

POPULATION PATTERNS OF Szechwan Province, China

Submitted as a

MAJOR THESIS

to the

FACULTY OF THE

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

and

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS

for the

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY

by

MING-LIANG LI

September, 1940

APPROVED

In Charge of Teaching in Rural Sociology

Head, Agricultural, Economics and Rural Sociology

Dean of Agriculture

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
A. Introduction	
Location.....	1
Political areas.....	1
Climate.....	6
Topography.....	10
Soils.....	12
History.....	17
B. The People of the Province:	
Number and distribution by districts and counties.....	23
Density per square mile.....	26
Number of families.....	33
Size of families.....	35
C. The People of Selected Areas, as shown by Special Studies:...	40
Racial differences.....	44
Age distribution.....	51
Sex distribution.....	54
Illiteracy.....	55
Marriage data.....	57
Birth and death rates.....	59
Infant population.....	60
D. Population in Relation to Land:	
Forms of settlement.....	61
Systems of land division.....	63
Size of holdings.....	65
Land tenure classes.....	67
Social activities.....	69
E. The Province of the Future.....	71
F. Summary.....	75

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This writer wishes to acknowledge the constructive criticism and guidance of Dr. Leland B. Tate. His inspiring viewpoints and helpful suggestions have been of great value to me in the completion of this study. Thanks are accorded to _____ for help with language correcting and interpreting and for reading the original manuscript. Thanks are also extended to _____ or typing the thesis. And last, but not least, to Dear _____ who permitted me to use the data which were brought over here from _____

Ming Liang Li

Blacksburg, Virginia

August 24, 1940

POPULATION PATTERNS OF SZECHWAN PROVINCE, CHINA

Introduction

Location.—Szechwan's capital city of Chengtu (pop. 350,000) is 300 miles northwest of Chungking, the present capital of China, 2,700 miles from the southern seashore at HongKong, and nearly 3,000 miles from the eastern seashore at Shanghai. Westward it is another 3,000 miles to the central portion of Tibet, one of China's western provinces. Travelling westward over the high mountains between Szechwan Province and Tibet by the usual mode of travel (walking or riding a horse) takes about two months for the trip one way. Travelling eastward from Chengtu to Shanghai by the usual mode of travel requires two days by bus from Chengtu to Chungking, and at least eight days from Chungking to Shanghai by steamer.

Travelling southward to the sea over the French Indo-China route, by bus and train, requires at least 16 days. A similar trip over the Burma Road to the port of Rangoon requires about 22 days.

The time required for trips into and out of Szechwan Province is now being shortened considerably by the use of airplanes, which can fly to Shanghai in about 12½ hours, and to HongKong in about 9 hours. The war with Japan, however, makes it dangerous for the Chinese to travel in this way, even on commercial airlines. Quite often planes make the trips by night.

Political areas.—Szechwan Province is divided into 16 political districts. (Figure 2). All of the political districts are referred to by numbers, such as the second political district, the 16th

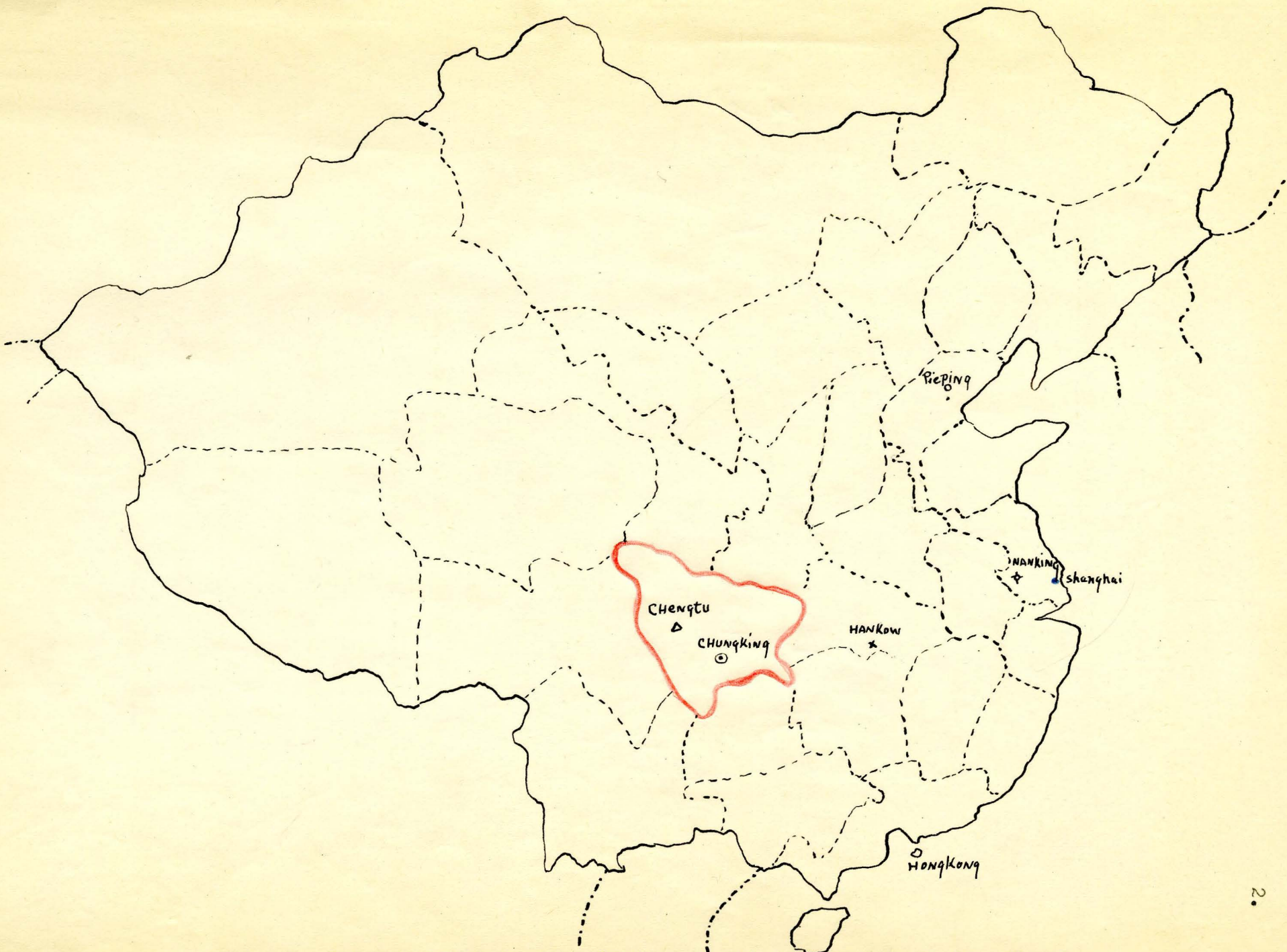


Figure 1. Location of the Szechwan Province in China. The distance from Chengtu to Shanghai is 3000 miles.

