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REPORT

ON

Fresno's Immigration Problem

With Particular Reference to Educational
Facilities and Requirements

18-47173

BY

State Commission of Immigration and Housing
of California

MARCH, 1918



CALIFORNIA STATE PRINTING OFFICE
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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

To His Excellency, WILLIAM D. STEPHENS,
Governor of California.

SIR: We have the honor to submit herewith a report on the immigration problem in Fresno. This is one of a series of publications that the commission is issuing in order to impress upon the people of the state the immensity and importance of the problems presented by our unasimilated, foreign born population. It is hoped that publication of such facts and recommendations as are contained herein will arouse other communities to consider their immigration problems and to immediately undertake the task of thoroughly "Americanizing" all their resident population.

Certainly there is no more pressing or necessary war time work than this of establishing American ideals and unity of purpose among the people of many races who, in a steady stream, throughout the past century, have migrated to this western continent and joined in the building up of our great and democratic nation.

The survey upon which this report is based was conducted by Miss Ethel Richardson, director of the Commission's bureau of education. The list of Fresno officials, private clubs and organizations, as well as individual citizens, who aided in this work is so long that the commission can do no more than generally acknowledge and express its appreciation of this generous cooperation on the part of the community.

Respectfully yours,

COMMISSION OF IMMIGRATION AND HOUSING
OF CALIFORNIA.

TOTAL REGISTRATION IN CALIFORNIA, MILITARY DRAFT,
JUNE 5, 1917, 298,989.

TOTAL ALIEN REGISTRATION IN CALIFORNIA, MILITARY
DRAFT, JUNE 5, 1917, 64,960.

PERCENTAGE OF ALIEN REGISTRATION, 21.7 PER CENT.

INTRODUCTION.

The Bureau of Education of the State Commission of Immigration and Housing was created that there might be a special department, the business of which is to stimulate communities to use all their local machinery for the rapid assimilation and education of their foreign born. It is not the intention of the Commission to form new and expensive organizations for carrying out its programs of Americanization, but rather to utilize such facilities as the communities offer—to show existing institutions their opportunity for wider usefulness.

With the purpose of working out such a plan as this the Commission sent the Director of the Bureau of Education to Fresno, to study its immigration problems and to submit to the Commission constructive suggestions.

REPORT.

H. G. Wells says that the most remarkable thing about the foreign born in America is that we do not know he is in our midst. This generalization does not hold so far as Fresno is concerned. That many people are ignorant of his methods of living and the problems which he creates is undoubtedly true, but numerically he is so important that he can not be overlooked. An accompanying table gives the estimated numbers of the most important groups.

A large number of these people live "across the tracks," in the so-called "foreign quarter." Fresno is therefore divided nationally as well as geographically and socially by the Southern Pacific tracks. Originally the Armenians lived "on the other side," but, becoming more prosperous, they gradually began buying homes in what is called an "American neighborhood" where they are now settled. The Northern Europeans, Danes, Swedes and Norwegians also live on this side of town. These Scandinavians are numerous, but seem to be most assimilable, and are already fairly well Americanized. However, a new Danish church which has just been dedicated proves that they are still clinging to their own language for worship. One Swedish church in Fresno has a membership of 100 and a congregation of 200. Throughout the county there are numerous towns in which more than 60 per cent of the inhabitants is Danish or Scandinavian. There are also large numbers of Portuguese in both the city and the county, some of whom maintain their national traditions and language. At least two women's clubs and two men's societies are fairly active. However, little study has been made of these people as they are not the group claiming immediate interest.

Although the Armenians are probably the most important numerically of the foreign born in Fresno, they are capable of taking care of themselves. Before the war, according to one of their newspaper men, they numbered 12,000 in Fresno County. They came to California from New York and other Eastern centers about thirty years ago, because they were desirous of devoting their energies to agriculture. A few leaders investigated various places for opportunities and finally decided on Fresno. There was a good bit of suffering and a hard struggle in the beginning, but as a colony they won out. They have been most successful in business as well as in agriculture. Every office building has large numbers of Armenian names on the doors, for the professions as well as for all sorts of business enterprises. As a consequence, the second generation is receiving greater opportunity. Years of oppression have made them aggressive and eager to seize every opportunity for advancement that the freedom of America has to offer. They take full

advantage of the public school and keep their children there as long as possible. Last year 50 per cent of the High School orchestra was Armenian, and there were a number of girls enrolled at the Normal School.

Unfortunately, the Armenians exhibit certain antisocial traits which stand in the way of their being easily assimilated. They are so aggressive that their ambition sometimes carries them into questionable business practices. Many men report difficulty in holding the Armenians to their contracts. Consequently, although they are not a serious economic problem, their methods of achieving success have so often stirred up animosity among the native born Americans, that real antagonisms have resulted.

It seems reasonable to suppose, however, that this extreme individualism is a habit acquired in an effort to survive the oppression of Turkish rule. When it is found undesirable for social welfare in this country, no doubt this objectionable trait will be lost. Already some of Fresno's highly respected citizens are Armenians.

The following information on the court record of the Armenians was furnished to the Immigration Commission by Mr. George O'Hannesian, an attorney who is interested in the social progress of his people. This record covers a period of thirty years. It shows that our civilization has nothing to fear from these people in connection with the crimes covered, which do not indicate all causes for arrest, but show the fine domestic relations of the Armenian people.

