

F3.671

67/14
C

PART II: STUDY OF GARDENA

For any comprehensive study of Gardena, we must deal with the small towns of Gardena Valley. The mention of a valley might mislead one into thinking that mountainous terrain lies close by, but on the contrary the entire Los Angeles County of which this is a part is a broad, level expanse near sea level. With Gardena City as a center, a circle of seven miles' radius would enclose the "valley" communities of Norita, Torrance, Compton, Dominguez Hills, Hawthorne, etc. The Japanese in this area were engaged primarily in truck-farming, in floriculture of cut and potted flowers, in nursery work, and a handful were employed in gold-fish hatcheries.

Urban Japanese in Gardena: Economic Life:

The Japanese comprised 30 to 40% of the total Gardena populace of 15,000. The city itself was exceedingly small; in fact, the main business district covered only three blocks. Here the Japanese merchants catered exclusively to a Japanese clientele. For the farmers located far from Los Angeles, the city proved to be a more convenient shopping center since practically all their needs could be supplied locally. This saved a long trip to Los Angeles, or to "Little Tokyo" as its Japanese business district was called.

Japanese seed and fertilizer companies served the needs of almost all the farmers. A few purchased on a cash-and-carry basis, but the majority kept accounts. These accounts accumulated sometimes to staggering amounts, and it should be remembered that now and then some of the farmers were actually unable to settle their debts because of poor crop, low prices, lack of a good market, etc. The farmers complained of high prices for seed and fertilizer set by Japanese merchants, but it was not neces-

erily a simple case of profiteering. The business men were forced to operate on a high marginal profit basis because of huge unpaid loans, which meant less capital turnover. Businessmen of limited means were therefore compelled to set high prices in order to make both ends meet. In order to be able to collect on past loans, the merchant frequently had to advance a new loan. The merchant was angry with the farmer, the farmer in turn angry at him for high prices, and thus a vicious circle was created. Conditions became so bad that prior to the outbreak of the war, it had become a general business policy to give loans only for a single season. It is interesting to note that the Japanese had the highest credit standing of any group. Perhaps fear of court suit kept their credit in good repute. At any rate, the Japanese merchants tell a slightly different story; they claim that their fellow Japanese were difficult to do business with, because even if they had cash reserves they asked for credit. (A description of a typical Japanese type of credit union is given below.)

The stores, carrying all types of Japanese food, maintained an out-of-city delivery service. Again the credit system prevailed. Fish markets, along with tofu companies, had regular delivery routes to reach their more remote customers. The Japanese were also engaged in the following businesses: some department stores, furniture companies, fruit and vegetable stands, restaurants, garages, barber-shops, etc. The professional workers were doctors, dentists, photographers, masseurs, Japanese language instructors, preachers, and insurance agents.

Aside from the use of radio and press advertisements, two entrepreneurs capitalized upon novel forms of publicity. One department store

opened up a sewing class, and needless to say, the store sold all the required material. A tailor initiated a sales' promotion program whereby suits could be purchased on an unusual installment-lottery plan. Let us assume that a typical plan called for twelve subscribers each paying \$5 per month. Every month a lottery would decide the winner. That winner need pay only \$5 for his suit, because he would be eliminated from the plan and need ~~not~~ not pay further installment^s. Thus the winner of the first month would get his suit for \$5, the second month's winner for \$6, and the last one would pay \$36. This plan was successful, and it was excellent publicity, also, for the tailor.

Rural Japanese in Gardena: Economic Life:

The majority of Japanese in rural Gardena were truck-farmers. Their perennial lament was the high water bill. This item along with the hauler's fee, took much of the profit out of farming. During the summer months an average irrigation bill would soar as high as \$100 to \$200. Some of the more well-to-do farmers solved the problem by pumping their own water with electric pumps.