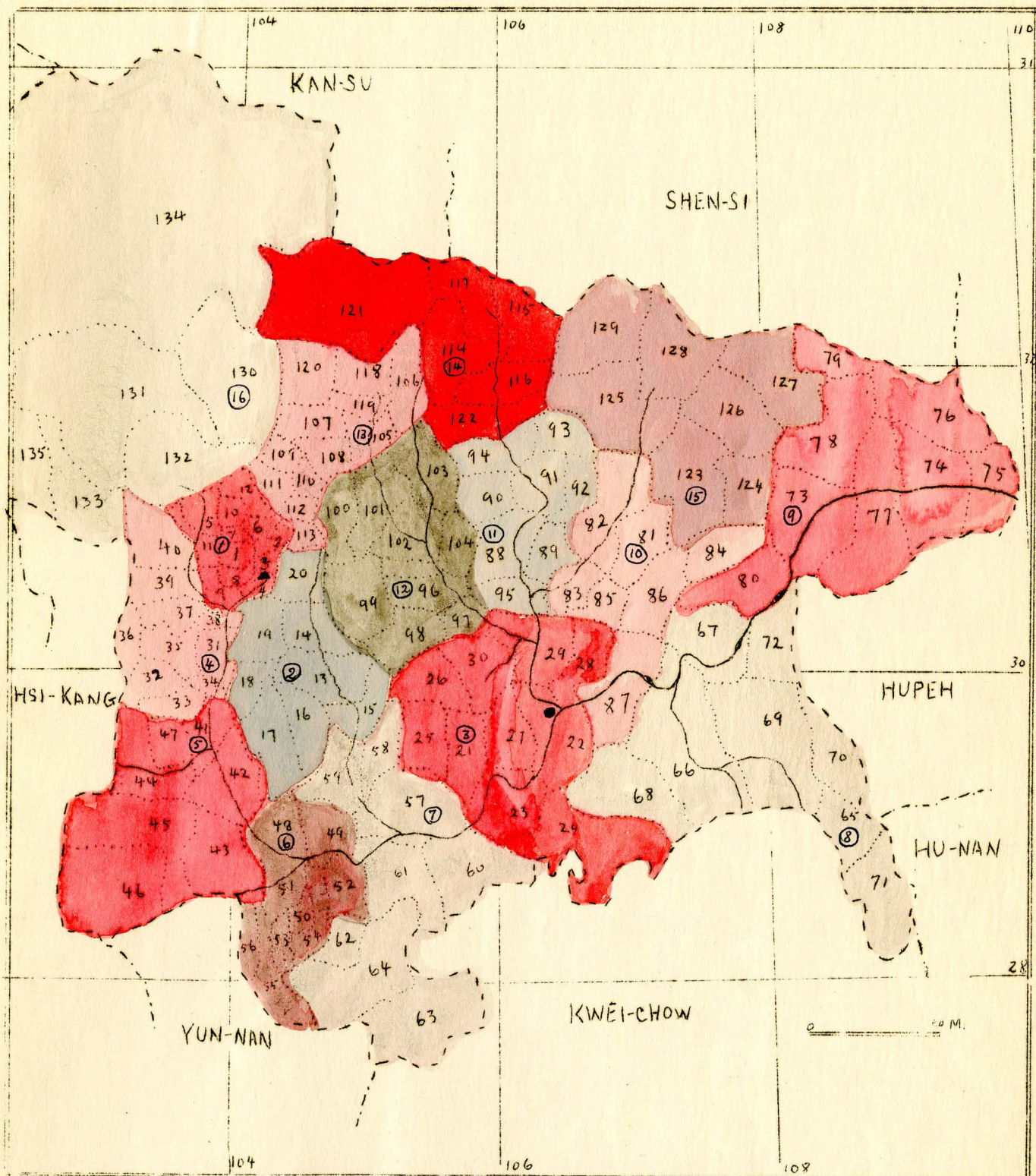


Figure 2. The Political Region of Szechwan Province

- ① ② ⑩ Political districts
 1 2 10 Hsien (counties)
 ● Chungking (Present War Capital)
 ▲ Chengtu (Provincial Capital)
 ~~~~~ River

political district, etc. The governing officer of each district is appointed by the Provincial Government, and has the authority to govern the finance, education, reconstruction and civil administration of the district.

Each political district contains from 8 to 12 Hsien or counties, so Szechwan Province is divided into 135 administrative units similar to the counties of Virginia. Each Hsien is ranked according to the amount of the tax, number of people and civil culture, and designated as a first, second, or third grade Hsien. Some Hsien are very large in area, but are third grade in rank, such as Song-pang (no. 134). Some are quite small areas with many people, and a high ranking, such as Han-chou (no. 111).

The magistrate of each Hsien is appointed by the Provincial Government for a term of 6 months which may be increased to 18 months or more, if his services are not needed for other positions and local people want him to stay longer. Usually the magistrates who remain for long terms of service accomplish most for the people.

Each Hsien or county is divided into 4 to 6 small governmental districts, each of which is called a Chu. The head of each Chu is appointed by the Provincial Government, and must be from some other county than the one in which the Chu he is governing is located. In other words, no person can be a magistrate or head of the Chu in his native county. This custom is quite different from what is found in the United States.

Within each Chu (an area similar to a magistrial district of



the United States) are other areas of human association known as the Chang or market-town, the Pao or open-country community, and the Chia or neighborhood.

The natural unit in rural areas is the open-country community called the Pao, which contains approximately 100 families. The head or leader for each Pao is elected by the people for a term of 12 months, and must have been living in the Pao for at least three years. His job is that of a local leader for the people of the community, who look to him for guidance. He does not receive pay for his services and he is not considered a government official.

Each Pao contains approximately ten Chia or neighborhoods. Each neighborhood has about ten families, who choose for themselves a local leader similar to the one for the Pao or community, except he is of less importance.

There is a Chang or market-town for every 15 to 30 Pao which serves as their economic and social center, in much the same way as towns are hubs for communities in the United States. Market-towns are located from 7 to 10 miles apart.

The boundaries of each political district, Hsien, Chu (a civil division of the Hsien), and market-town are definite and fixed by law, while those of the Pao and Chia are flexible just as the boundaries of the natural communities and neighborhoods of the United States.

Climate.—Climate is one of the more important factors of environment. As such it plays an important role in determining the course of a civilization. Its extremes are often reflected in the relations of people subject to them. Szechwan Province is very fortunate in having a warmth in winter and gentleness in summer. It is free from any great extremes of heat and cold. It has a long growing season of nearly 350 days per year. The English pea and Chinese cabbage are never killed from winter frosts. The author has grown the peach, plum, grape, apple, lemon, orange, and grapefruit in the same orchard at Chengtu. Some orchardists who have visited this orchard have been astonished to find apples growing successfully. However, some apples have been grown here for 16 years, with heavy crops each year since the trees began to bear fruit. The usual crops of this region are wheat, barley, rape, and the English Pea in winter; sugar cane, rice, corn, potatoes and cotton or tobacco in summer. During any of the winter months there is no snow on the ground longer than 6-8 hours or deeper than 2-4 inches. In some years there is no snow in the valley areas of the province. The temperature never drops below 25°F. in winter, and does not rise above 103°F. in the summer.

The data in Table 1 and Figure 3 show that the average temperature at Chengtu is about the same as at Blacksburg, Virginia, from January to March, but much higher during the period from August to December.

Most people of Szechwan have such a mild climate that they do not need central heat in their homes. However, in the high mountain region of the province, as in Song-pang Hsien (no. 134 on map),





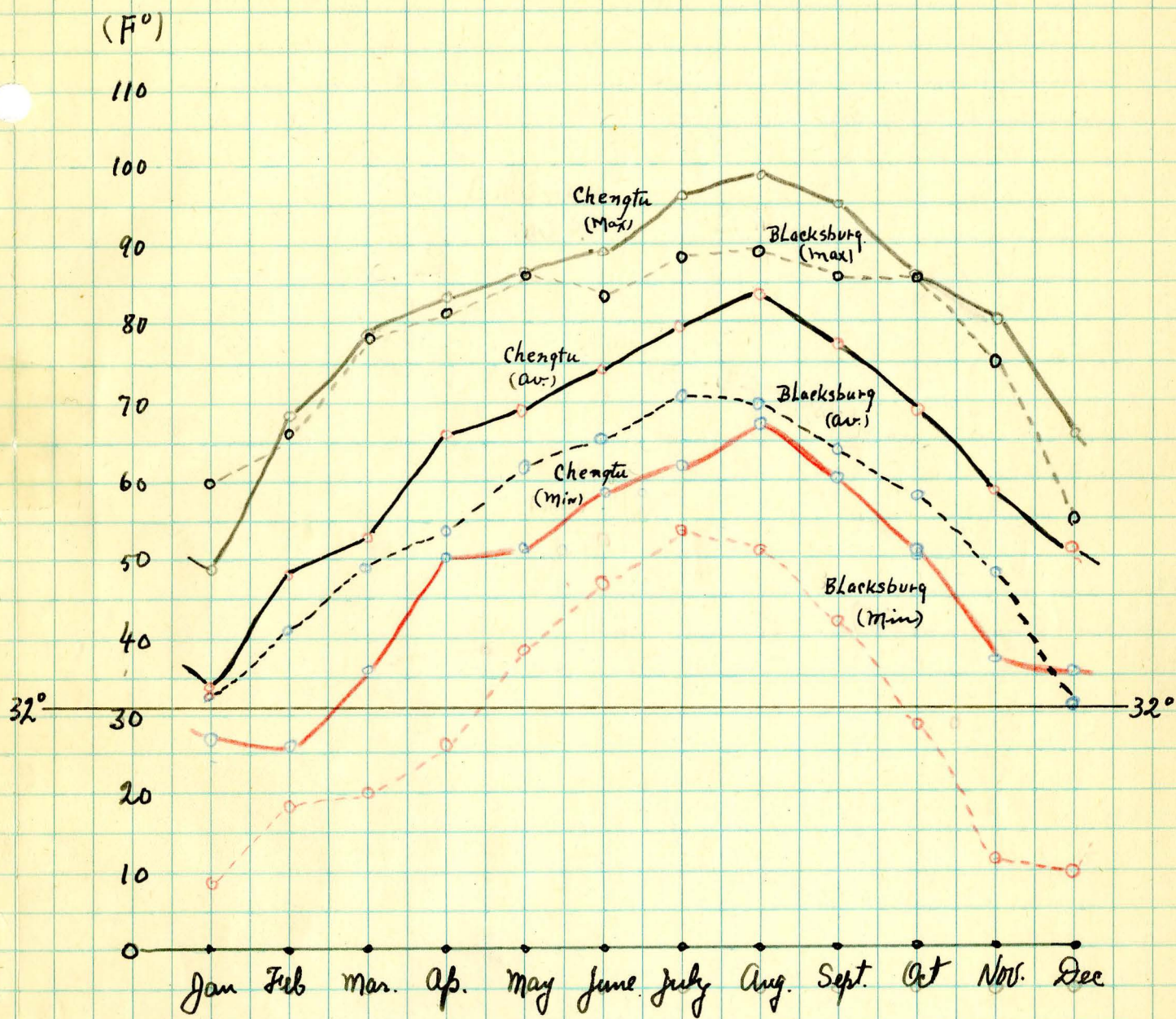


Figure 3. The Temperature of Chengtu, Szechwan Province, China Compared with Blacksburg, Virginia, U.S.A.



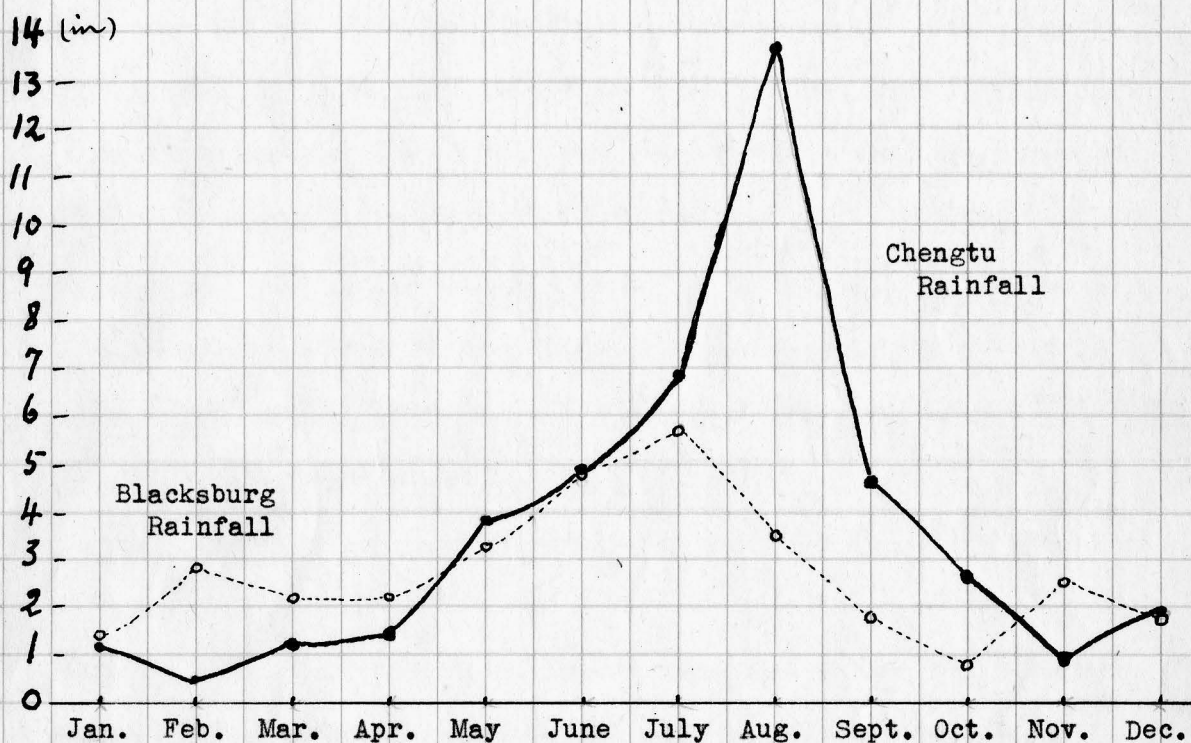


Figure 4. The Rainfall of Chengtu, Szechwan Province, China Compared with Blacksburg, Virginia, U.S.A.

Topography.—Szechwan Province has a very irregular shape, as shown in Figure 5. It borders eight provinces and all boundaries are on mountains ranging from 3,000-18,000 feet above sea level. According to geologists, Szechwan was in ancient times a large salt lake which was emptied from its center following an earthquake. Today all waters from Szechwan pass through one outlet, i.e., the Yangtse Gorge (located in county 75 on map). The Pa-shan (Pa mountain) system lies east of Kia-ling River in the northeastern part of Szechwan Province. The Chia-Men Shan (Chian-Men Mountain) system is west of the Kia-ling River, running from north to south. The Lu-Tou Shan (Door Head Mountain) system is located between the two large western rivers, Chia-ling and Ming. Tou River is between the Ming and Chia-ling.

The richest soil regions are in the Ming and Tou river valleys, with the greatest concentration of rich soil in the area called the Chengtu Plain. The fertility of this plain is due largely to the sediment brought down by Ming River, which has been deposited here for centuries.

Most rivers in Szechwan start in the north, run southward into the Yangtse River, then flow eastward. Steamboats sail up the Yangtse as far as I'ping City (in county 48 on the map). The large ships come only as far as Chungking in summer season (county 22 on map).

Two important limestone regions are found in this province: one is the eastern part at Wu-Shan (in counties 73-75 on map), another one in the northwestern part (in counties 130-133 on map). Salt rock regions are found between Ming River and Kia-ling River. Some special