Divorces -----	11
Failure to provide -----	3
Immorality -----	2
Drunkenness -----	10
Murder:	
Deliberate -----	1
Self-defense -----	2

While there are three large churches conducting services in the native tongue, and many adults do not speak English, their Americanization is going forward rapidly. Since they are so aggressively ambitious, the door is already open for American contact. Therefore, it is important to break down any prejudice which is founded on national antagonism.

The Italians and Mexicans live in the same location. The former occupy the houses which are larger and in better repair, and the latter are scattered about in the poorer dwellings. The Mexicans are lower economically than the other groups of foreign born. They do not so generally own their homes; they live in the worst houses, and the teachers in the schools report that the children are inadequately dressed and fed.

The Italians are of an unusually high class, although they come from both the north and south of Italy, as well as from Sicily. In making investigation into the homes, the desire to learn English and have more association with Americans was often expressed. As is usual among Italians, the home life is superior to that of many native born Americans. The girls especially are protected until they leave home or get married. As a consequence, few Italian women are haled into court, although many men are registered for immorality and other crimes.

Neither the Mexicans nor Italians seem to have any particular leader or esprit de corps. Through their church, which celebrates saint and feast days, the Italians have some outlet for their love of ceremonials. Columbus Hall in the Italian quarter serves as an occasional meeting place for social events. A Baptist Mission has a settlement house which conducts the usual educational and social, as well as religious, activities of such an organization.

At a performance of Rigoletto given by the La Scala Opera Company, the balcony was practically filled with Italians, who came in shirt sleeves and sweaters. They showed great familiarity with the score and were most appreciative. No effort is made in Fresno to foster this musical appreciation.

The Japanese live behind Chinatown. They keep the rooming houses which cause most trouble to the housing inspector. The Hindus and other migratory foreign laborers stay here during the summer, and overcrowding and insanitation result. More and more women are coming to this part of Fresno, and the alleys are full of Japanese and Chinese children. There is a large Buddhist temple and a Protestant Mission in this neighborhood. In the city most of the men are merchants, in the country they are farmers or contractors.

Chinatown in Fresno is so like Chinatown everywhere that it need not be described. There are about 40 women and 150 children living in the community. It is in the old segregated district, and still offers a menace to morality, through its six shooting galleries, where women are employed. Policemen, probation officers and the school truant officer agree that the proper protection can not be given the moral standard of the city nor to the girls and boys from the various adjacent foreign neighborhoods while this evil is tolerated.

The unique and most difficult of all Fresno's immigration problems is the Russian-German. These people were invited to Russia by the Tzar, because of their agricultural ability. As inducement they were given land and capital to cultivate it. They lived in Russia for 150 years as a superior people. Their only contact with Russian life was with their servants. They never mingled socially and they retained their own churches, language and national traditions. When the

promises of the Tzar were not kept and they had exhausted the fertility of the soil, the Germans were persuaded to emigrate by American real estate agents. This emigration began about 1880. When the vanguard landed in New York they were required to state their destination in the West. They had no definite place in mind, but gave Fresno County, California, because it was the only place they could recall from the talks that a school teacher had given them concerning America. Thus, by the merest chance, a large colony came to and settled in Fresno County.

These people lived in isolation in Russia as superiors, and have lived in equal isolation in America as servants and day laborers. This isolation and the consequent inbreeding have left them static. They have not advanced in their habits of living or thinking, and are about 200 years behind the Germans who stayed in their own country at the time of the first migration. They have forgotten most of their best traditions and retained many of the worst.

They have the most puritanical ideas of religion and a purely negative, prohibitive standard. Although they have ten churches, they contribute little to the growth or development of the people. Some of their ministers would be glad to broaden out and give their people more ethics with their religion but the parishioners refuse to tolerate this. One minister reported that even a lecture on Palestine in the church would be regarded as sacrilegious.

Naturally such a church makes no appeal to the young people. One minister said that he had formed a young people's society, but had dropped it because the boys and girls wanted to have "socials" in the church, and he did not approve of that. After confirmation they soon drift away. Only a small part of the community is now in regular attendance at the church, and of the 150 or more young people confirmed last year few find their places at the services.

In spite of its inadequacy, the church is the only social institution which reaches the adults at all. This makes a real reason why it should be made to function. There is absolutely no social life of any kind for these people. The streets are very dark at night, the houses dimly lit, often with lamps, and the nearest moving picture show is in Chinatown.

One of the most serious problems of the community is created by the industrial life. Both the men and the women work in packing houses during the entire season. When the fruit is disposed of and no more work is available there, the women go into domestic service by the day. In the Kirk School the mothers of 72 per cent of the children are regularly employed. This leaves the smaller children on the street from early morning until dark. The investigator called in homes as late as 7.30 p.m. and found the mothers still absent and the children in the yard

or on the street. Babies of nine months are left in charge of five-year-olds, or a girl is surreptitiously kept home from school to take care of the children. In some cases one grandmother in the neighborhood is paid to look after all the children. This she is unable to do, as she seldom leaves her own chimney corner. One of the clergymen of the community said, "Our children get their education on the streets and in Chinatown."

Because of their industry, poverty is not a great problem among these people—only 65 Russian-German applicants for relief are shown on the yearly report of the County Relief Commission.