Only a handful of the farmers owned land, and most leased their lands through a third party. During the so-called "Issei Era" from 1900-1930, a class of Nisei leasing-agents emerged. One unscrupulous agent is remembered as making an enormous profit at the expense of the older farmers' ignorance. Such agents also contracted with water companies to work as company agents, so that irrigation water for the farmers came that much higher. They might, for example, install pumps, buy the water rights and then resell to the Issei farmers. When this condition was brought to light, the farmers were infuriated that the agents

betrayed the confidence placed in them. The agent became the general target of bitter censure. In fact, the farmers were unable to forget this exploitation and even to this day certain agents remain on the so-called "social black-list". In recent times, this parasitic channel was eliminated when the Issei began to lease for themselves, and later when the Nisei took over farm management, thus solving the difficulties of legal transaction.

Floriculture in Gardena and in Gardena Valley was highly developed. Some of the farmers gradually branched off from vegetable-gardens to the more lucrative raising of flowers. Then the more prosperous florists entered into specialized hot-house floriculture which demanded a larger outlay of capital. To be sure, flower raising was not so strenuous as agriculture, but it required tedious and painstaking hand labor. Asters, stocks, gladiolas, dahlias, zinnias, and the other hardy types of flowers were planted out in the field. But sweetpeas, carnations and chrysanthemums had to be planted in-doors, or protected by a muslin covering in the fields. Carnations and chrysanthemums required special attention for in order to get premium stock only the terminal bud could be left on the stem. The flowers were sold at the Los Angeles Flower Market which was operated much like the Wholesale Produce Markets. Several Japanese companies operated huge hot-house floriculture plants. One glass hot-house 20 x 100ft. would cost about \$2,000. The steam-heating apparatus alone would run into thousands of dollars. Gardenias, perennial bushes, and certain other plants are relatively hardy, but Easter Lilies required exacting and tender care and hot-house conditions. The bulbs were imported from Japan and planted in small pots (4 to 5 months

before Easter). As the rootage enlarged, they were transplanted into larger pots, and this process was continued two or three times. During the cold spell, the lilies were steam heated. They had to be marketable on Easter, no sooner or later, or the grower would suffer loss. Those ^{which} ~~that~~ bloomed after Easter could only be sold as cut flowers at a low price, and hence this culture tended to be a very speculative one. Several weeks before Easter the plants were nurtured night and day. Most of the stock was disposed of at the Flower Market although the florists contracted with the growers directly.

A number of Japanese nurserymen besides raising shrub and bush plants, operated flower shops in which they sold cut and potted flowers, flower seeds and bulbs, all types of garden equipment, goldfish and other marine animals and curios. Several Japanese owned goldfish hatcheries, and supplied the florists, marine curio shops, etc. This business was lucrative, although the nursery functioned on a longer time basis than the subsidiary businesses. With little initial capital, tin cans were procured and by cuts, slips, and grafts after a year's period the plants could be marketed profitably on an enormous percentile basis.

As for farm employment, a large number of Mexicans and Filipinos were used as hired help. As a general rule, it was said that Filipinos proved more industrious and reliable than Mexicans. Some farmers complained that after pay-day some of the Mexicans would go out on drinking sprees as long as the money lasted and would not report soon thereafter for work. More skillful workers were retained permanently and they commuted to work or lived adjacent to the farm. The farmers were reluctant to employ Japanese labor because they demanded high ^{or} wages than the

others, and grumbled incessantly over the quality of food served them. Good food and sake made housing of Japanese workmen rather more expensive. Psychologically, also, it was far easier to manage and direct Mexicans or Filipinos than to order about fellow-Japanese. There was a kind of hiring hall for Japanese labor in Los Angeles, and a farmer in dire need of help could always find laborers there as a last resort. But it was a general practice to hire labor through other channels such as neighbors, the recommendation of business acquaintances, etc..

