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NBI  
No. 288

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC  
STATUS OF FIFTY GOVERNMENT-AIDED MEN AND FIFTY  
EMPLOYED MEN IN DENTON, TEXAS

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of the North  
Texas State Teachers College in Partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

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June, 1940

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### Statement of the Problem

The problem of this thesis is a comparative study of the educational and economic status of fifty government-aided men in Denton, Texas, and fifty employed laborers in the same city.

#### Definition of Certain Terms

The term "government-aided men" refers to men who receive direct aid from Federal relief in order to live and to support their dependents. Many are members of the CCC camp; but others receive their aid from the old-age pension fund, from W.P.A. projects, or other Federal organizations.

Laborers are interpreted as men who do not hold "white-collared" jobs; they are truck drivers, barbers, blacksmiths, janitors, and various other job-holders. Their salaries are generally very small, but they have been able to make their own living and to support their families without calling on the government for aid.

"Educational status" is used to indicate the highest grade completed in school, whether in the elementary schools, high schools, or colleges.

An "employable person" is one between the ages of 18 and 65 years who is able to work and whose health and behavior habits are of such nature that employment would not be detrimental to his health or safety, or to the health or safety of others who would be associated with him.

The Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA) came into existence May 22, 1933, to provide a means of cooperation with the states in taking care of the unemployed.<sup>1</sup>

Civil Works Administration (CWA) of 1934, is an organization which was set up to put needy, unemployed people to work as speedily as possible and to keep them at work for the winter. The CWA replaced the work-relief activity of the FERA and lasted four and one-half months.<sup>2</sup>

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) is a Federal agency which cooperates with state and local governments in carrying out needed public improvements and services, in order to provide work and wages for the needy, able-bodied unemployed.<sup>3</sup> The local governments plan and sponsor the projects.

The Public Works Administration (PWA) is not primarily a work-relief agency; its principal objective is to stimulate re-employment.

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<sup>1</sup>Harry L. Hopkins, Spending to Save, p. 97.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 106.

<sup>3</sup>Questions and Answers on the W.P.A., p. 5.

The special task of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) is to conserve the lives of men who are unable to make a living and to help conserve and develop the nation's parks, forests, and other natural resources through the enlistment of men who share their pay with their families.

The National Youth Administration (NYA) provides part-time employment for youths from sixteen to twenty-five years of age, thus enabling many of them to continue their education.<sup>4</sup>

The term "economic status" means the income of the men under consideration. It refers, primarily, to the monthly or weekly salary of the individual, but also includes any income from property owned, financial benefits received from any other source, or any contribution to the livelihood of the men and their dependents.

#### Sources of Data

The libraries of the North Texas State Teachers College and the Texas State College for Women in Denton, Texas, have been consulted for recent material dealing with relief; a number of government bulletins have been obtained through the relief office of Washington, D. C. Additional information has been secured through personal conferences with

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<sup>4</sup>Arthur E. Burns and E. A. Williams, A Survey of Relief and Security Programs, p. 49.

those formerly connected with the local charity organization and the present case worker and her assistant.

All information relative to the educational and economic status of the one hundred men under consideration has been collected by the writer through personal visitation and interviews.

#### Limitations of the Problem

This study is confined to certain men in Denton, Texas, and deals only with male whites between the ages of 21 and 65 years. The problem is not concerned with what the state should do or should not do, nor does it lead to any solution of existing conditions. It is only hoped that the findings may shed some light on whether or not the educational and economic status of these men under consideration appear to have any correlation.

#### Purpose of the Problem

The purpose of this problem is to compare the educational training and the economic status of certain men who have been able to make their own living and to support their families, with the educational training, and the economic status of certain men who have called upon the government to help them provide sustenance. From the findings of the study, the writer purposes to draw conclusions as to whether or not education has seemed to play



any part in the lives of the one hundred men who are representative of a host of United States citizens.

It is true that unemployment is not new; the fact that some people lack the necessities of life is not new. Public provisions for unemployment and for individuals in dire need have been furnished in the United States through the agency of the poor farm and by direct allowances by County Commissioners Courts for many years, but since 1929 the number of persons in dire need has so increased that the Federal Government has stepped in to carry a large part of the load for the unemployed.

What are the causes of all this poverty and unemployment? Is this economic status due to the individual's own practices? Or, is it due to factors beyond his control? Are these people lacking in skill and knowledge that might be secured through adequate education? In 1932 the Federal Government made a two per cent sampling of the educational status of all persons on relief in the United States. The educational rating of this group was found to be very low but without knowing the educational advancement of other people in the same community, it is difficult to generalize concerning the causes of economic distress.

For this reason, in this study a comparison is made between the educational and economic advancement of the people on relief and those of employed groups.

The report of the investigation made in this study is

presented in the following divisions: (1) introduction; (2) a short history of Federal relief in the United States and how it has been handled in Denton, Texas; (3) the educational and economic status of a cross section of Government-aided men in Denton, Texas; (4) the educational and economic status of certain employed groups in Denton, Texas, selected at random from different types of workers; (5) summary and conclusions.

## CHAPTER II

### HISTORY OF RELIEF

During the last few years the United States has been confronted with an unparalleled problem of unemployment. Extensive droughts, declining markets, business failures, investment losses, and decrease in purchasing power have all operated to produce a situation wherein several million people in the United States have found themselves without work and no way in which to make a living. To meet this emergency, the Federal Government has embarked upon a far-reaching program of relief and unemployment.

To the uninitiated in social problems, it may appear that this problem of relief is wholly a new one, and that the present emergency has originated it. This is not the case. Burns and Williams in A Survey of Relief and Security Problems say:

Even before 1929, unemployment of varying intensity was a characteristic of long standing in the United States, and relief needs have been expanding steadily for decades. Estimates of unemployment covering the period from 1897 to 1926 for four major industries show an average unemployment rate of 10 per cent, with wide fluctuations between prosperity and depression periods. Local censuses of unemployment in many localities over the last several decades also show a substantial problem of unemployment. In 1923 and 1926 reliable estimates prepared by the Committee on Economic Securities indicate that there were more than 1,500,000 persons out of work

in the United States, while in 1929 an average of 1,800,000 were jobless. Another fact not generally recognized is that relief expenditures had been rising constantly for several decades prior to 1929. Public relief expenditures in 16 major cities increased from \$1,500,000 in 1919 to \$20,000,000 in 1928.<sup>1</sup>

Prior to the entrance of the Federal Government into the business of dispensing relief to the unemployed, the public relief in the United States had been administered under the "poor law" system, which had been transplanted from England to the American colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries.<sup>2</sup> The people who received care under this system were those poverty-stricken persons who for one reason or another were incapable of supporting themselves. Aged men and women, blind, crippled, or disabled persons, and the mentally incompetent made up the bulk of the poor law cases. Institutional care was generally provided; the underlying philosophy was that adequate relief, in a form which did not humiliate the recipient, would encourage idleness among the able-bodied. Generally speaking, it was considered desirable to make public relief as repellant and disagreeable as possible.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Arthur E. Burns and E. A. Williams, A Survey of Relief and Security Programs, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 9.

<sup>3</sup>Corrington Gill, Wasted Manpower, p. 134.

Even under these conditions many able-bodied people were given help prior to 1929, but the system was not designed for the relief of the unemployed. In the first place, it was designed to meet local needs, and in every state and locality the governmental unit was held responsible for the administration and financing of "poor relief." Private charities supplemented the aid given by the local government in many instances. Burns and Williams have this to say concerning the status of relief in 1929:

The statutory status of public relief in 1929 may be summarized briefly. All states had poor-relief laws. Veterans' relief legislation had been provided in 44 states and assistance for the blind in 22 states. Assistance to the aged was accorded in only 10 states. All but 5 states had provisions for aid to dependent children in their own homes, and all but 3 had laws making possible the care of dependent children in foster homes and institutions.<sup>4</sup>

Although the system of administering relief had not changed for two centuries, great economic changes had been taking place in the country. The United States developed from a simple, agricultural nation into a complex industrial one where a man's labor constituted his whole source of income in many instances. Thousands of workers in factories and urban businesses had no recourse except unemployment if something went wrong with the business, or if conditions demanded that production be curtailed. Previously, if a slack time occurred in the business world, the worker might go into the country and take up a home-

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<sup>4</sup>Burns and Williams, op. cit., p. 10.

stead on free land. But with the disappearance of free land, the industrial worker was more and more dependent on his labor. The aftermath of the World War was disrupted trade relations which resulted in the greatest depression of all time. Business houses failed, investments were swept away in a day, and agricultural prices slumped. Add to these misfortunes a devastating drouth over the major portion of the United States, and the result was unemployment for millions of people. Gill estimated that more than four million people were unemployed in 1930.<sup>5</sup>

The "poor-laws" relief system that had been in use for so long was entirely inadequate to cope with this unemployment situation. Few persons regarded the unemployment crisis as more than a temporary maladjustment, and no basic reforms in the system were attempted at first. Following the old traditional line of thought that relief was a local problem, private local committees were organized all over the country to assist in relieving the destitute. Bread lines and soup kitchens were established.