fossils are found in counties 17-19 on the map. Tracings of gold are found in several places, and there is a rich gold mine on the Song-pan Plateau (county 134).

Table 2 contains figures showing the height of different regions in Szechwan. The range in elevation is from 420 feet above seal level at the outlet of the Yangtse River in county 75 on map, up to 19,000 feet on Ming-Shaw Mountain in county 134 on map.

Table 2. Various Elevations in Szechwan Province

| Region of<br>Mountain<br>system | Region of<br>water shed | No. of<br>counties<br>on map | Local<br>names  | Chinese<br>name | Distance<br>from<br>Chengtu(m) | Elevation<br>(feet) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ming-Shan                       | Ming R.                 | 134                          | Gan Song ling   | 甘松嶺             | N.W. 400                       | 19,000              |
| " "                             | " "                     | 134                          | Song Pan Petean | 松潘高原            | " 350                          | 8,500               |
| " "                             | " "                     | "                            | " " City        | 松潘城             | " 250                          | 7,200               |
| " "                             | " "                     | 131                          | Lee Fan City    | 理番城             | " 180                          | 5,800               |
| Chung Lai Shan                  | " "                     | 5                            | Kwang Huin City | 灌縣城             | " 30                           | 2,700               |
| " " "                           | " "                     | "                            | Chien Chen Shan | 青城山             | " 28                           | 3,050               |
| " " "                           | " "                     | 3                            | Chengtu City    | 成都              | 0                              | 1,678               |
| Big Snow M.                     | Da Tu R.                | 47                           | Oma Mountain    | 峨眉山             | S. 180                         | 11,500              |
| " " "                           | " " "                   | "                            | Oma City        | 峨眉城             | S. 120                         | 1,320               |
| Da Bah Shan                     | Yangtse R.              | 22                           | Chungking City  | 重慶城             | S.E. 300                       | 790                 |
| Da Bah Shan                     | " "                     | 73                           | Wan Hsien City  | 萬縣城             | E. 550                         | 550                 |
| " " "                           | " "                     | 75                           | Wu Shan         | 巫山              | E. 780                         | 2,800               |
| " " "                           | " "                     | "                            | Wu Shan City    | 巫山城             | E. 760                         | 420                 |

Soils.—In an area where the inhabitants devote themselves almost entirely to agricultural pursuits, the land is the most important natural resource and the type of soil and its productivity has direct influence on the type of farming that exists.

Since no soil survey has been done in Szechwan Province in a scientific way, it is impossible to give a detailed description of the various soils prevalent. But it is possible, however, to present certain general facts which will give some idea of their nature, location, and importance. In Figure 5, four distinct types are shown: the alluvial series; the red clay and red sandstone system; the slate belt and limestone series; and the dark gray soil of the Plateau Region. Each of these will be described.

Alluvial soils are found in seven widely scattered areas and in the river valleys extend over plains from one half to forty miles in width. This type of soil is lightly clay but ranges to medium heavy loam and sometimes to a sandloam from 2 to 15 feet deep. Often the surface is yellow or yellowish red in color. These soils are suitable for rice, sugar cane, soybeans, corn, sweet potatoes, peanuts, and tobacco in the summer crops; and wheat, rape, barley, horsebean, the English pea, and Irish potatoes in the winter crops.

Chengtu Plain is the best and richest alluvial soil section in the province. As its name indicates, it is a level plain with scarcely a piece of rolling ground. Its total area is nearly 4,000 square miles. Usually there are two crops per year and sometimes even three crops are grown. Much of the land is given over to raising vegetables, such as,



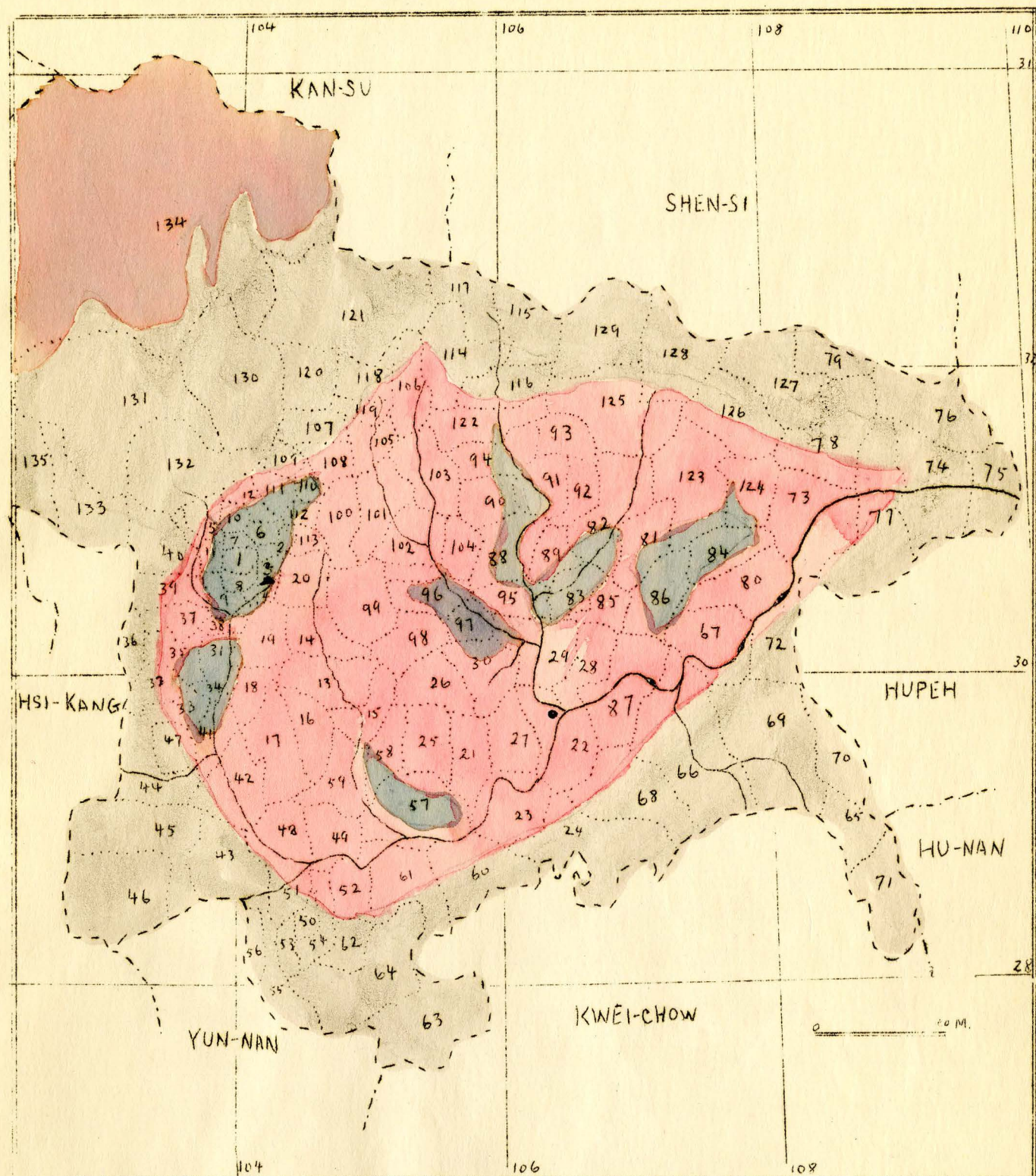


Figure 5. The Soil Regions of Szechwan Province, China



Alluvial series  
 Red clay loam and red sandstone system  
 Slate belt and limestone series  
 Plateau Region



cabbage, turnips, beets, lettuce, and beans of a hundred or more varieties. Chengtu Plain has a regulated irrigation system which accounts for much of the high production.

Chengtu Plain is like a fan in shape, starting from Kwan Hsien (county 5 on map). Li-Ping (249-251 B.C.) conceived the idea of side-tracking the waters of Ming River at Kwan-Hsien and by means of canals and ditches directing them over the plain for the greater production of rice. Li-Ping not only overcame the floods but by his irrigation work brought the whole plain under cultivation. Never since his day has the Chengtu Plain seen any famine. He did wonderful work with his system of canals and ditches and provided plenty of water to irrigate most of the land in Chengtu Plain. Since the days of Li-Ping our people have changed very little his system and methods of the yearly work.

Red Clay Loam and Red Sandstone soils are found in abundance in the large central portion of Szechwan. This area is often called the Red Pan Region. It means that all soils of this region come from red sandstone by means of rapid weathering. These soils are thin in depth, ranging from a few inches to two feet, and they are easily washed away by heavy rains of the summer season. Quite often the farmers dig the red sandstone from the subsoil during the winter and expose it to the air until the next summer, so that the fields may have a new layer of top soil. These red soils lack potash and nitrogen but are rich in phosphorus. The main crops here are rice, the soybean, cotton, sweet potatoes, millet, sugar cane, and corn or hemp. Since the subsoil is often washed away by the rain, the farmers build a dike or ridge