Mutual Aid Societies:

As a carry-over of Japanese customs, the farmers enjoyed the benefits of a tanomoshi-ko, a form of mutual savings-loan plan. Under the sponsorship of several reputable men of the community, a tanomoshi-ko would be formed. To illustrate the function, let us consider a hypothetical case which called for 18 members depositing \$50 per month for a period of 18 months. Members were not limited as to the number of shares they were allowed to hold, but usually two shares would be considered the accepted maximum. In the event of an obligation failure by any member, the other members were protected by the sponsors. The sponsors made good these failures for they in turn assumed full responsibility for protecting the members. These failures were infrequent occurrences since each applicant was carefully investigated as to his moral and financial stability before he was allowed into this mutual aid type of enterprise. Each month, \$900 was available for loan to any member, and the loan fell to the highest bidder. Bids, or the amount \approx the bidder was willing to pay to the other 17 members as interest for their loans of \$50, were written on paper and placed in a sealed bid-box. At a general assembly,

on a fixed day each month, the box was opened to determine the highest bid entered for that month. Let us assume that three bids were offered in the first month; \$5, \$4.50, and \$4.00. The high bid of \$5 won, of course, and the 17 other members received \$5 interest on their \$50 deposit or loan. The following table shows the rough, progressive outline of the entire plan.

TAKEMOSHI-KO (MUTUAL SAVINGS-LOAN COOPERATIVE)

Membership, or number of shares 13 members
 Monthly deposits, or share value ... \$50 per share
 Number of deposits, or maturity date 13, or 18 months
 Total savings, or available loan ... \$900.00

Number of months	winning bid	AT TIME OF LOAN		AT END OF YEAR		
		Loan to bidder	Int. pd. by bidder	Total int. ea. member	Int. pd. by bidder	Loan to bidder
First	\$5.00	\$315.00	\$35.00	\$40.75	\$38.25	\$361.75
Second	4.75	319.25	30.75	47.00	35.75	353.25
Third	4.50	323.50	26.50	47.25	29.25	370.75
Fourth	4.25	327.75	22.25	47.50	24.75	375.25
Fifth	4.00	331.00	18.00	47.75	20.25	379.75
Sixth	3.75	335.25	13.75	48.00	15.75	384.25
Seventh	3.50	340.50	9.50	48.25	11.25	388.75
Eighth	3.25	344.75	5.25	48.50	6.75	393.25
Ninth	3.00	349.00	1.00	48.75	2.25	397.75
Tenth	2.75	353.25	46.75	49.00	2.25 plus	302.50
Eleventh	2.50	357.50	42.50	49.25	6.75 "	303.75
Twelfth	2.25	361.75	38.25	49.50	11.25 "	311.25
Thirteenth	2.00	366.00	34.00	49.75	15.25 "	315.25
Fourteenth	1.75	370.25	29.75	50.00	20.25 "	320.25
Fifteenth	1.50	374.50	25.50	50.25	24.75 "	324.75
Sixteenth	1.25	378.75	21.25	50.50	29.25 "	329.25
Seventeenth	1.00	383.00	17.00	50.75	33.75 "	333.75
Eighteenth	-	900.00	-	51.00	51.00 "	351.00

The table shows the theoretical progress calculated mathematically, and in practice the Tanomoshi-ko works along similar lines. We can draw a number of enlightening conclusions from the facts contained in the table.

1. One shareholder is allowed only one loan, although he may make any number of bids.
2. The early bidders usually paid higher rates of interest, and the rate decreased progressively.
3. However, urgent economic needs might encourage high bidding at any time.
4. The first bidder paid 10.4% interest, but at the end of the plan he received interest from other members, thus reducing his original loan interest down to 4.25%.
5. The last bidder need not make any bid but usually makes a nominal courtesy bid.
6. The last bidder receives 5.7% interest on \$900.
7. Businessmen prefer to pay 4-5% interest than to receive 4-5% interest on \$900, for a wise investment of \$900 would accrue higher profit than the meager savings interest rate.

There are several operational principles worthy of note:

1. Cases of sponsors' failure to make good the individual obligation failure are rare. In that case they would receive the rebuke of the community and have difficulty in trying to form another Tanomoshi-ko.
2. Deposits can be made by proxy, but by doing so the interest is sometimes defaulted and goes into the general fund. (This fund is used to purchase cashimi and sake, and other delicacies for the Association's banquet.)
3. The general assembly is thus also of a social nature, for the Association's banquets are occasions where they eat and drink lavishly.
4. Although the bidding is done in secrecy, occasionally the bidders get together and decide not to out-bid each other.
5. In point #2 above, it depends on mutual agreement whether interest is defaulted through failure to attend the general assembly.