Their households show extreme frugality even where it is not necessary. These bare, uninviting homes, with their harsh standards, offer little inducement to the young people. Although the children receive as little schooling as possible, they become sufficiently imbued with American spirit and ideas to be thoroughly ashamed of their parents. They resent the dress, the habits and method of living of the older generation. This situation is common among all foreign born people, but it is specially noticeable among the Russian-Germans of Fresno.

The most deplorable fact about the Russian-Germans is their low moral standard. Whether caused by their harsh religious restraint and the lack of recreation, or by their isolation lasting over generations, there is great immorality among them, especially among the young people. Cases are so frequent that they often fail to get before the juvenile judge, and no effort is made on their own part or that of their American neighbors to meet this condition.

Throughout the foreign districts of Fresno there is great need for public health work of all sorts. Pink eye and impetigo were exceedingly prevalent during the fall. Due to lack of understanding of food values, and the absence of the mothers in industry, there is much malnutrition, which offers ready soil for tuberculosis.

Social Agencies. Americanization.

Any description of Fresno's social agencies that might be truthful at the time of writing will soon be inadequate, as their progressive spirit makes them move so fast toward better and more complete organization, that what is true today is only partial truth tomorrow. However, as practically every social agency in the community must be utilized if these foreign people are to receive any contact, which will work for their amalgamation into a national unit, the available agencies are listed below, and their functions briefly described:

Fresno City Health Department.

1. *Health Officer*—A part-time physician who directs department. Has all work of prevention of spread of contagious diseases. Of the 11 cases of scarlet fever in Fresno in October, 1917, only two were "across the tracks."

2. *Sanitary Inspector*—Estimates that one-half to one-third of violations exist in houses occupied by the foreign born.

3. *Housing Inspector*—Has just begun work and is making a survey of downtown rooming houses and tenements. With the exception of those in Chinatown and one Portuguese, five Japanese and two Greeks, these houses are all kept by Americans.

4. *Clinic*—Opened October, 1917, for tubercular and general work. After two months 300 tubercular cases had been discovered by tuberculosis nurse. Of cases on treatment 79 per cent are foreign born. Ninety per cent of general cases are foreign born, except emergency street accidents, etc.

Playground Commission.

A splendid system of playgrounds covers the city of Fresno.

In the winter playgrounds are open from 3.40 to 6.00 p.m.

The Cosmos playground has Russian-German children; the Fink-Smith has Italians, Mexicans and Negroes; California Field has Armenians—the easiest to manage.

Unfortunately, the Cosmos playground has no clubhouse built upon it, as its location may be changed. Consequently, there is no opportunity for this part of the city to have access to any recreation there except for yard work. The commission is conscious of the great need for recreation in this district, and anxious to meet it.

County Probation Office.

This office had 173 cases from January to October, 1917. Although no nationality statistics are available, a map was made of the cases in the city, and judging from their geographical location they are as follows:

Armenians	33
Russian-Germans	29
Japanese and Chinese.....	15
Mexicans and Italians.....	26
<hr/>	
Total foreign born	103
Americans	70
<hr/>	
Total	173

The chief probation officer, who has been in office twelve years, estimated that ninety per cent of the cases are American born, but of these

40 per cent are of foreign parentage. He traces much of this delinquency to the breach between the younger and older generation.

Fresno County Welfare Commission.

There has recently been a reorganization in this commission. All the welfare work of the county, including the hospital, orphanage and outdoor relief, has been placed under one department of the county, controlled by a commission of six, two of whom are supervisors. This will tend to coordination and better administration.

Y. M. C. A.

This organization formerly maintained headquarters among the Chinese and conducted classes in English and gymnastics. This has been discontinued.

Y. W. C. A.

When possible the foreign born girls and girls of foreign parentage are invited to become club members. No other definite foreign work is done.

A branch is maintained in the packing house district, where the women employed in the fruit may get hot lunch at a reasonable price.

Library, County and City.

The library has made no definite appeal for foreign patrons.

Branches and deposit stations are established in rural communities which serve only those who can read English.

Public Schools.

There are 46 nationalities represented in Fresno schools beside native whites and negroes. Of these the Russian-Germans are most numerous; the Armenians next.

The percentage of the foreign born who have availed themselves of the opportunity to become citizens is exceedingly small. The schools in which there are the highest percentage of foreign born have the lowest percentage naturalized.

School	Per cent of fathers foreign born	Per cent of fathers naturalized
Kirk	97	9
Edison	93	29
Lincoln	95	22
Columbia	89	34
Emerson	71	49

Fifty per cent of all the fathers in the city schools are foreign born, and only 36 per cent are naturalized. In fact, only 210 people have received their second papers in the last two years.

More significant than naturalization, is the language spoken in the home. In two schools in more than 90 per cent of the homes a foreign language is spoken. This figure goes to 99 per cent in one school district. Fifty per cent of the families in five schools do not use English, and in every school of the city there are some families still speaking their native tongue.

It is a matter that should receive the immediate attention of all native born Americans interested in our national unity when in a city of the size of Fresno, a foreign language is spoken in 41 per cent of the homes of the school children.