between the fields to hold the soil. Since the rice fields are covered several times per year by floodwaters which leave a fine topsoil, they do not need much fertilizer for one crop a year.

Slate and limestone soils predominate on the outer edges of the province where mountains form natural boundaries from other provinces. The surface soil is the yellow clay loam overlying gray shale. It is not generally fertile and all crops must be fertilized with manures, soybean cakes, etc. There are two main crops, such as corn and soybeans, or corn and Irish potatoes in the summer; and some wheat, barley, and buckwheat in the winter. Where the elevation is over 3,000 feet two crops per year are not grown on the same land. Forests comprise about 35% of this section. The farmers have some herds such as goats, sheep and cattle, but are poorer relatively than the people in the red clay loam region. The hills and mountains are very steep, so that the rains wash out the surface soils and carry them to lower areas. Geologists claim that the high mountain areas contribute 12 inches of soil to the Chentu Plain each century. Ming River, which starts in county 134 on map, is the main soil-bearing stream for the Chengtu Plain.

The Plateau Region shown in Figure 5 is in the extreme northwestern corner of Szechwan. The soil of this region is dark gray in color and rich with organic matter. Its depth is from 5-20 feet. But it is too cold here for growing crops at an elevation higher than 6,000 feet. Occasionally the people grow buckwheat and oats for the summer crops, but native grasses are of most importance. It is the best area in Szechwan for livestock farming. The native people drink



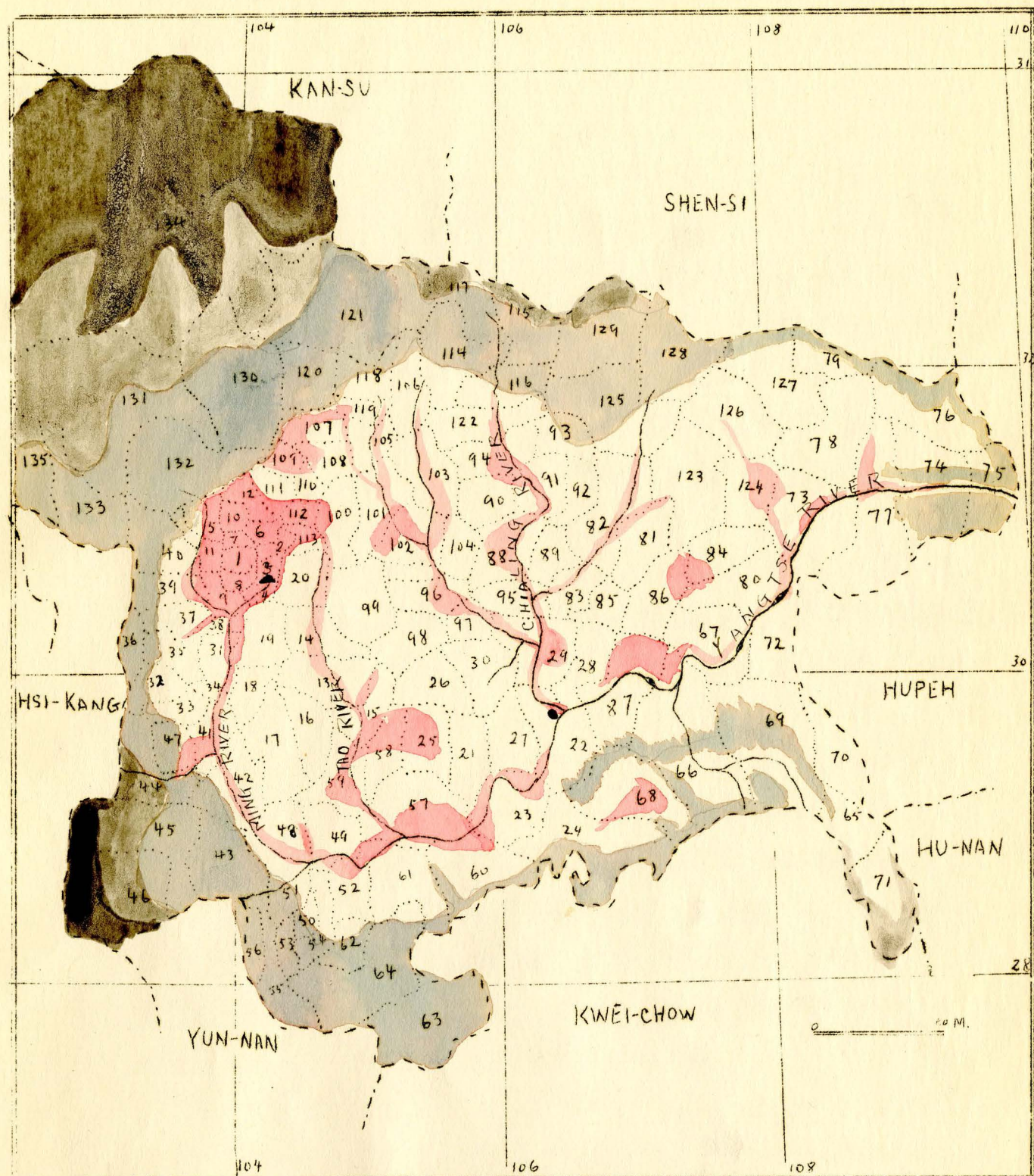


Figure 6. Types of Farm Lands in Szechwan Province, China

1. Red areas - very rich (800-1700 feet)
2. White areas - rich (1701-2500 feet)
3. Blue areas - medium (2501-4000 feet)
4. Dark areas - poor (4001-6000 feet)
5. Black areas - very poor (6001 feet and up)

milk and make cheese, for their main food like the people of western countries. Most Chinese in other areas of Szechwan use soybeans as a substitute for milk.

Figure 6 shows the farm lands of Szechwan Province divided into five types. The "very rich" and "rich" areas are at elevations between 800-2,500 feet and both of these can produce two or more crops in one year. The "medium rich" lands (blue areas) usually produce one crop a year, but two crops in some places. In the "poor" regions (dark areas) the topography is very steep; there is a short growing season; and the people produce mainly cattle and dairy products. In the "very poor" section (black areas) there are not many farmers, since most of the people are nomads.

History.—The oldest Chinese records state that there were eight kingdoms in western China, which included Szechwan and three adjacent provinces of today. Each had its own chief and owed a dim allegiance to Shuh, who in turn was supposed to allow almost complete self-government in the various kingdoms.

The first distinct mention of the Kingdoms of Shuh (蜀) and Pa (巴) in relation to the Chinese occurs at the close of the Shang Dynasty (商代). A force of warriors from these two kingdoms turned the tide of the struggle against the last emperor of that dynasty and helped Prince Shang to inaugurate the Chou Dynasty (周代), which lasted for over 800 years (1122-293 B.C.).

The chief of Shuh Kingdom was designated as Heo (侯) or Marquis. When the Chou Dynasty began to lose its vigor, the Heo of Shuh called



himself a Wang ( ) or King, the title by which Chinese sovereigns were then known. The first Wang or King was Ts'an-Ts'ong, who encouraged the silk industry and who lived at Chushang (沱山), a city 6 miles east of Shuangliu (双流); the second King was Peh-Kuan, i.e., "the irritator"; the third, Yu-Fu, the believer in Taoism (道教), and in whose memory his subjects erected an ancestral Hall; the fourth, Tu-Ku, or more familiarly, Tu-Chu.

In time a great flood came to Szechwan. Kai-Ming one of Tu-Yu ministers saved the people from future danger of inundation by cutting a course for the overflow through Yuluishang Mountain (玉露山). This is still the name of a high mountain near Kwanshein City.

During that time, the population probably numbered only a tenth of that of today. The mountains still stood clad in their virgin forests. Tigers roamed so freely that they menaced the habitations of men. But the habits and pursuits of the people were very much as they are today. They lived in pillao-built houses, wore flowing robes, bowed and greeted each other even as they do at this time. Their headwear was different, but the common sandals the same to the last detail. The Shuh ponies were as small as those now and as famed for their sure-footedness on difficult roads. The dogs were leashed in the well-known neck and chest method and had the same pronounced curl on their tails. Although the vessels, dishes, jars, etc., showed a greater variety in shape, the people ate rice cooked in pots (鍋) and enjoyed the "Chiang" condiments as much as present-time descendants. Sometimes people varied their menu by dishes of antelop and wild boar

found in a state of preservation 9 to 20 feet under the surface of Chengtu Plain. This is still practiced and Szechwan people still love to call themselves ShuhPeople (蜀人).

The province in the day of the Second Han Dynasty (後漢) 570-600 A.D., was one of these long uneventful times of peaceful development characterized by a lack of recorded history. The most known is that it was far from being over-populated and the people were prosperous. So many could afford leisure for learning that the Shuh people deteriorated in height and physical stamina.

Chinese rulers have always regarded Szechwan as the key to the Empire. The safety of dynasty lay bound up in its possession. For this reason the history of the province is one of fascinating interest to many people. One thing of special interest is that the actual revolution of 1911, which upset the old Manchu Dynasty (滿清), began earlier at Chengtu than at Wuchang (武昌), Huh-Peh (湖北) Province. However, the fact that Wuchang declared independence made for the beginning of Democratic Government and progressive national measures. One reason for early dissatisfaction at Chengtu was the failure of the Emperor to build the so-called Szechwan Railroad which was planned for in 1904. Funds were raised by the local people to help build the railroad, but these were kept by the Emperor and never returned to the people after the plan for the railroad was dropped.

Below is a list of the different titles by which Szechwan Province has been known from 2205 B.C. to the present time:

| TITLE          |         | DYNASTY        |         | Years             |
|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|-------------------|
| English        | Chinese | English        | Chinese |                   |
| Liang-Chou     | 梁州      | Sha-Yu         | 夏禹      | 2205-1766 B.C.    |
| Wun-Chou       | 雍州      | Chou           | 周       | 1122- 255 "       |
| Pa and SHUH    | 巴蜀      | Chin           | 秦       | 255- 206 "        |
| I'h-Chou       | 益川      | Han            | 漢       | 206-B.C.-220 A.D. |
| Shuh           | 蜀       | Three kingdoms | 三國      | 220-618 A.D.      |
| Chian District | 青州      | Tong           | 唐       | 618-950 "         |
| Szechwan "     | 四川道     | Sung           | 宋       | 960-1278 "        |
| " Province     | 四川省     | Yan            | 元       | 1260-1363 "       |
| " "            | "       | Ming           | 明       | 1363-1644 "       |
| " "            | "       | Chin           | 清       | 1644-1911 "       |
| " "            | "       | Republic of    | 中華民國    | 1911-             |
| " "            | "       | CHINA          |         |                   |

Now the Szechwan province has been greatly changed in the last few years. Less than a score of years ago, this province, with the primitive means of transportation and accompanying unpleasantnesses and inconveniences, remained a testing ground too stern and demanding for the average pleasure-seeker. The usual method of making a trip somewhere was by the sedan chair with 2 or 3 carriers walking at the rate of 3 or 4 miles per hour. If one wanted to go to Chengtu from Chungking, a distance of about 300 miles, he had to spend 10 days by this way. But time has changed and changed with remarkable rapidity. The building of motor roads and establishing of motor lines throughout the province has meant a great increase in trade with the eastern provinces of China. Motor buses now carry passengers and merchandise from Chengtu to Chungking in two days.

Air travel has also made great strides in development. The first air service was established between Chengtu and Chungking in the winter of 1931. Now there are several air routes through Chengtu and Chungking to other provinces and both morning and afternoon air service between Chengtu and Chungking.

It seems assured that many new industries will spring up in this province and quantities of rich raw materials will find a ready and remunerative market. Supplies of tea, silk, raw hides, and plant oil are plentiful for shipping out to other countries and reasonable freight rates will make it no longer a paying proposition to ship the pig's bristles abroad by airplane.

Since the Sino-Japanese War has come to influence this province, many young persons have shown a special interest in serving the rural people through mass education in the summer and winter vacation periods. At first, the Government had difficulty in getting the people to be soldiers, but now so many people are volunteers that the very young and weak persons are not being accepted. Most of the counties or larger market towns have a good organization of the New Life Movement Council and Chinese Youth Corps.

The New Life Movement Council is doing the spade work of democracy in China which was started by Generalissimo and Madame Chiang. Gradually, the new movement made itself known, gathering strength, until the four characters which mark its teaching are everywhere known. These four characters (the Chinese written words) are pillars of movement as the loyalty to country, fidelity to parents, kindness to

neighbors, and love of humanity. In addition to its program for personal life, emphasising cleanliness, orderliness, thrift, and discouraging the all too prevalent habits of drinking, gambling, and feasting, it is carrying out experiments in mass education and organizing co-operatives which are giving the people a sense of self-government, self-confidence, and economic power to carry on the war resistance. There are two branches from headquarters of the National N. L. M. Council. One is the Men's New Life Movement. The other one is the Women's N. L. M. Both of them guide the people from their inner life to develop better habits. Its work is similar to the 4-H Club activity in U. S. A.

The Chinese Youth Corps has developed in the short time since 1938. It was scattered by Madame Chiang. Throughout all these activities can be found the olive green uniforms of high school boys and girls from everywhere. They have been personally trained and inspired by the leaders. The cheerfulness and confidence and the real spirit of service in which the leaders go about their duties in this time of national crisis is remarkable. During their summer vacation, the senior boys and girls of the high schools have organizations of many small groups to help the wounded soldiers with washing, writing, and reading. Some of them go back to their own local community to help with the farm work of those families from which some one left home in the war. Others teach children who have no chance to go to school for regular education. All of the boys and girls must bring a record and report back to school in September, and they exchange their experiences in social service. Its work is similar to the Organization known as the "Old Dominion Boys' State" in Virginia and other states of U. S. A.



## Section B

## THE PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE

This province, apart so far from the seashore, is essentially a rural area since it contains only two large cities: Chungking, a western commercial center; and Chengtu, the capital of the province. The majority of the people can be included in the rural farmer class, although there are some rural non-farm inhabitants who work at local non-farm occupations in Chengtu or Chungking and live nearby those two cities. Some people as tailors, masons, painters and carpenters or local traders have special occupations in their local counties, but they must work on their own farms during the planting and harvesting time. So the people in the province are about 95 percent rural.

Table 4. Population Trends in Szechwan Province, since 1663

| DATE                            |                 | Total<br>Population | CHANGES IN         |                         |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Chinese Year<br>(Chien Dynasty) | English<br>Year |                     | Number<br>of years | Number of<br>persons    |
| 2                               | 1663            | 297,079             | —                  |                         |