Working with these private local committees were local emergency relief bureaus set up by the authorities. These bureaus had no definite income, and this insufficiency of funds handicapped their efforts. The Federal Government took cognizance of the situation in 1930 by setting up the

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<sup>5</sup>Gill, op. cit., p. 140.

"President's Emergency Committee for Unemployment". The purpose of this Committee was to help obtain employment for unemployed persons through coordinating local activities. It had no funds whatever for any purpose. Individuals were urged to "make work" by improving their homes, and expansions of public work programs was encouraged. When these measures failed to produce satisfying results, President Hoover appointed another Committee, the "President's Organization on Unemployment Relief" which placed emphasis upon the raising of local private funds to meet relief needs.<sup>6</sup> Newspaper and magazines appealed for funds, benefit performances were given in the theatre, football games donated the proceeds to relief, and every effort was made to swell the funds of private relief agencies. In spite of these measures, the unemployment problem became more acute as time went on. Gill says:

Every bit of evidence that can be obtained on these early methods of coping with the emergency relief problem points to the fact that relief was inadequate. The most that can be said for the methods used in many areas is that they helped to prevent actual and immediate starvation. There is no doubt, however, that in some areas people actually starved to death.<sup>7</sup>

Gradually, the conviction grew that the private and local relief agencies could not meet the problem of mass

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<sup>6</sup>Ibid., p. 139.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. 141.

unemployment. Four states set up emergency relief commissions in the latter part of 1929. As this year drew to a close the question of Federal aid for the unemployed began to be debated. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Governor of New York, where the initiative in state relief had been taken, held that unemployment is a national rather than a state or local problem. In an address before the Conference of Governors at Salt Lake City, Utah, June 30, 1930, he expressed a belief that ninety per cent of the unemployment occurs wholly without the fault of the workers. He said: "We can and must think nationally, for every region faces today the same facts, and all are affected by conditions in every other State and region."<sup>8</sup>

President Hoover was strongly opposed to Federal responsibility for giving direct aid to unemployed workers. In a statement issued February 3, 1931, he said:

I will accredit to those who advocate Federal Charity a natural anxiety for the people of their states. I am willing to pledge myself that, if the time should come that the voluntary agencies of the country, together with the local and State governments, are unable to find resources with which to prevent hunger and suffering in my country, I will ask the aid of every resource of the Federal Government, because I would no more see starvation amongst our countrymen than would any Senator or Congressman. I have faith in the American people that such a day will not come. The American people are doing their job today. They should be given a chance to show whether they wish to preserve the principle of individual and local responsibility and mutual

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<sup>8</sup>New York Times, July 1, 1930, p. 22.



self-help before they embark on what I believe is a disastrous system. I feel sure they will succeed if given the opportunity.<sup>9</sup>

Unemployment became steadily worse during the winter of 1932-33 and by spring of 1933 conditions in all parts of the country had become desperate. The American Federation of Labor estimated in February, 1933, that at least 12,000,000 people were unemployed. Banks were crashing in all parts of the country and carrying with them the resources of all classes of population. Private and local relief stations were closing for lack of funds, and men and women who had money were hoarding it.<sup>10</sup> In the meantime, a presidential election had been held. President Hoover, after only one term in office, was replaced by Franklin D. Roosevelt. One of the first acts of President Roosevelt after being inaugurated was giving a message to the country urging Federal aid for the unemployed. A bill was passed by Congress and signed by the President on May 12, 1933 appropriating \$500,000,000 to aid the states in meeting their immediate relief needs.<sup>11</sup> This Federal Emergency Relief Act, or FERA as it became known, had three major objectives: first, adequacy of relief; second, the provision of work for those persons capable of useful employment; third, diversification of the relief program so as

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<sup>9</sup>New York Times, February 4, 1931, p. 14.

<sup>10</sup>Harry L. Hopkins, Spending to Save, p. 95.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., p. 96.

to fit the various classes of people in need of assistance. In the next four years Congress increased the amount handled by FERA to a total of more than \$6,000,000,000 for the relief of unemployment. This money was spent in two ways. Part of it was spent on a matching basis of one dollar of Federal money to three dollars of local funds. The remainder formed a discretionary fund which was granted to those states whose relief needs were so heavy that they could not meet the matching provisions.<sup>12</sup>

The entrance of the Federal Government into the field of relief in 1933 did not mean that it took over the whole job of caring for the destitute. Actual administration of the relief program continued to be a function of the local governments. Determination of the individuals eligible for relief, and giving out work relief checks and food were in the hands of the local relief agencies.

One of the first tasks of the FERA was to ascertain the extent of the relief problem, to secure information about the people on relief, and to keep informed on the current costs of administering relief everywhere.<sup>13</sup> Special reporting systems for sending in information were organized, and in October, 1933, a special relief census was made. The task of the FERA was to determine the most economical and equitable method for meeting the needs of the unemployed.

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<sup>12</sup>Burns and Williams, op. cit., p. 10.

<sup>13</sup>Gill, op. cit., p. 155.

Before the state organizations could function effectively in dispensing relief, the winter of 1933-34 approached with its millions of unemployed men. In order to meet their needs quickly, the Government established the Civil Works Administration for the purpose of putting men to work. The relief officials had decided that a program of federally operated and financed construction and white-collar work seemed to be the most practical and efficient manner of taking care of the unemployed. It would have been much simpler and easier just to have given a certain amount of cash to the unemployed, but officials opposed this plan because of the demoralizing effect it would have had on the people. Hence, some kind of work was provided.

The new agency was employing 800,000 men for the week ending November 23, 1933. By December 7th, official figures showed nearly 2,000,000 employed; one week later about 2,700,000 people were at work on the Civil Works Program. The program lasted throughout the winter and cost about \$931,000,000.<sup>14</sup> One distinguishing characteristic was the previous relief programs were locally administered. Concerning the CWA program, Gill says:

Many different kinds of projects were carried on by the CWA. Activities included the construction, improvement, and repair of schools, hospitals, libraries, and other public buildings, streets,

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<sup>14</sup>Ibid., p. 164.

roads, and highways; water supply plants; sewers; airports, etc. Parks, forests, community golf courses, beaches, and swimming pools were established or improved with CWA labor, and pest control and sanitation projects were also undertaken. The professional projects which formed the remainder of the Civil Works Program included such valuable surveys as the Real Property Inventory, the Unemployment Relief Census, and the Urban Tax Delinquency Survey, as well as the filing and transcribing of old records, the drafting of charts and maps, and the making of social and historical surveys.<sup>15</sup>

The CWA Program was disbanded in the Spring of 1934, but it left a lasting impression on the efforts to relieve the unemployment situation. It clarified, to a large extent, the future policy of relief. Before this time, the general prevailing opinion was that relief was only a temporary affair; it now began to be recognized that unemployment was a long-range problem extending into the future. It had become apparent that relief problems varied enormously between different sections of the country and between different groups. These variations had to be considered. It was realized that the broad relief problem was, in fact, a compound of many previously existing relief problems: the unemployed, the destitute farmer, the aged, mothers with dependent children, stranded rural groups, and other types.<sup>16</sup> The needs of the groups differed materially and the government now sought to differentiate the various relief groups

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<sup>15</sup>Ibid., p. 166-167.

<sup>16</sup>Hopkins, op. cit., p. 167.

and to establish special programs and policies to fit the varied needs. There was gradually developed a work-program for the employable workers; a direct relief aid for those unable to work or for whom work projects could not be devised; and a rural rehabilitation program for the destitute rural groups. In addition, a transient program, a commodity buying and distribution program, a college-aid program, and a white-collar program were initiated.<sup>17</sup> This policy of differentiation has been continued by the government and is still functioning at the present time.

The unemployment situation in Denton County, Texas, has not differed materially from that of other counties of the nation. In the early days when living conditions were rather primitive, relatives gave economic assistance to each other as a matter of course. There was no compulsion about it more than what a man conceived to be his duty, or his idea of right. Help was not considered relief work but assistance rendered in time of need, and the attitude was one of mutual neighborliness.