When one considers how many social problems arise from the broken home, it is worth contemplating the small percentage of separations in the foreign neighborhoods. In the Kirk School where 97 per cent of the fathers are foreign born only 4 per cent are separated. This is probably due to two facts, the most important being that the foreign woman is much less independent than the American and considers obedience to her husband a duty; no doubt, however, one can also interpret these figures to indicate closer home ties and more respect for domestic relationship than is common with the native born. Unfortunately, although the separations are few, so many of the foreign mothers go out to work that the homes must receive inadequate attention.

Fewer Armenian women work than women of other nationalities, as only 29 per cent are reported from the Emerson School. The Russian-Germans have the greatest number working, 72 per cent in the Kirk School and 53 per cent in the Lincoln. The Columbia School, which is largely attended by Italians and Mexicans, has 35 per cent of the mothers employed.

In none of the Fresno schools are there any of the features of the so-called neighborhood schools. There are no day nurseries, penny luncheons, special classes, and the teachers seldom visit in the homes of the children. This visiting is made particularly difficult by the fact that the mothers do not get home until after five o'clock. Nevertheless, a number of teachers are interested in the further development of the social side of the school.

The teaching of English to the children of the receiving grades in these foreign schools is unexcelled anywhere in California and offers a fine foundation for starting adult work.

Three new kindergartens have been opened this year and their value is proved by the fact that they are all overcrowded.

The Edison school is an intermediate school in the seventh and eighth grades. This is the only place where domestic science or any manual work has been taught in the foreign districts; 93.4 per cent of the fathers of children in this school are foreign born.

One night school class is maintained but has been attended by work permit children, as well as adults. This makes proper teaching impossible. Recently extra rooms have been opened and normal cadets are assisting with the instruction.

The social agencies of the school are the school nurse, the attendance officer, and the psychologist. The school nurse is a medical doctor. She has an excellent manner of approach in a home and spends most of her time in the foreign schools. She is making every effort to control the spread of contagion by going into the home and explaining the need of care to the parents. She is indefatigable in her efforts and works overtime and on Sundays to keep up with the 7,000 children under her care.

The psychologist is also interested in the homes but teaches a class of feeble-minded children and can not devote much time to other work.

Fresno is fortunate in having a superintendent of schools and a Board of Education that are interested in increasing the educational scope of the schools and making them as effectual as possible in the community. In the last analysis the largest factor in Americanization must be the school.

Americanization Committee.

At the time of this survey, the Vice State Chairman of Americanization of the Women's Committee for National and State Councils of Defense was just beginning her work in the San Joaquin Valley. She immediately assembled her forces and organized machinery for carrying out a suggested program. Due to her efforts, and the progressive spirit of the school superintendent, as well as to the extraordinary activity of all civic and social bodies, this splendid community program is now being initiated.

In order to better coordinate the activities of all organizations which are factors in Americanization, the Commission's agent called together representatives of the various social agencies and women's clubs to discuss the foreign problem, especially the problem of the Russian-Germans. This group of people formed a definite organization known as the "Americanization Committee of the Community Welfare League," with an executive committee of four of which the Chairman of Americanization from the Women's Committee is a member, to be responsible for the consideration and execution of a definite program. (See recommendations at end of this report.)

In order to divide the work and to put all parts of the program into effect as quickly as possible, the executive committee was later increased to seven members, each one of whom is responsible for one activity. The organization is as follows:

An executive committee meets each week at a stated hour and place to discuss the local program.

Each member of committee will take charge of one activity of which he will be chairman, getting the approval of the entire committee before acting.

Departments are as follows :

- 1—Finance.
- 2—Edison School.
- 3—Kirk School.
- 4—Columbia School.
- 5—Day Nursery.
- 6—Home Teacher.
- 7—Emerson School.

Each member will find an assistant, who may assume much of the responsibility of the detail of his department, the assistant, however, not to serve on the executive board.

Each department chairman and assistant and suitable committee chosen by them will draw up tentative programs for his department and present same at the meetings of the executive committee.

All recommendations of department chairmen, when ratified by the executive committee, will be reported to the Americanization Committee of the Community Welfare League as recommendations of the executive committee and voted upon.

The larger committee and its executive body, will keep in constant touch with changing conditions and be ready to offer new suggestions for bringing about the homogeneity of the community.

Its adaptability was shown by the request made by the committee that the music director in the schools repeat the splendid patriotic "community sing" which was held in the Fresno Auditorium, using the auditorium of the Edison School which is in the center of the foreign district. This suggestion and the necessary extra work was accepted with alacrity. The children were trained as leaders and their parents, of every race and nationality, invited to join in a patriotic song service.

Miscellaneous Agencies.

Besides the work of the Americanization Committee several splendid projects are afoot, which will be of great value to the community. The Child Welfare Department of the District Federation of Women's Clubs has started an experiment in feeding the children of the Columbia kindergarten. The purpose of this is twofold—the welfare of the child and the education of the mothers. The latter will be effected by sending home, each day, recipes of the luncheon. The children are receiving careful physical examination before and during the experiment, to discover the results of proper feeding. This experiment is only a part of a larger work to be carried on by Dr. Flora Smith of the Child Welfare Department of the District Federation of Women's Clubs.

The playground commission has increased its activities by keeping open at night both at Fink-Smith and California Field. In the former place an orchestra has been started among the Italian boys. The playground work has been still further developed by the employment of a social worker, who can speak German and who will spend most of her time in the Russian-German community.