| 6                               | 1741            | 5,442,168           | 78                 | <del>4</del> 5,145,089  |
| 40                              | 1775            | 12,059,811          | 34                 | <del>4</del> 6,617,643  |
| 17                              | 1812            | 20,435,678          | 45                 | <del>4</del> 8,375,867  |
| 25                              | 1820            | 21,032,671          | 8                  | <del>4</del> 596,993    |
| 22                              | 1842            | 22,566,964          | 22                 | <del>4</del> 1,534,293  |
| 18                              | 1892            | 35,868,650          | 50                 | <del>4</del> 13,301,686 |
| 28                              | 1902            | 68,724,890          | 10                 | <del>4</del> 32,856,240 |
| 1                               | 1911            | 44,140,462          | 9                  | -24,584,428             |
| 5                               | 1916            | 50,766,336          | 5                  | <del>4</del> 6,625,874  |
| 8                               | 1919            | 44,782,810          | 3                  | -983,526                |
| 14                              | 1925            | 52,063,606          | 6                  | <del>4</del> 2,280,796  |
| 17                              | 1928            | 54,010,450          | 3                  | <del>4</del> 1,946,844  |
| 25                              | 1936            | 47,803,742          | 8                  | -6,206,658              |

Number and distribution by district and counties.—The people in Szechwan Province are increasing more rapidly by natural gain than in the other provinces. It is due not only to rich soils, and favorable

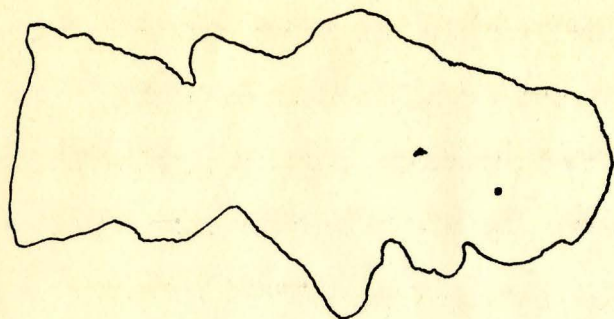
climate, but also freedom from serious earthquakes, floods, droughts, and famines. We do not have damaging insects as the locusts which destroy the crops in North and East China.

We have not found any report about the provincial population earlier than 1663; however, there are some population data for China back to 2,200 B.C. During the first period of the Chin Dynasty 1,850 A.D. the government took the census every three or four years, but later changed it to every five years. At that time the government taxed all males who were over 20 years of age. Later the taxes were reduced to help the people since many names were omitted from the census in order to avoid the taxes. So table 4 shows the total population with only 297,079 in 1663.

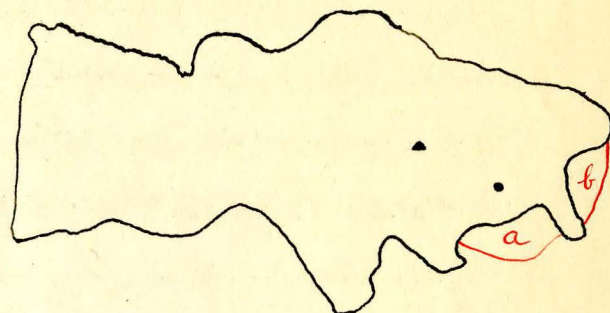
Emperor Kon-shi, 1713, made a new regulation which stated, "There will be no further increase in taxes over the amount paid in 1711." Thus the larger number of people of 5,442,168 reported in 1741 was 15 times that of 1663. In 1890 another new rule was published which required census enumeration of both males and females. This increased the total to 35 millions by 1892.

Another difficulty in getting the total number of the people of this province is the uncertain boundary which was changed four times from 1663 to 1936 as shown on the map of territorial changes. It shows that the present area of the province is only one-fourth the area that it was in 1663.

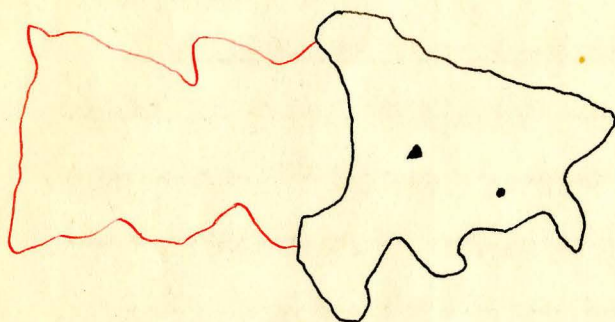
The people of the province are not distributed equally in various districts and counties. There are 270,000 people in the 16th political



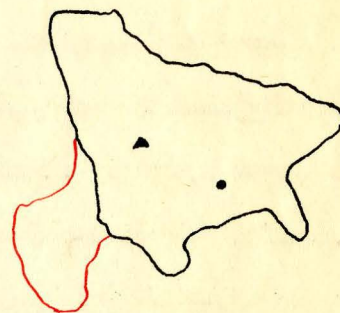
Year: 1663 Original boundaries  
of Szechwan Province



(a) Year: 1775 Boundaries for Kwie Chow Prov  
(b) Year: 1780 " " Huh-Peh "



Year: 1914 Boundaries for  
Chwan-pien special district



Year: 1937 Boundaries for  
Hsie-Kong Province

Figure 7. Territorial Change in Szechwan Province, 1663-1936

district which is large in area, but 9 times this number in the first political district which has only one-seventh as much area. The second political district has fewer counties than the first district, but it has over a million more people. Shungliu county (No. 8 on map) is the smallest county but has 136,716 people; while the largest county, Songpan (No. 134 on map) has only 27,742 people, or one-fifth the number in Shungliu county.

There are three factors which influence the distribution of people in the province. First, climate and rich soil; second, transportation facilities; and third, variation in education and cultural characteristics. So that most of the people are living along the rivers or plains in the province.

Density of people per square mile.—In 1935, Szechwan province ranked 13th among the 30 provinces in the density of population, with a density of 169 persons per square mile of territory. It has, however, the highest density of population of the seven provinces in West China. The first political district on the Chengtu Plain has the highest density of the population among the 16 political districts. Wenchiang county (No. 1 on the map) has the highest density among the various counties of the province, with 1117.5 persons per square mile. However, Tzeyang county (No. 14 on the map) outside of Chengtu Plain has almost the same density as Hwayang county (No. 3 on the map). Tzeyang county has salt wells, sugar cane, and a silk worm industry, which require many workers. Wenchiang, our most densely populated county, produces red clover, hemp, tobacco, and rice with 3 or 4 crops per year. The low density of population is in the 16th political district where there is



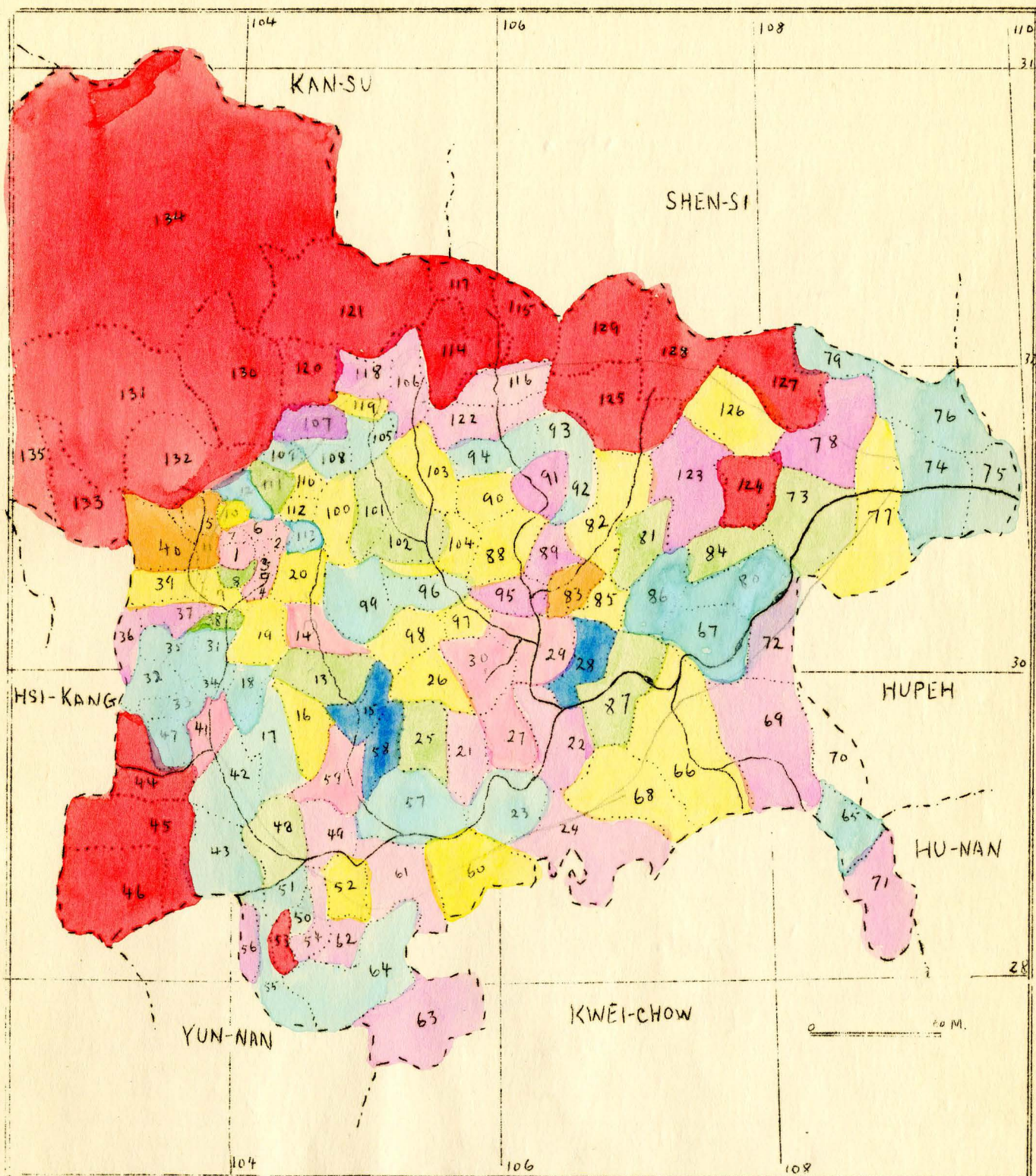
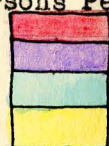
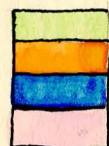


Fig. 8 Persons Per Square Mile



- 50  
51-100  
101-200  
201-300



301-400  
401-500  
501-600  
601 and up



Table 3. NUMBER OF FAMILIES AND PERSONS IN SZECHWAN PROVINCE, CHINA  
1936, BY POLITICAL DISTRICTS AND COUNTIES (HSIEN)

| No. of<br>County<br>on Map       | Name of County<br>English Chinese | Number<br>Families | Number<br>Persons | Number<br>Persons<br>Per Family | Density of<br>Population<br>Per Sq.Mi. |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <u>First Political District</u>  |                                   | 506,735            | 2,367,002         |                                 |                                        |
| 1                                | Wen-Chiang                        | 35,876             | 159,914           | 4.4-                            | 1117.5                                 |
| 2                                | Hsin-tu                           | 26,131             | 148,507           | 5.6                             | 858.9                                  |