Up until 1912 there was no organized charity in the county. About this time the people in the city of Denton organized what was called the "United Charities" to look after the needs of the city's indigents. Funds were secured through local contributions. Each Thanksgiving

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<sup>17</sup>Ibid., p. 171.

morning a Union Service was held at one of the Denton churches. At this meeting a report and financial statement of the past year's work was given, and subscriptions taken for the following year. These were 20 per cent cash, and 20 per cent to be paid at each of four intervals as called for by the Board. The amount spent from year to year varied from \$1,500 to \$2,000. The Board was composed of the pastor and two laymen from each church in the city. Any two members of the Board could investigate a case and recommend action, or one member could do this in an emergency. At holiday seasons, churches and other organizations usually gave assistance by providing clothing and cheer baskets.

This sort of arrangement was deemed sufficient until 1932 when the depression peak reached Denton. Many people were thrown out of work, and some other arrangements became necessary. A municipal soup kitchen was established in the old City Hall. Here transients were fed and soup distributed to those who came for it. In return, those who received this help were required to give some service in return. Wood was furnished to indigents under some circumstances, and wood was sawed by those receiving help. A man and his wife operated this kitchen for a small salary.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Personal interview with B. W. McKenzie, Mayor of Denton, Texas, 1932.

By 1933 this set-up proved inadequate. The existing county assistance work continued to be carried on under the same supervision, but the new aid extended by the Federal Government in the OWA program was administered differently. This work necessitated the services of an office stenographer, several project superintendents and time-keepers. The one case worker now became a county supervisor of case work, and supervised the work of one city case worker, and four rural case workers.

The above plan was used until 1934 when the Civil Works Administration was discontinued. The county case supervisor then handled the work with the aid of one stenographer, one clerk, one city case worker, and four rural case workers.<sup>19</sup>

Beginning in December, 1935, the State Board of Control abolished the county administrators, and changed to district administrators. Denton County was placed in District 7 with headquarters at Fort Worth, Texas. The local program of the Works Project Administration was assigned to a county supervisor who handled the road projects which gave men employment, while sewing rooms under women supervisors furnished work for women. The program of the Works Progress Administration was begun in Denton County, December 1, 1935, and is active at the present time. Denton and Denton County now have 737 active WPA cases.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup>Personal conference with Hazel L. Durbin, Case Worker for Denton County Relief Office, 1933.

<sup>20</sup>Information furnished by Ila K. Decker, Case Worker for Denton County Relief Office.

In addition to the Works Progress Program for unemployed men, Denton County has had the advantage of several other types of the Works Program. The Civilian Conservation Corps established a camp at Denton in 1935, and it is still active. The Rural Farm Rehabilitation Program has aided destitute farmers in buying necessities for living and improving their standard of living. In the two local colleges, North Texas State Teachers College and the Texas State College for Women, hundreds of boys and girls have been aided by the National Youth Administration.

Beginning with January 22, 1936, the Denton County Welfare Association came into existence, because direct State relief ended on January 1, 1936. Since 1934, the State, through money voted by the Legislature had extended direct aid to those who were unemployable, and when this was discontinued in 1936, they became the responsibility of the City and County. The activities of the newly created family-agencies were placed under the Seventh District Headquarters in Fort Worth, which in turn continued to be supervised by the State Board of Control. Previous to this time, the Federal Government had begun distribution of surplus foods and commodities to destitute people.

The City of Denton has reorganized its United Charities which ceased to function in 1932. This organization is now managed by a board of directors, composed of eighteen men



and women of the city. It is financed by individual donations and a Federal set-up of surplus food and clothing commodities. It is the intention of the Board to spend funds only on persons who are residents of the City, but emergency cases in nearby rural districts are handled by the United Charities.<sup>21</sup>

One case worker and one assistant are employed jointly by the United Charities and the Department of Public Welfare.

#### Summary

Relief as a national problem is recent in the United States. The first real need for relief came in 1929. Local and state relief agencies were unable to carry the burden.

The Emergency Relief and Construction act was passed in 1932. This act authorized the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to lend up to \$300,000,000 to the state and localities for emergency relief.

In the spring of 1933, two months after his inauguration, President Roosevelt signed the Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA). This bill appropriated \$500,000,000 to aid the states in caring for its immediate relief needs.

On November 9, 1933, the Civil Works Administration (CWA) was created. The CWA largely replaced the early work relief activities of the FERA on a greatly expanded scale,

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<sup>21</sup>Information furnished by Ila K. Decker, Case Worker for Denton County Relief Office.

leaving direct relief to the latter agency. The CWA, unlike the FERA was Federally operated. The CWA was replaced after four and one-half months by the Emergency Relief program, a work-relief branch of the FERA. It was estimated that 20,000,000 people were receiving assistance by the Fall of 1935.

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) replaced the FERA in the latter part of 1935. The program is Federal in character, yet it leaves the local government the determination of several basic steps. WPA projects are planned and sponsored by the local governmental bodies.

Prior to the depression, Denton, Texas, provided for its needy through private donations and county funds secured through the commissioners court. At present, this is supplemented by Federal aid in the form of commodities and through the work relief agencies of the WPA.

## CHAPTER III

### THE EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF GOVERNMENT-AIDED MEN

There is some debate as to whether the people that are on relief owe their condition to their own inefficiency or to the general economic situation. Undoubtedly both factors have made some contribution to the general poverty of so many persons. An effort is made in this study to find the educational and economic status of government-aided men in Denton, Texas, in order to see whether the lack of education appears to be an important reason for individual distress.

The facts considered include the ages of fifty government-aided men in Denton, Texas, the number of dependents each one has, the grade completed in school, the vocational or business training of each one, classification as to skill, monthly incomes and occupations before 1929, monthly incomes and occupations since 1929 before going on relief, and the year in which each went on the relief rolls. One comprehensive table is given containing all the above information, and several smaller tables are made from the large table for the purpose of giving a clear analysis of the most important data.

In obtaining data by means of questionnaire, thirty-two questions were listed, but lack of information on the part of those interviewed, or their reluctance to answer certain types of questions, made it necessary to reduce the number to the items that were absolutely essential to the investigation. These items are: (1) age; (2) number of dependents; (3) grade completed in school; (4) amount and kind of vocational or trade training; (5) amount of business training; (6) whether skilled, semi-skilled, or unskilled; (7) average salary before 1929; (8) average salary since 1929; (9) year in which each man went on relief; (10) type of work done before 1929; (11) type of work done since 1929.<sup>1</sup>

Table 1 contains information on the educational and economic status of fifty government-aided men of Denton, Texas, as given by their answers to the eleven questions listed in the questionnaire. This table shows that the ages of the group ranged from twenty-five to sixty-five, the mean age being 42.42 years. The number of dependents varied from none to nine, the mean number being 4.32. The grade completed in school varied from less than one to grade eleven, with a mean grade of 6.3. Of the fifty men

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<sup>1</sup> Average salary from 1929 includes the period from 1920 to 1929 for those thirty-nine years of age or over. For those under thirty-nine, it includes only the time since they were twenty-one.

studied, only four had finished high school, and none attended college. Four had some vocational or business training. Only three rated themselves as skilled workmen, and four as semi-skilled. The average monthly income received by each man before 1929 ranged from \$20 to \$150; the mean salary was \$82.62. The average monthly income received by each man since 1929 and before he went on relief, ranged from \$20 to \$110; the mean salary was \$82.62. Only two of those reporting incomes received higher incomes after 1929 than they did before.<sup>2</sup>

Forty-six of the fifty men studied gave their occupation prior to 1929, and all fifty gave their occupation since 1929.

Of the forty-six giving their occupations prior to 1929, three were mechanics, two worked for the gas company, five worked at odd jobs, four were carpenters, seven were farmers, two were mill employees, three were filling station attendants, two worked in the oil fields, three were common laborers, four were farm hands, and two were truck drivers. There was one railroad clerk, one preacher, one clerk, one taxi-driver, one steel worker, one cook, one section hand, one florist, and one gave his occupation as electro-plating.

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<sup>2</sup>Only thirty-eight gave their incomes received before 1929, and only thirty-six gave their incomes received since 1929. Farmers and tenant farmers could not accurately estimate their incomes.