One of the most significant social welfare undertakings in Fresno, is the organization of the Sunmaid Welfare League of the California Associated Raisin Company. This company has 38 packing houses and employs from 1,800 to 2,500 people in the season. In 1915, an organization of all the employees from the president to the most casual laborer was effected. Membership is voluntary and about 90 per cent of the employees have availed themselves of the opportunity. The league has committees on every subject which pertains to the welfare of the workers. These committees are chosen by the employees and the manager of the plant is the league manager.

The most important activity is the health work. A complete system of social health insurance has been established. The plan was worked out with the assistance of the State Social Insurance Commission. If an employee is ill, after five days he receives benefits of \$1.00 a day for thirteen weeks. Nurses are regularly employed both in the plants and to do visiting in the home. These women take care of slight accidents as well as give care to those who are incapacitated.

In one of the larger city plants there is a well-equipped clinic.

To meet the cost of financing this league, each employee gives one day's wage. Whatever amount is realized by this method, is doubled by the association. This donation is made on the theory that a system which secures better standards of health to its employees is profitable to the company. The work of the league is continually expanding. Next year a program of Americanization is to be inaugurated. This may include care of the children, educational classes at noon, as well as extension of benefits to the entire family.

The Association of Collegiate Alumnae is performing a great service by making a financial survey of the schools. Especial attention is to be given to the equipment and expenditures in the foreign schools. This can not fail to be productive of great good. Fresno has grown so rapidly that it has not been possible for the school to keep pace with its development. A ridiculously small amount of money is appropriated for schools and the appropriations have failed to increase in proportion to the increase in population. Even the best administration fails when its funds are so hopelessly inadequate.

However, no one who has seen the community spirit of Fresno can fail to have faith that the people there will meet this larger demand with their usual generosity and enthusiasm.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Through the courtesy of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools, the commission's agent was permitted, in addition to the general survey, to serve the four foreign schools as home teacher. This gave her a more intimate contact with the foreign home and a better understanding of the lives of the people than she could have obtained in any other way. After six weeks work and careful consultation with educators, and in cooperation with the various interested individuals and agencies in Fresno, the following recommendations were formulated by the State Commission of Immigration and Housing:

I. That a day nursery be opened at the Kirk or Lincoln school at an hour early enough to permit mothers to leave their children before going to work. The school to furnish the room, the salary of a nurse to be furnished either by the school or some woman's organization and the lunch to be self-supporting through a charge for each child.

II. That the playground commission use the Kirk school in the evening as a part of the Cosmos playground; that the library put in a deposit station; and that a woman's club be responsible for a recreational-educational program one night a week.

III. That some club or chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution assume the responsibility of planning a similar program to be given one night a week in the Edison auditorium.

IV. That a music leader start a band among the Italian boys who are over school age, at the Columbia school; that this band, when more proficient, be used for programs in its own and other neighborhoods.

V. That a home teacher be employed to work in the Kirk and Lincoln school districts, her hours afternoon and evening instead of morning and afternoon, and Monday or Friday her rest-day instead of Sunday; that the teacher live in the vicinity of the schools.

VI. That the Normal School supply cadets to help this Home Teacher in her group teaching, both for afternoon and evening, provided enough women unemployed in the afternoon can be found.

VII. That teachers who have no classes after 2 o'clock in the Columbia School, be asked to devote the hour and a half to home visiting.

VIII. That if suitable teachers can be found, a campaign be inaugurated to get the foreign born into the night schools; and that the Normal School assist by sending cadets to aid in teaching.

None of this above program can be effective in a community unless all the conditions are as favorable as they are in Fresno, but all groups of people there are eager for a right understanding of their own problems and more than willing to devote their efforts to any constructive plan in which they are asked to co-operate.

All the established social agencies as well as the clubs are particularly progressive and willing to co-operate in any constructive plan for the welfare of the community and are constantly readjusting themselves to meet new emergencies.

STATISTICS.

Estimated Numbers of Foreign Born Residents in Fresno.

	City	County
Armenians	5,000	10,000
Russian Germans	5,000	8,000
Italians	2,000	3,000
Mexicans	2,000	3,000
Germans	1,500	?
Japanese	1,000	3,000
English	1,000	?
Danish	800	5,000
Portuguese	700	-----
Chinese	700	-----
Greeks	200	-----
Hindus	*100-1,000	-----
Swedes	300	2,500
French	100	-----
Canadian	100	-----
All others	1,000	-----
Total	24,200	

*According to season.

Naturalization Papers Granted: Fresno.

	1916	1917	Total
Great Britain	26	26	52
Denmark	23	12	35
Russia	17	11	28
Sweden	10	8	18
Italy	8	10	18
Turkey	10	7	17
Germany	9	3	12
Switzerland	5	3	8
Austria-Hungary	5	3	8
Norway	4	1	5
Greece	1	2	3
France	2	-----	2
Netherlands	1	1	2
Spain	1	-----	1
Montenegro	-----	1	1
Totals	122	88	210

Children of Foreign Born Fathers in Fresno City Schools.

