoring the anti-Japanese resolution of the state delegates. She thinks it terrible that the Japanese are coming back now when we are still at war with them. (sic). She obviously draws no distinction between Japanese in this county and those in Japan.

One of the Farm Bureau members did not know of any Japanese who had belonged to the Bureau and doubted if any had. However, the records in Mr. K's office showed that some did belong. An FSA representative later told me that anybody who paid the \$8-10 dues could belong, but that Japanese probably took no part in the social activities of the Bureau.



Locality Summary  
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K. Luomala  
Community Analysis Sec.

- 11 -

Fresno Bee (1/27/45) states that the Merced Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars has completed a large memorial tablet to the county's dead, prisoners of war, and men missing in action. 77 names appear on the 7/10 tablet. No Japanese names appear on the list. I do not know the reason. As Mr. Kinsley is on the committee, he might be the one to be asked why. The article came out after I had left.