TABLE 1

THE EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF FIFTY  
GOVERNMENT-AIDED MEN OF DENTON,  
TEXAS, DECEMBER, 1939

Case Number	Age	No. Dependents	Grade Completed	Vocational or Business Training	Skill	Monthly Income Before 1929	Monthly Income Since 1929	Year Went on Relief	Occupation Before 1929	Occupation Since 1929
1	35	3	5	No	Ss	80	75	1936	Carpenter	Carpenter
2	65	4	4	No	U	40	25	1934	Preacher	Preacher
3	46	5	6	No	Ss	80	--	1937	Gas Co.	Farmer
4	39	5	4	No	U	--	--	1933	Farmer	Farmer
5	34	1	0	No	U	75	20	1936	Farm Hand	Farm Hand
6	43	0	8	No	U	50	--	1934	Odd Job	Odd Job
7	44	1	6	No	U	25	20	1936	Farmer	Farm Hand
8	36	5	7	No	U	50	20	1935	Farm Hand	Farm Hand
9	43	3	11	No	U	100	--	1938	Clerk	Prison 1930-'38
11	36	3	5	No	U	65	50	1933	Farmer	Farmer
12	44	7	7	Yes	Ss	108	87	1935	Carpenter	Carpenter
13	50	2	5	No	U	--	--	1933	Farming	Farming
14	60	7	3	No	U	60	--	1934	Farmer	Filling Station
15	48	3	4	Yes	S	150	75	1936	Textile Mill	Textile Mill
16	36	4	11	Yes	S	150	80	1933	Electro-Plating	Mechanic
17	45	5	5	No	Ss	100	65	1935	Carpenter	Carpenter
18	25	4	11	No	U	--	42	1937	--	Odd Jobs

TABLE 1--Continued

Case Number	Age	No. Dependents	Grade Completed	Vocational or Business Training	Skill	Monthly Income Before 1929	Monthly Income Since 1929	Year Went on Relief	Occupation Before 1929	Occupation Since 1929
19	55	8	0	No	U	70	40	1937	Odd Job	Odd Job
20	64	9	6	No	U	30	20	1936	Farmer	Farmer
21	37	8	4	No	U	50	20	1939	Odd Job	Odd Job
22	43	5	8	No	U	100	75	1937	Filling Station	Filling Station
23	32	4	8	No	U	90	70	1939	Section Hand	Section Hand
24	32	5	7	No	U	125	--	1939	Gas Co.	Filling Station
25	45	2	7	No	U	50	30	1938	Odd Job	Odd Job
26	40	5	0	No	U	--	20	1939	Farmer	Farm Hand
27	47	9	8	No	U	60	80	1939	Truck Driver	Truck Driver
28	39	3	7	No	U	60	--	1935	Taxi Driver	Filling Station
29	35	8	4	No	U	35	35	1939	Common Laborer	Common Laborer
30	27	2	7	No	U	--	50	1937	---	Odd Job
31	37	4	8	No	U	100	70	1938	Carpenter	Carpenter
32	37	3	4	No	U	54	--	1936	Odd Job	Odd Job
33	38	5	4	No	U	100	72	1938	Mill Hand	Filling Station
34	53	2	11	No	U	50	--	1933	Laborer	Laborer
35	34	5	8	No	U	--	75	1933	---	Mechanic
36	27	1	9	No	U	--	25	1933	---	Farm Hand
37	51	7	7	Yes	S	150	80	1936	Oil Field	Truck Driver

TABLE 1--Continued

Case Number	Age	No. Dependents	Grade Completed	Vocational or Business Training	Skill	Monthly Income Before 1929	Monthly Income Since 1929	Year Went on Relief	Occupation Before 1929	Occupation Since 1929
38	65	2	1	No	U	120	65	1934	Oil Field	Truck Driver
39	43	2	5	No	U	45	35	1937	Farming	Farming
40	54	3	4	No	U	--	--	1938	Farmer	Mechanic
41	41	6	8	No	U	65	48	1935	Cook	Cook
42	27	3	7	No	U	--	60	1937	Laborer	Laborer
43	40	3	6	Yes	S	75	75	1936	Florist	Florist
44	37	6	60	No	U	150	60	1933	Steel Worker	Odd Job
45	36	4	7	No	U	50	40	1939	Laborer	Laborer
46	48	4	9	No	U	--	--	1935	Farm Hand	Farm Hand
47	47	4	7	No	U	125	--	1937	Railroad Clerk	Railroad
48	46	0	8	No	U	110	40	1936	Truck Driver	Farm Hand
49	59	4	5	No	U	90	--	1939	Carpenter	Farmer
50	32	4	9	No	U	--	90	1935	Mechanic	Mechanic

Of the fifty government-aided men, listing their last gainful employment since 1929, before going on relief, nine were farmers, five were carpenters, six worked at odd jobs, four were common laborers, six were farm hands, four were



truck drivers, four were mechanics, and four were filling station attendants. There was one railroad clerk, one section hand, one cook, one preacher, one florist, one convict, one taxi-driver, and one who worked in a textile mill.

Table 1 shows that of the fifty government-aided men studied, seven went on relief in 1933, five in 1934, seven in 1935, ten in 1936, eight in 1937, five in 1938, and eight in 1939. Of the thirteen who went on relief in 1938 and 1939, four were farmers and farm hands. Most of the farmers were tenants or share croppers.

In normal times the occupations reported by the fifty government-aided men would, as a rule, represent those with rather limited schooling. However, it will be of interest to be exact in regard to school attendance of these different individuals. Table 2 shows the percentage distribution by years of education for workers on relief in the United States, March, 1935, and the percentage distribution by years of education for workers on relief in Denton, Texas, December, 1935.

Of the fifty men studied in Denton, 6 per cent had not finished the first grade, 22 per cent had finished grades one to four, 20 per cent had finished grades five to six, 18 per cent had finished the seventh grade, 14 per cent had finished the eighth grade, 20 per cent had finished grades nine to eleven. By totaling the results it is evident that 48 per cent of the relief workers in Denton, Texas,

TABLE 2

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY YEARS OF EDUCATION FOR WORKERS ON RELIEF IN THE UNITED STATES, MARCH, 1935, AND IN DENTON TEXAS, DECEMBER, 1939

Education (Years completed)	Workers on relief in Denton, Texas December, 1939	*Workers on relief in the United States March, 1935
0	6%	6.2%
1-4	22%	15.7%
5-6	20%	16.1%
7	18%	10.0%
8	14%	26.6%
9-11	20%	16.2%
12	0	7.6%
13-15	0	1.2%
16	0	0.3%
17 and over	0	0.1%

\*This information was obtained from the Works Progress Administration, Washington, D. C.

had not gone beyond the sixth grade, and 66 per cent had not gone beyond the seventh grade. Table 2 also shows the result of a 2 per cent random sampling of the total relief families enumerated in census of workers on relief in the United States, March, 1935. The report shows that 6.2 per cent had not finished the first grade, 15.7 per cent had finished grades one to four, 16.1 per cent had

finished grades five to six, 10 per cent had finished grade seven, 26.6 per cent had finished grade eight, 16.2 per cent had finished grades nine to eleven, 7.6 per cent had finished grade twelve, and 1.6 per cent had some college training. By totaling, it is seen that 38 per cent of the relief workers had not gone beyond the sixth grade, and 48 per cent had not gone beyond the seventh grade.

The grade of education as related to type of job or occupation is shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3

OCCUPATION OF GOVERNMENT-AIDED MEN BEFORE 1929 AND GRADE COMPLETED IN SCHOOL

Occupation	Amount of Education (Grade Completed)											
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Carpenter						2		1	1			
Odd Job	1				2			1	1			
Common Laborer					1			1				1
Farmer	1				2	1	1	1				1
Filling Station Attendant				1	1				1			
Section Hand									1			
Gas Co.							1	1				
Truck Driver									2			
Cook						1						

TABLE 3--Continued

Occupation	Amount of Education (Grade Completed)											
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Preacher					1							
Clerk												1
Farm Hand	1							1	1	1		
Electro-Plating												1
Taxi Driver								1				
Florist						1						
Steel Worker										1		
Mill Employee						1			1			
Oil Field		1							1			
Mechanic					1				1	1		
Railroad Clerk								1				
Total	3	1		1	8	5	3	8	10	3		4

The Grade of education as related to type of job held after 1929 is shown in Table 4.

The number of farmers increased from seven to nine, and the number of farm hands increased from four to six. The first effect of the great depression was to drive a considerable number to the farm, but low farm prices, drouth, and mechanization of agriculture reduced many farmers to the status of government-aided men.