	Columbia	Edison	Emerson	Franklin	Hawthorne	Jackson	Jefferson	Kirk	Lincoln	Longfellow	Lowell	Washington	Wester	Total
American	76	17	165	65	399	312	499	9	40	193	520	414	433	3,142
Russian German		131						371	456					958
Armenian	10	11	304		17	7	12	1	45	86	10	3	14	520
Italian	351	35	1		4	4	4	6	10	1	7	2	6	431
German	4	14	15	4	15	9	12	4	29	11	19	16	8	169
Mexican	101	5	5		1			2	44					158
Japanese	11	18				4			93	3		1	4	184
English		1	11	13	18	7	4		2	7	16	16	10	105
Danish	2		5		4	13	11			3	16	11	20	85
Chinese	30	16							30	1				77
Portuguese	7		18		6	3	11			9	1	4	15	74
Russian	9		1		3		4	3	35		2	4	4	65
Swedish	5		5		2	6	7		4	6	6	7	10	58
Negro	41	10			1		1		2					55
French	9	2	2		2	2	11		1		3	3	5	40
Canadian			1	2	10	2	5		1	3	6	5	4	39
Irish	1	3	6			5	1			3	10	8	1	38
Spanish	14		4		1	1	1	2	3	1	3	1	2	33
Scotch			2		4	3	5			2	6	8		30
Jewish			13		4		1			1	2			21
Dutch	1	3					2		1	1	3	2	2	15
Greek	9	1	2		1		1						1	15
Assyrian			9		1					2		1	1	14
Serbian		1	1		3		3			2	1	1	2	14
Savonian		1	5						2				2	10
Austrian	1				3				4			1	1	10
Turkish			2						4			3	1	10
Swiss	1	1					2		2				1	7
Filipino					1					3	1			5
Norwegian						1	1				2	1		5
Australian	1					1		1					1	4
Cape Verde	3													3
Irish German	2		1											3
Bohemian	1							2						3
Welsh					1		1							2
Spanish Jewish													1	1
Azores Islands												1		1
Roumanian											1			1
Hungarian									1					1
Finn					1									1
Luxemburg					1									1
Polish									1					1
Albanian		1												1
Indian													1	1
American Indian		1												1
Persian			1											1
Sicilian		1												1
Russian Jewish	1													1
No report	9	5	23		23	2	4	1	14	12	7	9		109
Totals	700	278	602	84	526	382	603	402	826	349	641	522	550	6,465

Birth Conditions—Fresno City School Children.

Name of school	Total attendance	Children of native born white fathers	Children of foreign born fathers	Number not reported	Per cent foreign born fathers	Number fathers naturalized	Number not reported	Per cent fathers naturalized	Children of native born white mothers	Children of foreign born mothers	Number not reported	Per cent foreign born mothers	Number families represented	Number families in which foreign language is spoken	Number not reported	Per cent families in which foreign language is spoken
Columbia	700	76	615	9	89.0	191	68	34.9	81	604	15	88.1	667	483	0	72.4
Edison	278	17	256	5	95.4	75	0	29.2	19	255	4	93.6	270	226	0	83.4
Emerson	602	165	414	23	71.5	165	80	49.4	172	421	9	70.9	588	344	0	58.5
Franklin*	84	65	19	0	22.6	5	0	26.3	68	16	0	19.0	82	12	0	14.6
Hawthorne	526	399	104	23	20.6	51	44	85.0	429	78	19	15.3	520	56	0	10.7
Jackson	382	312	68	2	17.8	25	17	49.0	307	73	2	18.9	362	36	0	8.2
Jefferson	603	499	100	4	16.6	51	9	56.0	472	78	53	14.1	570	65	0	11.4
Kirk	402	9	392	1	97.7	35	39	9.9	11	396	1	97.2	381	381	0	99.2
Lincoln	826	40	772	14	95.0	161	39	21.9	39	775	12	95.2	804	736	0	96.7
Longfellow	349	198	144	12	42.7	57	33	52.7	173	128	48	42.1	344	92	41	30.3
Lowell	641	520	114	7	17.9	92	0	80.0	526	102	13	16.2	628	38	0	6.0
Washington	522	414	99	9	19.2	82	1	83.6	411	101	10	19.7	518	44	0	8.4
Webster	550	432	117	0	21.0	50	30	57.4	408	106	36	20.6	534	76	0	12.3
Totals	6,465	3,142	3,214	109	50.4	1,030	363	36.1	3,116	3,127	222	50.1	6,271	2,577	41	41.3

*Report from one class lacking.

Home Conditions—Fresno City School Children.

	Total attendance	Number children fathers dead or separated	Per cent	Number children mothers dead or separated	Per cent	Total number families	Families in which mother works	Number not reported	Per cent
Columbia	700	65	9.8	26	3.7	667	256	0	35.3
Edison	278	33	11.8	14	5	270	116	0	42.9
Emerson	602	69	11.2	35	5.8	588	176	0	29.9
Franklin	84	7	8.3	1	2.4	82	12	0	14.6
Hawthorne	526	74	15.2	41	7.9	520	107	0	20.5
Jackson	382	49	12.9	25	6.5	362	87	0	23.2
Jefferson	603	35	5.8	34	5.6	570	83	40	15.6
Kirk	402	19	4.7	12	2.9	384	278	0	72.4
Lincoln	826	60	7.7	39	5	804	390	81	53.9
Longfellow	349	44	12.6	46	13.1	344	77	38	21.8
Lowell	641	58	9.7	37	6.1	628	59	133	11.9
Washington	522	65	13.4	41	8.4	518	78	0	15
Webster	550	59	10.7	20	3.2	534	95	0	17.7

VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) Births: Fresno City, January 1-September 14, 1917.