| 3                                | Chengtú                           | 27,509             | 129,404           | 4.8-                            | 604.8                                  |
| 4                                | Hwayang                           | 76,759             | 383,192           | 4.8-                            | 771.9                                  |
| 5                                | Kwaughsien                        | 71,773             | 318,092           | 4.9-                            | 450.0                                  |
| 6                                | Hsinfan                           | 20,587             | 121,215           | 5.9-                            | 601.5                                  |
| 7                                | Piehshien                         | 42,176             | 186,483           | 4.4-                            | 604.8                                  |
| 8                                | Shuangliu                         | 29,250             | 136,716           | 4.6-                            | 300.3                                  |
| 9                                | Hsin-Ching                        | 32,183             | 156,521           | 4.6-                            | 232.5                                  |
| 10                               | Chungling                         | 19,819             | 91,961            | 4.6-                            | 246.6                                  |
| 11                               | Chungching                        | 53,746             | 177,169           | 3.3                             | 441.6                                  |
| 12                               | Penhsien                          | 70,926             | 357,891           | 5.0-                            | 122.7                                  |
| <u>Second Political District</u> |                                   | 1,123,778          | 5,372,067         |                                 |                                        |
| 13                               | Tzechung                          | 141,147            | 804,978           | 5.7-                            | 312.3                                  |
| 14                               | Tzeyang                           | 198,244            | 687,161           | 3.4-                            | 857.7                                  |
| 15                               | Neichiang                         | 126,496            | 646,690           | 4.8-                            | 592.2                                  |
| 16                               | Weyuan                            | 70,451             | 389,831           | 5.5-                            | 206.7                                  |
| 17                               | Yunghsien                         | 123,774            | 444,280           | 3.6-                            | 147.0                                  |
| 18                               | Ching-yen                         | 36,853             | 204,194           | 5.5-                            | 117.3                                  |
| 19                               | Jengshew                          | 218,983            | 1,089,683         | 5.0-                            | 261.0                                  |
| 20                               | Chienyang                         | 207,830            | 1,105,250         | 5.3-                            | 291.2                                  |
| <u>Third Political District</u>  |                                   | 1,039,019          | 5,751,499         |                                 |                                        |
| 21                               | Yuenchwan                         | 69,720             | 396,093           | 5.5-                            | 79.8                                   |
| 22                               | Pahsien                           | 175,778            | 938,838           | 5.3-                            | 94.4                                   |
| 23                               | Chiangching                       | 128,061            | 841,913           | 6.4                             | 169.5                                  |
| 24                               | Chiechiang                        | 70,704             | 410,689           | 5.7-                            | 60.0                                   |
| 25                               | Yungchang                         | 71,972             | 370,639           | 5.1-                            | 304.8                                  |
| 26                               | Ta-tsu                            | 86,770             | 440,975           | 5.0-                            | 280.5                                  |
| 27                               | Pishan                            | 59,618             | 370,166           | 6.3-                            | 612.9                                  |
| 28                               | Chiang-bay                        | 133,543            | 691,393           | 5.2-                            | 586.8                                  |
| 29                               | Ho-chwan                          | 147,725            | 780,259           | 5.4-                            | 657.0                                  |
| 30                               | Tongliang                         | 95,119             | 510,514           | 5.4-                            | 677.4                                  |
| <u>Fourth Political District</u> |                                   | 395,278            | 2,049,653         |                                 |                                        |
| 31                               | Mieshan                           | 69,510             | 411,176           | 5.8-                            | 133.8                                  |
| 32                               | Hungyee                           | 40,045             | 205,037           | 5.1-                            | 112.7                                  |
| 33                               | Chiechiang                        | 31,537             | 156,052           | 5.0-                            | 181.1                                  |
| 34                               | Chingshin                         | 21,773             | 125,034           | 5.7-                            | 127.8                                  |