The type of work engaged in by the government aided men prior to 1929 appeared to show little relationship to

TABLE 4  
OCCUPATION OF GOVERNMENT-AIDED MEN AFTER 1929 AND GRADE  
COMPLETED IN SCHOOL

Occupation	Amount of Education (Grade Completed)											
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Carpenter					1	2		1	1			
Odd Job	1				1			2	1			1
Common Laborer					1	2						1
Farmer	1			1	2	3	1			1		
Filling Station					1		1	1	1			
Section Hand									1			
Truck Driver		1						1	2			
Cook									1			
Preacher					1							
Farm Hand	1						1	1	1	2		
Florist								1				
Mechanic					1				1	1		1
Convict												1
Textile Mill									1			
Railroad Clerk								1				
Taxi Driver											1	
Total	3	1		1	8	7	3	8	10	4	1	4

their educational status; the type of work engaged in after 1929 showed a slight shift in occupations, but no special relation to their educational training.

The mean school grade reached by the five most numerous occupations in Denton, Texas, was: farmers, 5.66; farm hands, 6.5; odd jobs, 6.1; common laborers, 7.25; carpenters, 5.8; filling station attendants, 6.25; mechanics, 8; truck drivers, 6.

Table 5 shows the percentage distribution of government-aided men of Denton, Texas, by age groups, number of dependents, number married, and number of children, with the average in each age group for each item.

Of the fifty employed men studied, one was between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-five; three were between the ages of 26 and 30; seven were between the ages of 31 and 35; thirteen were between the ages of 36 and 40; ten were between the ages of 41 and 45; seven were between the ages of 46 and 50; four were between the ages of 51 and 55; two were between the ages of 56 and 60; and three were between the ages of 61 and 65.

The number of dependents ranged from none to nine, the mean being 4.32. The average number of dependents for the different age groups are listed in the following statements: twenty-one to twenty-five years, 4 dependents; twenty-six to thirty years, 2; thirty-one to thirty-five years, 4.28; thirty six to forty years, 4.23; forty-one

TABLE 5

THE DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT-AIDED MEN WHEN GROUPED ON THE BASIS OF AGE, AND THE STATUS OF THESE MEN IN EACH GROUP ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS, MARTIAL STATUS, NUMBER OF CHILDREN, AND THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Age Group (1)	Number (2)	Per Cent of Total (3)	Number Dependents (4)	Average Number Dependents* (5)	Number Married (6)	Number of Children (7)	Average Number of Children** (8)
21-25	1	2	4	4	1	0	0
26-30	3	6	6	2	2	3	1
31-35	7	14	30	4.28	6	24	3.4
36-40	13	26	55	4.23	13	41	3.1
41-45	10	20	42	4.2	10	32	3.1
46-50	7	14	33	4.7	6	24	3.4
51-55	4	8	20	5	4	16	4
56-60	2	4	11	5.5	2	9	4.5
61-65	3	6	15	5	3	12	4
Total	50	100	216	4.32	47	161	3.22

\*The figures in column 5 are determined by the figures in column 4 and column 2.

\*\*The figures in column 8 are determined by the figures in column 7 and column 2.

to forty-five years, 4.2; forty-six to fifty years, 4.7; fifty-one to fifty-five years, 5; fifty-six to sixty years, 5.5; and sixty-one to sixty-five years, 5 dependents.

Forty-seven of the fifty men were married and there were only five childless families in the group.

There was only one person in the government-aided group

between the ages of 21 and 25. The grade completed in school was the eleventh. The average monthly income was \$42.00.

Of the three government-aided men in the age group from 26 to 30, the mean grade completed in school was 7.1. No income was reported before 1929; the average monthly income reported since 1929 was \$61.00.

Of the seven men between the ages of 31 and 35, the mean grade completed in school was 5.85. The average monthly income before 1929 ranged from \$35.00 to \$125.00; the mean monthly income was \$79.00. The average monthly income since 1929 ranged from \$30.00 to \$75.00; the mean monthly income was \$52.00.

Of the thirteen cases in the age group from 36 to 40, the mean grade completed in school was 5.53. The average monthly income for this group before 1929 ranged from \$40.00 to \$150.00; the mean monthly income was \$82.00. The average monthly income for this group since 1929 ranged from \$20.00 to \$100.00; the mean monthly income was \$53.00.

Of the ten government-aided men between the ages of 41 and 45, the mean grade completed in school was 7.4. The average monthly income before 1929 reported by this group ranged from \$35.00 to \$100.00, the mean monthly income was \$85.00. The average monthly income since 1929 for the eight reporting incomes, ranged from \$20.00 to \$70.00; the mean monthly income was \$55.00.



Of the seven men in the age group from 46 to 50, the mean grade completed in school was exactly 7. The average monthly income for this group before 1929 ranged from \$40.00 to \$150.00, the mean monthly salary was \$98.00. The average monthly income since 1929 before going on relief ranged from \$20.00 to \$120.00; the mean salary was \$78.00.

Of the four men between the ages of 51 and 55, the mean grade completed in school was 7.33. The average monthly income since 1929 ranged from \$50.00 to \$150.00, the mean salary was \$90.00. The average monthly income of the two reporting their incomes since 1929 ranged from \$40.00 to \$100.00; the mean monthly income was \$60.00.

There were only two government-aided men in the age group between 56 and 60. The mean grade completed in school by these two was 4. The average monthly income was \$75.00 before 1929; no salary was reported since 1929.

Of the three government-aided men in the age group from 61 to 65, the mean grade completed in school was 3.66. The average monthly income before 1929 reported by this group ranged from \$40.00 to \$120.00; the mean monthly income was \$73.00. The average monthly income since 1929 ranged from \$20.00 to \$35.00; the mean monthly income was \$26.00.

To make these relations clearer, a small table is set up below showing the schooling and income of age groups for government-aided men before 1929 and since 1929.

TABLE 6

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS OF SCHOOLING AND THE AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME BEFORE AND SINCE 1929 OF THE FIFTY GOVERNMENT-AIDED MEN STUDIED IN DENTON, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

Age Groups	Average Schooling	Average Income Before 1929	Average Income Since 1929
21-25	11	--	\$42.00
26-30	7.1	--	61.00
31-35	5.85	\$79.00	52.00
36-40	5.53	82.00	53.00
41-45	7.4	85.00	55.00
46-50	7	98.00	78.00
51-55	7.33	90.00	60.00
56-60	4	75.00	--
61-65	3.66	70.00	26.00

Without doubt, the oldest group suffered the greatest loss. The oldest group ranked lowest in education. In salaries, before 1929, this group averaged almost three times the salary made since 1929. When experience and age are considered, it is difficult to draw definite conclusions concerning the influence of the number of years of schooling.

Regardless of educational qualifications, laborers past sixty would be expected to earn less than the youngest group.<sup>3</sup> However, it should be kept in mind that the average schooling of all the age groups among government-aided men was quite low--6.3 years.

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<sup>3</sup>Maurice, Leven, The Income Structure of the United States, p. 50-51.

No writer of fiction could paint a more distressing picture of human misery than that described in some of the cases presented in this study. Lack of education, special training, regular employment, plans for the future, places to go, reserve on which to draw, no food except that received from the government, no prospects for a better day--such conditions confront numbers of these men who are willing to work long hours if the opportunity were only available. Will education remedy this situation? Who knows?

Original ability may have limited the amount of formal schooling which these men received. There seems to be, however, a possibility that they might profit by some kind of special training.

#### Summary

The mean number of years spent in school by the government-aided men was 6.3. Only 34 per cent of them went beyond the elementary grades. Only 8 per cent completed high school, and not one attended college.

The mean number of years of schooling for the occupations having four or more representatives was: carpenters, 5.8; odd jobs, 6.1; filling station attendants, 6.25; mechanics, 8; farmers, 5.66; truck drivers, 6; farm hands, 6.5; common laborers, 7.25.

The average age of the government-aided men was 42.42 years.

Forty-seven were married and there were only five childless families in the group. The average number of dependents was 4.32. The average number of children was 3.22.

The mean monthly income prior to 1929 was \$82.62. The mean monthly income since 1929 before going on relief was \$53.36. All but two received a higher wage before 1929 than they did after. The oldest men ranked lowest both in education and in income.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF EMPLOYED MEN

It is a recognized fact that individuals of different educational qualifications and of different economic levels have found themselves without employment during the depression. Does a higher educational preparation or do better economic resources guarantee one against the distressing conditions that we have experienced the past few years? There is no definite answer to such a question. It seems, however, worth-while to compare a random sampling of employed men with the group of government-aided men already studied. The items studied are about the same as those used for government-aided men in the same locality. As indicated in Chapter III, the questions cover age, number of dependents, schooling, vocation or trade training, business training, classification as skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled, monthly incomes before and after 1929, occupations before and after 1929, number of jobs held since 1929, and the number of months without employment since 1929.