We may summarize this discussion by stating that the Tanomoshi-ko played an important role in the economic life of the Japanese in this suburban and rural area of Southern California. The benefits accruing to each member of this cooperative venture were obvious. Ready money for farm or business investment, and for emergency need was made available

without outside borrowing. The individual Japanese businessman thus relied on his own community in time of need.

Evacuation and Its Results:

This group was evacuated a few weeks after the Long Beach-San Pedro harbour area. The people therefore had the advantage of time and the experience of their neighbors to stand them in good stead; consequently they made better disposal of property and possessions. This liquidation of assets followed a pattern similar to all other areas; some sold outright, some leased their property, some entrusted their furniture and household furnishings to close friends, and some left their business to friends on a commission basis. Although most of the evacuees sustained considerable losses in real and personal property sales, cases of extreme personal sacrifice of goods and holdings were fewer than on Terminal Island or in the harbour area removal.

Caucasian-Japanese relationships in Gardena were generally friendly and this may possibly be accounted for by two more or less plausible reasons. First, since the Japanese constituted 30-40% of the city population, the Caucasian merchants sought their patronage. Second, in the economic sphere, the interests of the two groups did not conflict, but rather were inter-dependent on one another. Thus we see that Gardena was a rather unusual case of completely harmonious relationships between two culturally different societies.

In the event of return to Gardena and its surrounding communities, the majority of the Japanese-Americans will be without capital or equipment with which to establish themselves. A few nurserymen could probably be absorbed into the city economy quite readily, but the farmers will

face greater difficulty. Mexicans and Filipinos have replaced the Japanese in agriculture, and return of the evacuees will probably raise competition in that field to a high pitch. The resettlers would be in an unadvantageous position for economic struggle. It should be remembered that the Issei resettlers are aged and that they are without their former vigor or stamina for any fresh start as entrepreneurs. The average Nisei, with his dislike for back-breaking labor, would not, in all likelihood, enter into agriculture. Therefore, the Nisei will have to cope with occupational limitation work as: domestics, factory work, restaurant work, fruit-stand clerkships and the like. Competition will be keen, and public sentiment such as to put any Nisei at a decided handicap. Nisei contemplating business enterprise must compete with those already established, fight adverse public feeling, win public approval and secure a clientele. The factors opposing the resettlement of Japanese in their old communities in California are legion. Evacuation from Gardena created problems, in addition to community shifts in attitude toward Japanese which did not exist before for this group.

English and Japanese Schools:

Gardena High School's student body of 800 was 30% Nisei. The student relationships were amicable and the Nisei rose to prominence in scholarship, in athletics and in student government. In sports, the Nisei starred on the "light-weight" teams. Nisei were elected to key student government positions. As a whole, the two groups mingled harmoniously, a good enough barometer of a healthy Caucasian-Nisei relationship in Gardena. The Japanese Student Club invited other Japanese clubs

even from other localities to their social functions, and received reciprocal invitations from them. This set of associations emphasized and strengthened the social tie between students, schools, and sections.

The figures released by the Los Angeles
Educational facilities for the Nisei were excellent in Los Angeles County.
City Board of Education in 1939 read as follows;

Schools in Los Angeles County	782
Estimated Nisei in Attendance	11,300
Junior Colleges	450
High Schools	4,200
Junior High Schools	3,800
Elementary Schools	2,750

In this public school system there were three schools which fell into a specialized class;

Frank Wiggins Trade School
Metropolitan Adult School
Washington School (Post Graduate)

In Southern California about 1000 Nisei and Kibei had enrolled in institutions of higher learning. There were about seven junior colleges, seventeen colleges or universities, and twenty-five specialized colleges for business training in Los Angeles County alone.

The Gardena Japanese Language Schools offered two types of classes, Saturday sessions and weekday sessions. Nisei especially ardent in mastering the language attended the weekday classes from 4-6 PM. Compton Japanese School in Gardena Valley had allegedly the highest scholastic standing of any such school in the nation. Inter-school athletic activities consisted of baseball, basketball, and track meets. Either Kendo or Judo were taught invariably once or twice a week, under the sponsorship of the Youth Clubs at the various schools. Judo and Kendo tournaments were frequently held, and here official ranks were determined and promotions conferred. As a general rule, however, Joe Nisei preferred

American sports to the Japanese sports, though Judo was the most popular Japanese sport. Among academic pursuits, inter-school contests of oratory, essay and poetry-writing, etc., were definitely encouraged. In 1939, 40-odd language schools of Southern California met at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, under the auspices of the Southern California Japanese Language Schools' Board of Education, and held a mammoth track-meet and baseball tourney.