Americans	354
Russian-Germans	53
Japanese	53
Italians	46
Armenians	32
British	24
Turkish (probably Armenians)	14
Mexican	12

In connection with the births, it is valuable to note the inadequacy of the birth registration.

The following list of Russian-German baptisms for 1917 shows that 250 children of that nationality were born in the year, while only 53 births were registered the first 9 months.

	Births or baptisms
Cross Congregational	95
Zion Congregational	35
Third Congregational	39
St. Paul Lutheran	39
Wartburg Lutheran	25
First German Baptist	6
Immanuel Baptist	5
Evangelical Association	7
Methodist	0
Church of God	?
Total	250

(b) *Infant Mortality: January 1–September 30, 1917.*

American	37
Japanese	21
Russian-German	18
Armenian	11
Italian	6
Chinese	5
Mexican	4
British	4
Spanish	2
French	1
Austrian	1
Dalmatian	1
Portuguese	1
German	1
Total	113
American	37 (32.75%)
Foreign born	76 (67.25%)

(c) *Deaths: 1 to 16 years of age. Fresno City, January 1 to September 30, 1917.*

American	16
Russian	13
Italian	5
Mexican	5
Armenian	3
Chinese	2
French	1
Canadian	1
Swedish	1
Total	47
American	16 (34.04%)
Foreign born	31 (65.95%)

HEALTH.

The extent to which the immigrant causes a health problem in Fresno is shown by the following reports:

(1) Cases under treatment, Tuberculosis Clinic, December 1, 1917.

Mexican	35
American	28
Russian	27
Italian	22
Portuguese	13
Armenian	4
Swedish	2
Canadian	2
French	1
Welsh	1
Irish	1
Scotch	1
No report	4
Total	141
American	28 (20.3%)
Foreign born	109 (79.6%)

(2) Deaths from Tuberculosis, from October 1, 1916 to October 1, 1917 are as follows:

American	51
Russian-German	17
Italian	12
Japanese	15
Chinese	11
British	8
German	7
Armenian	5
Mexican	3
Swedish	2
Spanish	2
Danish	1
French	1
Unknown	1
Total	136
Foreign born	85 (62.42%)

POVERTY.

The extent to which the immigrant causes a poverty problem in Fresno is shown by the following reports. Poverty and economic dependence is not the outstanding feature of the foreign born of Fresno. They are industrious as a class, and the intensive agricultural production of the past summer has provided work for all the men and women who want it.

(1) Nationality of applicants of the Fresno County Relief and Employment Commission for the year 1917. (Includes hospital cases in which nationality is unknown.)

Unknown	324
United States	325
Russian-Germans	65
Mexico	63
Armenia	39
Italy	35
Germany	21
Indians	14
Portugal	11
Denmark	7
England	7
Sweden	6
Ireland	4
Scotland	3
Canada	3
France	3
Austria	3
Norway	2
Greece	2
Spanish	1
Russia	1
Montenegro	1
Cuba	1
Syria	1
Servia	1
Poland	1
Total	965
American	346 (53.9%)
Foreign born	295 (46.1%)

(2) List prepared by the Fresno County Relief and Employment Commission for distribution of Christmas presents :

Total number of families	105
Total number of children	394
Foreign born families	52 (49.5%)
Children	217 (55%)

(3) Nationalities of parents of children at Fresno County orphanage, November 22, 1917.

American	31
Italian	6
Armenian	6
Portuguese	3
Mexican	3
German	2
French	2
German-Russian	1
German-Russian mother, Austrian father	2
Total	56
American	31 (55.3%)
Foreign born	25 (44.6%)

The following figures concerning the almshouse and county aid have been furnished by the State Board of Charities and Corrections:

Facts Concerning the Inmates of Fresno County Almshouse, November, 1917.

<i>Sex.</i>		<i>Ages.</i>	
Male -----	40	Under 50 years-----	3
Female -----	11	50 to 60 years-----	5
	51	60 to 70 years-----	14
		70 to 80 years-----	20
		Over 80 years-----	8
		Unknown -----	1
			51

<i>Nativity.</i>		<i>Occupations.</i>	
Austria -----	2	Engineer -----	1
Canada -----	1	Carpenter -----	2
China -----	1	Laborer -----	19
Denmark -----	1	Domestic -----	6
England -----	1	Cabinet maker -----	1
France -----	2	Farmer -----	3
Germany -----	3	Miner -----	2
Italy -----	1	Peanut vender -----	1
Ireland -----	2	Bookkeeper -----	1
Switzerland -----	1	Shepherd -----	1
Sweden -----	1	Teacher -----	1
Unknown -----	3	Lawyer -----	1
<i>U. S. A.—</i>		Dressmaker -----	1
Massachusetts -----	2	Cook -----	1
Iowa -----	1	Printer -----	1
Kentucky -----	3	Unknown -----	9
New York -----	6		51
California -----	2		
Nevada -----	1		
North Carolina -----	3		
Vermont -----	1		
Georgia -----	1		
Pennsylvania -----	1		
Ohio -----	2		
Missouri -----	1		
Indiana -----	4		
Louisiana -----	1		
Texas -----	2		
Arkansas -----	1		
Tennessee -----	1		
Illinois -----	1		

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Nativity of 155 Families Receiving Permanent County Aid.