The data obtained have been arranged into one comprehensive table that covers the findings for fifty employed men. Several smaller tables break up the items and group them so as to give a clear presentation of each important fact.

Also, several tables show comparisons between important data relating both to the government-aided and to members of the employed groups.

Table 7 shows the educational and economic status of fifty employed men of Denton, Texas, as given by their answers to the twelve questions submitted to them. This table shows that the age group ranged from 21 to 65, with a mean age of 42.26. The number of dependents varied from 0 to 7. The mean number was 2.84. The grade completed in school ranged from 3 to 14; the mean grade was 8.4. Of the fifty employed persons, six had had college training, and six others had graduated from high school. Only one had had as little as three years in school, ten had had vocational or trade training, eight were skilled, four were semi-skilled, and thirty-eight unskilled. The average monthly income before 1929 of the thirty-eight reporting incomes was \$91.28. The average monthly income of the forty-eight reporting incomes after 1929 was \$79.86. Eight had increased their earnings after 1929. The earnings of eighteen had decreased. The earnings of the others who reported their monthly incomes after 1929 had remained about the same.

Before 1929, five of the fifty were students. The other fifty-five were engaged in nineteen kinds of employment. Nineteen different occupations were represented at the time of the survey.

The occupations represented by four or more men were:

5 truck drivers, 4 filling station attendants, 4 mechanics, 4 carpenters, 4 common laborers, and 5 worked at odd jobs.

There had been comparatively few changes of occupations after 1929. Those who were students before 1929 entered various occupations.

TABLE 7

THE EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF FIFTY  
EMPLOYED MEN OF DENTON, TEXAS, DECEMBER, 1939

Case Number	Age	No. Dependents	Grade Completed	Vocational Training	Business Training	Skill	Monthly Income Before 1929	Monthly Income Since 1929	Occupation Before 1929	Occupation Since 1929	Number of Jobs	Number of Months Unemployed
1	56	5	8	No	No	U	95	85	Carpenter	Carpenter	7	0
2	41	4	14	Yes	No	U	100	75	Clerk	Clerk	2	0
3	31	0	7	No	No	S	--	60	Prison 1931-38	Truck Driver	1	--
4	28	2	4	No	No	U	--	75	Student	Cook	2	0
5	31	1	12	Yes	No	U	--	75	Student	Barber	1	0
6	42	1	10	No	No	U	80	75	Clerk	Filling Station	2	0
7	28	1	12	No	No	S	--	125	Student	Salesman	2	0
8	44	1	9	No	No	U	100	125	Salesman	Salesman	1	0
9	38	2	11	Yes	Yes	S	100	100	Mechanic	Mechanic	1	0
10	40	2	10	No	No	S	137	120	Mechanic	Mechanic	1	0
11	46	4	9	No	No	U	80	90	Carpenter	Carpenter	1	8

TABLE 7--Continued

Case Number	Age	No. Dependents	Grade Completed	Vocational Training	Business Training	Skill	Monthly Income Before 1929	Monthly Income Since 1929	Occupation Before 1929	Occupation Since 1929	Number of Jobs	No. of Months Unemployed
12	31	2	6	No	No	U	75	70	Carpenter	Carpenter	6	0
13	26	1	4	No	No	U	--	--	Student	Odd-Job	--	0
14	37	3	10	No	No	S	85	85	Blacksmith	Blacksmith	2	0
15	48	5	4	No	No	U	105	120	Section Hand	Section Hand	1	0
16	36	4	10	No	No	U	--	65	Plumber	Gas Co.	2	0
17	42	2	7	No	No	Ss	100	85	Section Hand	Section Hand	2	0
18	23	0	11	Yes	No	U	--	78	--	Barber	1	0
19	35	2	11	No	No	Ss	85	85	Gas Co.	Gas Co.	1	0
20	57	1	10	No	No	U	100	65	Painter	Painter	2	0
21	41	4	11	No	No	Ss	60	60	Oil Co.	Laborer	3	7
22	50	4	7	No	No	U	--	90	Truck Driver	Truck Driver	1	0
23	46	3	7	No	No	U	105	122	Filling Station	Filling Station	1	0
24	54	1	8	No	No	U	85	98	Filling Station	Filling Station	2	0
25	39	5	3	No	No	U	--	40	Farmer	Odd-Job	3	9
26	37	1	10	No	No	U	60	60	Brick Co.	Brick Co.	1	0
27	50	5	6	No	No	U	100	85	Janitor	Janitor	2	0
28	45	3	9	No	No	S	115	105	Mechanic	Mechanic	2	3
29	61	1	8	No	No	U	60	50	Barber	Barber	2	0
30	51	7	11	Yes	No	S	75	75	Nursery	Janitor	2	0
32	49	5	9	No	No	U	--	75	Butcher	Butcher	3	0



TABLE 7--Continued

Case Number	Age	No. Dependents	Grade Completed	Vocational Training	Business Training	Skill	Monthly Income Before 1929	Monthly Income Since 1929	Occupation Before 1929	Occupation Since 1929	Number of Jobs	Number of Months Unemployed
33	39	1	12	No	No	U	125	125	Clerk	Clerk	1	0
34	31	4	8	No	No	U	--	--	Carpenter	Carpenter	1	0
35	36	1	13	Yes	No	U	100	135	Barber	Barber	3	3
36	39	3	8	No	No	U	40	40	Odd-Job	Odd-Job	1	0
37	37	2	10	No	No	U	150	100	Clerk	Clerk	2	0
38	36	2	8	No	No	U	40	60	Odd-Job	Laborer	6	12
39	50	2	10	Yes	No	Ss	50	60	Odd-Job	Hatchery	1	10
40	27	3	11	No	No	U	--	80	--	Truck Driver	6	24
41	49	5	13	Yes	No	U	100	--	Teacher	Laborer	3	0
42	44	5	7	Yes	No	Ss	150	120	Mechanic	Mechanic	1	0
43	61	2	8	Yes	No	U	50	37	Truck Driver	Truck Driver	3	4
44	56	5	7	No	No	S	100	75	Butcher	Butcher	3	0
45	48	4	5	No	No	U	85	85	Clerk	Filling Station	1	0
46	45	3	10	No	No	U	150	80	Salesman	Odd-Job	3	6
47	59	2	4	No	No	U	95	40	Laborer	Laborer	--	6
48	37	3	4	No	No	U	35	35	Odd-Job	Odd-Job	3	3
49	40	4	5	No	No	U	75	85	Truck	Truck	1	1
50	61	6	4	No	No	U	100	60	Painter	Painter	1	14

The answers brought out by the last questions concerning the number of jobs held since 1929, and the number of months unemployed, was interesting in that it emphasizes the fact that most of these men were able to go through the depression years without a change in occupation. Only thirteen were without work at any time. The mean number of months for unemployment by the group reporting, was 2.1 months since 1929.

Table 8 shows the years completed in school of fifty workers on relief in Denton, Texas, and the years completed in school of fifty employed persons of the same city.

A percentage distribution by years of education for the fifty employed persons included in this investigation shows that no one was without some schooling. Fourteen per cent had finished grades one to four; 10 per cent had finished grades five to six; 12 per cent had finished grade seven; 14 per cent had finished grade eight; 38 per cent had finished grades nine to eleven; 6 per cent had had one year of college training; 4 per cent had had two years of college training; and 2 per cent had had three years of college training.

By totaling the results, it is seen that the fifty government-aided men studied, 46 per cent had not gone beyond the sixth grade in school, 34 per cent had finished the seventh grade, and only 8 per cent had finished high school. Of the employed group studied, only 24 per cent had not

TABLE 8

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE BY YEARS OF EDUCATION FOR FIFTY WORKERS ON RELIEF IN DENTON, TEXAS, DECEMBER, 1939, AND FIFTY EMPLOYED PERSONS OF THE SAME CITY

Education (years completed)	Workers on Relief in Denton, Texas, December, 1939*		Workers Employed in Denton, Texas, December, 1939	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
0	3	6	0	0
1-4	11	22	7	14
5-6	10	20	5	10
7	9	18	6	12
8	7	14	7	14
9-11	10	20	19	38
12	0	0	3	6
13	0	0	2	4
14	0	0	1	2

\*This table was obtained from Table 2, Chapter III.

gone beyond the sixth grade, 76 per cent had finished the seventh grade, 24 per cent had finished high school, and 12 per cent had attended college.