There was a marked difference in ~~the~~^{as} behavior pattern between the Issei and the Nisei. The older Issei tried to rear their children according to strict Japanese precepts. A small child was acquiescent and easy to manage, but as he grew up his environmental influences began to clash with parental authority. The American schools, friends, and life shaped the Nisei's thoughts, ideals, and actions to a tremendous extent. To illustrate the overpowering influence of the American over the Japanese environment, let us consider social dancing. The Issei expended every effort to prevent dancing for it was contrary to Japanese ways and they considered it a moral evil. At first the Nisei obeyed, but eventually they began dancing behind their parents' backs. Then the bolder ones began to dance in defiance to parental wishes, only to receive rebuke and criticism. They could not be weaned away from this social habit until finally some of the Issei realizing the futility of any further admonitions, shrugged their shoulders in despair. Thus in pre-evacuation times, possibly 7 out of every 10 Nisei danced. Astonishingly enough, a few Japanese language schools permitted their student clubs to hold dancing parties in the school buildings. Such practices were un-

heard of a decade before, or even five years before. This gradual process of Americanization was inevitable and the majority of the Issei finally realized it, although much to their chagrin.

Socio-Economic Organizations in Gardena;

The Issei had the following economic organizations: the Gardena Japanese Association, the Gardena Japanese Business Men's Association, Dai Nippon Bokai Branch ^{an} (Agricultural Society), Kamai Koenkai Branch (Supporters of the Koshu Mainichi Newspaper).

Of great social significance to the Japanese of the entire valley was the Yamato-za or Yamato Hall (Yamato synonymous to Japan; za, defined as "seat", hence auditorium or hall). Weekly Japanese movies were held in this huge hall with a seating capacity 2,000. Most of these movies were benefit shows for various clubs and organizations. Any artists' tour (from Japan) stopped first at Los Angeles and then went on to Gardena. A diversified program was presented including: Japanese plays, concerts, dances, etc. This hall was also used for semi-political gatherings; it was truly a community hall.

The survey by Rafe Shimpo (Rafe means "Los Angeles", shimpo means "newspaper") disclosed that there were 386 active Nisei organizations in Southern California in 1959. Many of these were in the valley.

Southland Nisei Clubs	386
Schools	53
High school Japanese clubs	26
Alumni Associations	11
University College Groups	11
Junior College Clubs	4
Nihongo Gakuen Clubs (Lang. Sch.)	7
Religious Organizations	189
Christian Clubs	84
Buddhist Clubs	82
Shinto Young People	1
Tenrikyo	1

Junior Kenjin Societies (Prefectural)	14
Independent Sports-Social	36
Japanese-American Citizens League	12
Semi-Business-Professional	8
Scout Troops	32
Boy Scouts	23
Girl Scouts	9
Miscellaneous	10

The following tables show Japanese population figures for southern California:

JAPANESE POPULATION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

	<u>1910</u>	<u>1935</u>	<u>1938</u>
Los Angeles County	5,450	32,714	34,306
Orange County	822	1,831	1,204
San Diego County	503	1,209	838
Imperial Valley County	140	1,801	2,247
Riverside County	848	835	383
San Bernardino County	330	356	203
Ventura County	266	648	644
Santa Barbara County	304	2,832	3,285
San Luis Obispo County	136	917	940
Southern California	8,508	42,575	43,109

1910: Japanese Association estimate

1935: Japanese Citizens League estimate

1938: Rafu Shimpo estimate

JAPANESE POPULATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

PERCENTAGE OF NISEI:

	<u>Total Japanese</u>	<u>Nisei</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1910 Japanese Assoc.	5,450	262	5%
1911 Japanese Assoc.	17,597	1,897	11%
1935 Japanese Citizens League	32,714	15,819	47%