Name of country	Number of families
Armenia	3
Austria	1
Canada	1
Denmark	3
England	2
France	2
Germany	10
Italy	9
Ireland	1
Mexico	8
Norway	2
Portugal	5
Russia	7
Spain	1
Sweden	2
Turkey	7
U. S. A.	75
U. S. A. (Indians)	9
Unknown	8
Total	155

INDUSTRY.

In seven important plants in Fresno city 856 women were employed in October, 1917. The wages in these industries are often exaggerated. As indicated in the statistics furnished by the State Industrial Welfare Commission less than half of the women earn as much as \$2.50 to \$3.00 a day. Half of the women do not work full time and 30 per cent less than five days a week.

Dried and Green Fruit Packing, Fresno County and City.

Plants inspected—		
Green fruit		26
Dried fruit		23
Total number employed—	Men	Women
Green	294	575
Dried	2,306	2,591

In the green fruit packing plants practically no foreigners were reported. A very few Italians, Armenians and one Pole are listed.

The following figures are given for the dried fruit plants:

Fresno City.

	Total	Total for- eign born	Per cent.	Remarks
Guggenhime	600	350	58	Russians, 200; Armenians, 135.
Griffin-Skelley Co.	350	150	43	Italians, 50; Spanish, 50; Germans, 50.
Interrieden	500	300	60	Armenians, 180; Germans, 75; Portuguese, 40.
Cal. Raisin, C. F. C. A.	280	210	75	Russians, 75 per cent.
Cal. Raisin, Nos. 5-6	500	470	94	Germans, 469.
Rosenberg, Raisin Plant	300	200	67	Russians, 175; Portuguese, 25.
Rosenberg, Fig Plant	250	200	80	Italians, 107; Armenians, 50; Chinese, 5.
Roeding	200	180	90	Italians and Armenians, 90 per cent.
Phoenix	115	12	10	Russians, 12.

Armsby shows 50 Germans, 25 Italians.

Summary: City of Fresno.

Number of plants employing foreign born—

Less than 25 per cent.....	1
25 to 50 per cent.....	1
50 to 75 per cent.....	3
75 to 100 per cent.....	4
100 per cent.....	0
Data on 6 plants incomplete.	

County of Fresno.

Del Rey, data incomplete.

Fowler, Raisin Association—all Americans.

Oleander, Raisin Association—all Americans.

Parlier, Barnwell—data incomplete.

Peach Association—1 Armenian out of 40 employees; 3 per cent.

Selma, Peach Association—1 Hawaiian out of 60 employees; 2 per cent.

Reedley, Peach Association—4 Germans, 1 French, out of 40 employees; 10 per cent.

Kingsburg, Peach Association—5 Scandinavians out of 30; 17 per cent.

It is evident that the immigration problem is confined to the city plants.

Ages of 369 women employed at Associated Raisin Plants 5 and 6, and at Rosenberg Co. The largest group is between 30 and 40 years of age.

Under 16	2
16 to 18.....	26
18 to 25.....	71
25 to 30.....	76
30 to 40.....	118
40 to 50.....	58
50 to 60.....	17
Over 60	1
Total	369

The following tables of hours worked and hourly earnings are compiled for the following plants, as indicative of the industry :

Firm	Number of women
Roeding	169
Rosenberg Raisin Plant.....	142
Associated Raisin, Nos. 5-6.....	227
Armsby No. 2.....	59
Griffin-Skelley No. 68.....	65
Armsby No. 1.....	52
Interrieden	145
Total	*856

The earnings have been reduced to an hourly rather than weekly or daily basis because (see table of hours) so many do not work 48 hours per week.

As there is no particular difference either in the regularity of hours or the amount of earnings between time and piece workers they are combined.

The total number of piece workers is.....	762
The total number of time workers is.....	94
Total	856

*Includes 49 minors, 807 adults.

In computing the hours, the division into 8, 16, 24, etc., figures out into days of employment. Week of October 27th, at peak of season.

Number of Women and Minors Working Classified Weekly Hours* in Selected Establishments in Fresno Dried Fruit Plants.

	Number	Per cent
8 hours or less.....	36	4.2
8 to 16.....	43	5.0
16 to 24.....	43	5.0
24 to 32.....	15	1.8
32 to 40.....	113	13.2
40 to 44.....	169	19.8
44 to 48.....	437	51.0
Totals	856	100.0

Average Hourly Earnings of Women and Minors, Week of October 27th, in Selected Establishments in Fresno Dried Fruit Plants.

	Number	Per cent
Less than 15 cents.....	59	6.9
15 to 20.....	44	5.0
20 to 25.....	82	9.6
25 to 30.....	206	24.1
30 to 40.....	348	40.7
40 and over.....	117	13.7
Totals	856	100.0

Forty per cent are earning from 30 cents to 40 cents per hour, which is \$2.50 to \$3.00 per day.

Forty-five per cent earn less than this. When the additional fact is considered, that only half of the women work full weeks, that is, 5½ to 6 days and 30 per cent less than five days, one is convinced that the earnings as currently reported are greatly exaggerated. The average season is five months, September 1 to January 1. The peak of the season is October and November.

This valuable information on the Industries of Fresno was furnished by the Industrial Welfare Commission.

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