The grade of education as related to type of jobs held is shown in Table 9 on the following page. The type of work done before 1929 is not given because the amount of shifting is small.

The type of work done after 1929 was more closely

TABLE 9

## OCCUPATION OF EMPLOYED MEN SINCE 1929 AND GRADE COMPLETED IN SCHOOL

Occupation	Amount of Education (Grade Completed)													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Brick Yard										1				
Janitor					1						1			
Cemetery Custodian					1									
Butcher							1		1					
Clerk										1		1		1
Painter				1						1				
Laborer				1				1			1		1	
Hatchery Employee										1				
Truck Driver					1		2	1		1				
Mechanic							1		1	1	1			
Cook				1										
Filling Station					1		1	1		1				
Odd Jobs			1	2				1		1				
Carpenter						1		2	1					
Salesman									1			1		
Gas Co.										1	1			
Section Hand				1			1							
Barber								1			1	1	1	
Blacksmith										1				
Total			1	6	3	2	6	7	4	9	6	3	2	1

related to education for the employed men than it was for the government-aided men. The mean number of years of schooling for the occupations having four or more representatives in the employed group was: odd jobs, 5.8; truck drivers, 7.6; filling station attendants, 7.5; laborers, 9; mechanics, 9.25; and carpenters, 7.75.

A comparison is made in Table 10 between the mean number of years of schooling for government-aided men and employed men in the same occupations.

TABLE 10

A COMPARISON OF THE EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF GOVERNMENT-AIDED MEN AND EMPLOYED MEN OF DENTON, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO OCCUPATIONS

Occupation	Mean Grade Completed by Government-aided Men	Mean Grade Completed by Employed Men
Common laborers	7.25	9
Truck drivers	6	7.6
Mechanics	8	9.25
Filling station	6.25	7.5
Odd jobs	6.1	5.8
Carpenters	5.8	7.75

Table 10 shows that the mean grade completed by the employed group is higher on five of the six occupations compared. The mean grade for odd jobs is .3 of a grade higher for the government-aided men.

The data for Table 10 indicate rather conclusively that education is a factor in unemployment for occupations in which schooling is not absolutely necessary. Common laborers, truck drivers, mechanics, carpenters and filling station attendants of the employed group show a decided educational advantage over government-aided men who formerly followed the same occupations.

Table 11 shows the per cent distribution of employed men by age groups. It also gives the average number of dependents in each age group, the number married, and the average number of children per family.

Of the persons in the employed group, only one was between the ages of 21 and 25, four were between the ages of 26 and 30, six were between the ages of 31 and 35, thirteen were between the ages of 36 and 40, eight were between the ages of 41 and 45, nine were between the ages of 46 and 50, two were between the ages of 51 and 55, four were between the ages of 56 and 60, and three were between the ages of 61 and 65. The average number of dependents was 1.75 for age group 26-30; 2 for age group 31-35; 2.3 for age group 36-40; 3.25 for age group 41-45; 4.1 for age group 46-50; 4 for age group 51-55; 3.25 for age group 56-60; 3 for age group 61-65.

Of the four employed men between the ages of 26 and 30, the mean grade completed in school was 10. The average monthly income for this group, since reaching the age of

TABLE 11

THE DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED MEN WHEN GROUPED ON THE BASIS OF AGE, AND THE STATUS OF THESE MEN, EACH GROUP ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS, MARITAL STATUS, NUMBER OF CHILDREN, AND THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Age Group (1)	Number (2)	Per Cent of Total (3)	Number of Dependents (4)	Average* Number of Dependents (5)	Number Married (6)	Number of Children (7)	Average** Number of Children (8)
21-25	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
26-30	4	8	7	1.75	2	4	1
31-35	6	12	12	2	4	8	1.33
36-40	13	26	30	2.30	12	19	1.46
41-45	8	16	26	3.25	6	20	2.5
46-50	9	18	37	4.1	9	26	2.88
51-55	2	4	8	4	2	5	2.5
56-60	4	8	13	3.25	4	9	2.25
61-65	3	6	9	3	6	2	
Total	50	100	142	2.84	42	97	1.94

\*The figures in column 5 are determined by the figures in column 4 and column 2.

\*\*The figures in column 8 are determined by the figures in column 7 and column 2.

twenty-one, ranged from \$40 to \$125. The mean monthly income was \$95.

Of the six employed men between the ages of 31 and 35, the mean grade was 8.3. The average monthly income before 1929 ranged from \$45 to \$110; the mean monthly income was \$80. The average monthly income since 1929 ranged from \$35 to \$100; the mean monthly income was \$74.

Of the thirteen men between the ages of 36 and 40, the mean grade completed was 8.5. The average monthly income before 1929 ranged from \$35 to \$150; the mean income was \$86. The average monthly income reported by this group since 1929 ranged from \$35 to \$135; the mean monthly income was \$79. Three of this group made higher salaries after 1929 than they did before. Four reported the same salary, and two reported salaries after 1929 who did not report a salary prior to that time.

Of the eight men between the ages of 41 and 45, the mean grade completed was 8.5. The average monthly income before 1929 ranged from \$50 to \$150; the mean monthly income was \$106. The average monthly income since 1929 ranged from \$37 to \$120; the mean monthly income was \$90.

Of the nine employed persons in the age group from 46 to 50, the mean grade completed was 8.2. The average monthly income of the eight reporting salaries before 1929, ranged from \$50 to \$150; the mean salary was \$107. The average monthly income since 1929 ranged from \$30 to \$135; the mean salary was \$99. Only one of this group reported a higher salary after 1929 than before.

There were only two employed men in this study between the ages of 51 and 55. One had completed grade eight and one had completed grade eleven; the mean grade completed by the two was 9.5. Their salaries before 1929 were \$75



and \$85, the mean salary was \$80. After 1929 their salaries were \$75 and \$98; the mean salary was \$86.

Of the four employed persons in the age group from 56 to 60, the mean grade completed was 6.5. The average monthly income reported by this group before 1929 ranged from \$95 to \$150; the mean monthly income was \$110. The average monthly income since 1929 ranged from \$40 to \$85; the mean monthly income was \$69. Not one of this group made higher salaries after 1929 than they did before.

Of the three employed men in the age group from 61 to 65, the mean grade completed was 6.4. The average monthly income since 1929 ranged from \$37 to \$60; the mean monthly income was \$49.

TABLE 12

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS OF SCHOOLING AND THE AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME BEFORE AND SINCE 1929 OF THE FIFTY EMPLOYED MEN STUDIED IN DENTON, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

Age Groups	Average Years Schooling	Average Income Before 1929	Average Income Since 1929
21-25	11	--	\$78
26-30	7.75	--	95
31-35	8.5	\$80	74
36-40	7.7	86	79
41-45	9.62	106	90
46-50	7.77	107	99
51-55	9.5	80	86
56-60	7.25	110	69
61-65	6.66	70	49

Table 12 shows the average number of years of schooling of individuals in each age group of employed men studied in Denton, Texas, and the average monthly income before and since 1929 of the men in each group.

#### Summary

The mean number of years spent in school by the employed group was 8.4. This is 2.1 school grades above the mean grade completed by the government-aided group. Of the fifty employed men 68 per cent had finished the elementary school, 24 per cent had finished high school, and 12 per cent had attended college. The mean number of years of schooling for the occupations having four or more representatives in the employed group was: filling station attendants, 7.5; truck drivers, 7.6; odd jobs, 5.8; laborers, 9; mechanics, 9.25; carpenters, 7.75.

The mean age of the fifty employed men studied was 42.26 years. Forty-two of the fifty were married. The mean number of dependents was 2.84. The mean number of children was 1.94.

The average monthly income before 1929 was \$91.28. The average monthly income after 1929 was \$79.86. Only eight had increased their earnings after 1929 while eighteen reported a decrease in income.

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

#### Summary

This comparative study is related to the educational and economic status of fifty government-aided men in Denton, Texas, and fifty employed laborers in the same city.

The government-aided group included men who received direct aid from Federal relief in order to live and support their dependents. A large percentage of this group was members of the C.C.C. Camp in Denton, Texas, while others received aid from the old-age pension fund, W.P.A. projects and other Federal agencies.

The employed laborers group included men who worked as truck drivers, carpenters, mechanics, day laborers, blacksmiths, and other similar types of work. None of these men made a large salary, but all of them earned enough to live on and to support their dependents.