JAPANESE IN AMERICA: 1930 CENSUS

Total	138,834	
Male	81,771	(59%)
Female	57,063	(41%)
Issei	70,993	(51%)
Nisei	67,841	(49%)

Religious Organisation: Buddhist and Baptist Faiths,

Buddhist and Tenrikyo churches in Gardena served the spiritual needs of the Japanese in Gardena Valley. The usual program included the following: prayer meeting, Sunday school, Issai service and Bussei (Young Buddhist) meeting. In addition, the churches functioned as educational institutions for the Nisei; the local priests taught them the Japanese language. Bussei, or young Buddhists, were organized both for religious enlightenment and for social advancement. Frequent conventions were held by the 82 Bussei groups in Southern California, of which the Los Angeles County were prominent. Sessions in religion study, discussions of current problems and banqueting and dancing completed the 2-3 day conference. It is odd that dancing was tolerated at the religious assemblages, and this fact according to the elders only substantiated the social nature of Nisei activities in the religious realm. Bussei activities, in content, were not markedly different from YMCA or YWCA.

Japanese people were ultra-superstitious in the rural areas and if any unexplainable misfortune befell them, they would ask their priests for sutra-readings, or prayers, which they believed would remove the "evil spell". The remnants of belief in such things the fox curse of Japan, could be found in the countryside though rarely. If a fox is annoyed, he is believed to become vexatious, and can cast a spell. If a small child tormented a cat to death, for example, it was said that the child would go insane. Superstitions held that the child was vexed or upset by the cat's evil curse. Sutra-readings by the priests or diviners could allegedly remove such spells.

A number of Issai and Nisei professed to the Baptist Faith. Issai

and Nisei preachers led their respective congregations under the guidance of a Caucasian missionary. The Young Baptists had their group meetings weekly, and exchanged preachers with other Baptist groups; in addition, they imported special speakers, conducted prayer meetings, and held occasional conventions, also.

The Past and Current Pattern of Nisei Attitudes:

The following clubs were available for the Nisei in Gardena City: Young Baptists, Young Buddhists, Se-Cho Seinen Kai (Yamaguchi-ken), High School Japanese Club, Junior League (girl), JACL Chapter, Gardena Japanese Alumni Association, and the various Youth clubs of the three language schools.

A total membership of 5000 active Nisei citizens are listed in the 46 separate chapters comprising the National Japanese-American Citizens League which was considered the greatest single Nisei organization in America. There were 12 chapters in the Southern California area alone, four of these ~~==~~ in Los Angeles County. Gardena Chapter was one of the last to be formed, and this can probably be attributed to the fact that the rural sections were slower in progress, ~~==~~ the eligible leaders going to the city and leaving their respective communities. Gardena chapter was organized in 1939, and within a few years the membership totaled 300. Membership was divided into active members (21 or over) and associate members (18-20). All had a voice in the organization. A nominal fee was charged yearly, and the chapters were also assessed yearly by the National Treasury on a proportional basis.

The motivating purpose of this quasi-political group was : to

exercise their full citizenship rights, aver to the American public that they were socially conscious, and thus establish themselves politically and socially as responsible citizens. At the time of evacuation, the League was still in the growing stage. Its leaders received much condemnation and criticism for not fighting for their citizenship rights from the very beginning when the evacuation orders were first issued. Rumors of alien-reports to the FBI by responsible leaders were in part the cause for later ~~==~~ outbreaks at Poston, Manzanar, and ~~==~~ other relocation centers. The League is still regarded as working on behalf of the Nisei by supporting the Korematsu and Endo cases. The activity of the League is believed to be a barometric indicator for measuring the progress or retrogression of the Nisei's demand for full citizenship stature. This question, to this day, looms large in the Nisei's approach to the problem of planning his future in this country.

THE GLASSFORD REPORT ON
IMPERIAL VALLEY -- 1934

In April, 1934, Brig. Gen. Pelham D. Glassford, former chief of police for the District of Columbia, went to the Imperial Valley as government conciliator in the agricultural labor troubles there. He had a national reputation as a fearless character. This was in the second year of the first Roosevelt administration.