Chapter I contains an introduction to the problem. This discussion consists of a statement of the problem, definitions of certain terms used in the study, sources from which data were secured, limitations of the problem, and the purpose of the study.

Chapter II contains a history of work relief. This discussion is centered around the great problems of unemployment; how private and local agencies could not meet the needs of mass unemployment; and how the Federal government embarked upon an extensive work relief program in order to meet, or, at least, to alleviate the emergency. In addition, the following data are included relative to the relief work program in Denton County, Texas: Statistics show that up until 1912 no organized charity existed in the county. About this time, the citizens organized the "United Charities" to care for the city's indigents. When the depression reached its peak, this organization's services became inadequate because of the increased number of calls for aid. As a result, a municipal soup kitchen was established in the old City Hall. In 1933 this set-up proved inadequate also. Additional aid was furnished by the Civil Works Administration until its services were discontinued in 1934. The following year, Denton County was placed in District 7, with headquarters at Fort Worth, Texas, in accordance with the abolishment of county administrators and the establishment of district administrators. The local program of the Works Progress Administration was assigned to county supervisors who gave men employment on road projects, and women, in sewing rooms. In 1939, Denton and Denton County had 727 active W.P.A. cases. Data also show that, in addition to the Works Progress Program for

unemployed, Denton County has had the assistance of the following relief agencies: the Civilian Conservation Corps, the National Youth Administration, the Denton Welfare Association, the United Charities, and the Department of Public Welfare.

Chapter III contains data on the educational and economic status of fifty government-aided men in Denton, Texas. Information in this chapter is related to the ages of the men, the number of dependents each one has, the grade completed in school, the vocational or business training of each man, classification as to skill, monthly income, and occupation before 1929, monthly income and occupation after 1929 and before going on relief, and the year in which each man went on the relief roll.

Chapter IV contains data on the educational and economic status of fifty employed laborers in Denton, Texas, who, despite their low salaries and periods of unemployment, have never been on the relief roll. The discussion in this chapter is related to the following items: age, number of dependents, schooling, vocational training, classification as to skill, monthly income and occupation before and after 1929, number of jobs held since 1929, and the number of months without employment since 1929.

Chapter V contains a summary of the problems, with the writer's conclusions.

The following statements make up a summary of the data secured by research and questionnaires for this study, relative to the educational and economic status of fifty government aided men in Denton, Texas:

1. The ages of the group ranged from twenty-five years to sixty-five years; nine men were over fifty years of age. The mean age was 42.42 years.

2. The number of dependents ranged from none to nine, the mean being 4.32. The average number of dependents for the different age groups are listed in the following statements: Twenty-one to twenty-five years, 4 dependents; twenty-six to thirty years, 2; thirty-one to thirty-five years, 4.28; thirty-six to forty years, 4.23; forty-one to forty-five years, 4.2; forty-six to fifty years, 5.5; and sixty-one to sixty-five years, 5 dependents.

3. The grade completed in school ranged from less than one to grade eleven, with a mean grade of 6.3. Only four men among the fifty who reported, completed high school work, and none attended college.

4. Four men, or eight per cent of the group, reported that they had received some vocational or business training; three rated themselves as skilled workmen, and four as semi-skilled.

5. The average monthly income received by each man before 1929 ranged from twenty dollars to one hundred fifty dollars; the mean income was \$82.62.

6. The average monthly income received by each man since 1929 and before he went on relief, ranged from twenty dollars to one hundred ten dollars, the mean being \$53.36.

7. Sixty-six per cent of the men did not attend school beyond the elementary grades; 8 per cent completed high school; the mean number of years spent in school was 6.3.

8. Forty-seven of the men were married; only five were childless; the average number of children for each man was 3.22

9. Forty-six men gave information on their occupations prior to 1929. The following distribution was reported: mechanics, three; gas company workers, two; odd-job workers, five; carpenters, four; farmers, seven; mill employees, two; filling station operators, three; oil field workers, two; common-laborers, three; farm hands, four; truck drivers, two; railroad clerk, one; preacher, one; store clerk, one; taxi driver, one; steel worker, one; cook, one; section hand, one; florist, one; electro-plating, one.

10. Fifty men gave information about their occupations since 1929 and before they went on relief. The following distribution was reported: mechanics, four; odd job workers, six; carpenters, five; farmers, nine; filling station operators, four; common laborers, four; farm hands, six; truck drivers, four; railroad clerk, one; preacher, one; taxi driver, one; cook, one; section hand, one; textile mill employee, one; florist, one; and convict, one.

11. Seven of the men went on relief in 1933, five in 1934, seven in 1935, ten in 1936, eight in 1937, five in 1938, and eight in 1939.

The following statements make up a summary of the data secured on fifty employed laborers in Denton, Texas:

1. The age-group ranged from twenty-one to sixty-five years; nine men were over fifty years of age; the mean age was 42.26 years.

2. The number of dependents of these men ranged from none to seven, the mean number being 2.84. The average number of dependents for various age-groups is contained in the following report: age-group of twenty-six to thirty years, 1.7 dependents; thirty-one to thirty-five years, two; thirty-six to forty years, 2.38; forty-one to forty-five years, 4.1; forty-six to fifty years, 4.1; fifty-one to fifty-five years, four; fifty-six to sixty years, 3.25; sixty-one to sixty-five years, three dependents.

3. The grade completed in school ranged from three to fourteen, with a mean of 8.4 years.

4. Six of the men had attended college; six others were high school graduates; one reported the minimum of three years in school. This means that thirty-four per cent of the men did not attend school beyond the elementary grades; twenty-four per cent were high school graduates; twelve per cent had attended college.

5. Ten men, or twenty per cent of the group, reported



that they had received vocational or trade training; eight were skilled, four, semi-skilled, and thirty-eight unskilled.

6. Thirty-one men reported on their monthly incomes before 1929; the average was \$91.28.

7. Forty-eight men reported on the incomes after 1929; the average was \$79.86.

8. Eight men had increased their earnings after 1929; the earnings of eighteen were decreased, while the earnings of the others remained about the same.

9. Before 1929, five of the fifty men were college students; the remaining fifty-five were engaged in nineteen kinds of employment.

10. Occupations participated in by four or more men during 1939 included the following: truck drivers, five; filling station operators, four; carpenters, four; common laborers, four; odd job workers, five.

11. Only thirteen of the fifty men were reported to have been employed at any time since 1929; the mean number of months for employment was 2.1.

12. Very few changes in occupation after 1929 were reported by the employed laborers; the five who were students before 1929 entered various occupations after that year.

### Conclusions

The following conclusions have been drawn as a result of this study on the educational and economic status of fifty government-aided men in Denton, Texas, and fifty employed

laborers in the same community.

1. The government-aided group spent 2.1 years less in school than the employed group.

2. The average monthly income of the government-aided men was lower than the average monthly income of the employed men both before and after 1929.

3. More government-aided men than employed men were married; they also had more children and other dependents.

4. The oldest men in the government-aided group ranked the lowest in the number of school grades completed; likewise, they appeared to suffer the greatest financial losses during the depression.

5. The employed group ranked higher than the government-aided men in educational training, since sixty-two per cent of the former and thirty-four per cent of the latter attended school beyond the elementary grades.

6. More government-aided men in Denton, Texas, went on relief in 1936 than in any other year.

7. The type of work engaged in by the government-aided men prior to 1929 appeared to show little relationship to their educational status; the type of work engaged in after 1929 showed a slight shift in occupations, but no special relation to the men's educational training.

8. Educational training appeared to be an important factor in employment, relative to occupation for which training

was not absolutely necessary, since common laborers, truck drivers, mechanics, carpenters, and filling station operators in the employed group showed higher educational training than government-aided men, who formerly followed the same occupation.

9. Educational training appeared to have been a factor in the continuous employment of the employed laborer during and since the depression, since only thirteen men in the group were without work at any time; the mean number of months for unemployment since 1929 was 2.1.

10. The government-aided men changed occupations after 1929 to a greater degree than the employed group, the number of farmers increasing from seven before 1929 to nine after that year. The number of farm hands increased from four before 1929 to six after that time. It is to be concluded that the depression may have had a tendency to drive a large number of men to the farm, but that low prices, droughts, and mechanization of agriculture probably reduced many farmers and farm hands to the status of government-aided men.

The foregoing conclusions can be accepted only as indicative of what would probably be found in a more extensive investigation. The facts brought out show that there is a vital need of other studies in this same field.

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