There were, in June, some interesting items in the papers. The Los Angeles Daily News of June 14, 1934, quoted Glassford in a statement directed against Imperial Valley vigilantes as charging that he had been threatened with death, and that an apology had been demanded of him following issuance of a warrant for the arrest of one W. F. Aycock. Aycock was arrested for questioning in the matter of an attack upon Ernest Besig, Los Angeles attorney representing the American Civil Liberties Union, who was assaulted while waiting for a train at Niland.

On June 15, 1934, Glassford apologized at the meeting of the County Board of Supervisors for an expressed opinion that Judge Vaughn N. Thompson "is a crook".

On the front page of the L. A. Daily News for June 27, 1934, accompanied by a photo of Glassford (which indicated he enjoyed a good fight), was the following:

El Centro, June 26. -- Charging that a campaign of lawlessness and intimidation had been carried on by growers and county officials in the Imperial Valley, Gen. Pelham D. Glassford, for three months federal labor conciliator in the district, today presented a plan designed to remedy conditions.

Establishment of a minimum wage scale, repatriation of unemployed Mexicans, and the replacement of labor camps with small plots of ground for each worker were included in the recommendations Glassford submitted to the Imperial County Board of Supervisors. He also urged the removal of B. A. Harrigan, county agricultural commissioner.

"Growers have exploited communistic hysteria for the advancement of their own interests," Glassford charged. "They have taken advantage of trouble started by agitators to get cheap labor.

"They have succeeded in drawing certain county officials into their conspiracy and these officials have become willing tools of the growers.

"Harrigan has not made fair use of his office and authority, but has helped growers stifle labor."

Replying to Glassford's charges, Harrigan asserted

Glassford

- 3 -

his record in office was an "open book" and that he was willing to stand investigation of his official acts.

"Glassford's disappointment at not being able to control Imperial Valley has caused him to crack the whip at others," Harrigan retorted.

Glassford suggested a grand jury investigation into several acts of violence occurring recently in the valley. He referred specifically to the asserted kidnapping of A. L. Wirin, American Civil Liberties Union attorney, and an alleged attack on Grover Cleveland Johnson, another C. L. U. attorney.

The above item on June 26 was the last of importance in the Daily News, with the exception of an editorial in that paper on July 2, 1934, as follows:

"THE RED BOGEY IN CALIFORNIA"

Gen. Glassford's report that most of the "communist activities" in the Imperial Valley advanced by certain camers, agriculturists and others so as to beat down the price of labor, is a confirmation of reports recently made by many unprejudiced observers.

Everybody with any understanding of conditions and the opportunity to observe the types that gather in fruit and market-gardening sections of California knows that these people are not Communists; that they have no more connection with the leaders of the Red Internationale

than they have with the Sultan of Sulu.

Far from being organized conspirators, these rural workers are often helpless victims of lack of organization. In the populous centers the workers have the protection of collective bargaining through their unions or by sheer force of popular sentiment.

In the country their nomadic lives make it impossible to get the kind of organization they should have in dealing with unscrupulous employers.

At best they are wretchedly paid for their arduous toil in field or orchard, often, as in the case in the Imperial Valley, under the blistering heat of a semi-tropical sun. When they dare to ask for a decent remuneration for their toil, they are branded as reds. Imagine it! Reds who gather far from the city centers to overthrow the government of the United States!

Some of the high-handed methods employed by those who have been exploiting these unfortunates deserve the attention of the state and federal authorities.

Kidnaping is a capital offense under the California statutes, yet not long ago, a mob of these gallant gentlemen who trot out the Communist bogey in the Imperial Valley kidnapped an attorney who had dared to assert that the workers had some rights.

The Glassford report opens up the whole question of red-baiting in California's agricultural areas. The day has passed when workers in the lettuce and melon fields

Glassford

- 5 -

or fruit orchards, who get in a huddle to ask for a chance to add 15 or 20 cents to their day's income, can be branded as Communists or bullied into submission. -- R.R.K.

The publicity after that died down, as apparently Glassford left the Imperial.