| 35                               | Tangling                          | 18,635             | 92,935            | 5.0-                            | 151.8                                  |
| 36                               | Ming-shan                         | 17,286             | 89,716            | 5.2-                            | 92.1                                   |
| 37                               | Puchiang                          | 22,975             | 126,565           | 5.5-                            | 95.4                                   |
| 38                               | Penshan                           | 32,012             | 162,721           | 5.0-                            | 311.7                                  |
| 39                               | Chiunglai                         | 81,555             | 386,655           | 5.0-                            | 271.2                                  |
| 40                               | Ta-ih                             | 59,950             | 293,762           | 5.0-                            | 440.7                                  |

| No. of<br>County<br>on Map        | Name of County<br>English | Chinese | Number<br>Families | Number<br>Persons | Number<br>Persons<br>Per Family | Density of<br>Population<br>Per Sq.Mi. |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <u>Fifth Political District</u>   |                           |         | 305,880            | 1,420,354         |                                 |                                        |
| 41                                | Lo-shan                   |         | 92,084             | 411,498           | 4.4-                            | 663.9                                  |
| 42                                | Chien-Wie                 |         | 105,461            | 515,479           | 5.5-                            | 125.7                                  |
| 43                                | Pingshan                  |         | 56,378             | 275,864           | 4.8                             | 109.2                                  |
| 44                                | Opian                     |         | 12,891             | 54,234            | 4.2                             | 11.8                                   |
| 45                                | Mapien                    |         | 6,969              | 33,192            | 4.8-                            | 19.2                                   |
| 46                                | Nei-bao                   |         | 10,083             | 42,800            | 4.2                             | 16.5                                   |
| 47                                | Omei                      |         | 22,014             | 106,287           | 4.8                             | 102.0                                  |
| <u>Sixth Political District</u>   |                           |         | 296,019            | 1,498,951         |                                 |                                        |
| 48                                | Ihping                    |         | 70,582             | 247,442           | 3.5                             | 312.9                                  |
| 49                                | Nanchie                   |         | 46,298             | 256,127           | 5.5-                            | 82.2                                   |
| 50                                | Changshew                 |         | 27,041             | 200,299           | 4.4-                            | 122.4                                  |
| 51                                | Chingfu                   |         | 28,975             | 158,761           | 4.5-                            | 46.8                                   |
| 52                                | Kiangau                   |         | 40,938             | 220,817           | 5.3-                            | 252.6                                  |
| 53                                | Kunghsien                 |         | 23,956             | 114,208           | 4.7-                            | 41.7                                   |
| 54                                | Shien Wen                 |         | 20,418             | 111,931           | 5.4                             | 70.5                                   |
| 55                                | Geohsien                  |         | 27,668             | 138,276           | 5.1-                            | 117.0                                  |
| 56                                | Chun Lien                 |         | 10,143             | 51,090            | 5.1-                            | 61.5                                   |
| <u>Seventh Political District</u> |                           |         | 740,965            | 3,728,521         |                                 |                                        |
| 57                                | Lushien                   |         | 227,081            | 1,126,111         | 5.1-                            | 105.5                                  |
| 58                                | Lungchang                 |         | 72,785             | 347,653           | 4.6-                            | 573.5                                  |
| 59                                | Fu-Shun                   |         | 195,607            | 991,467           | 5.0-                            | 630.9                                  |
| 60                                | Hokiang                   |         | 70,625             | 388,823           | 5.5-                            | 262.2                                  |
| 61                                | Na Chie                   |         | 14,648             | 77,239            | 5.5-                            | 61.8                                   |
| 62                                | Ku-Sung                   |         | 17,645             | 70,092            | 4.1                             | 63.9                                   |
| 63                                | Ku-Lin                    |         | 72,153             | 363,141           | 5.1-                            | 58.8                                   |
| 64                                | Su Yung                   |         | 71,421             | 364,085           | 5.1-                            | 171.7                                  |
| <u>Eighth Political District</u>  |                           |         | 682,862            | 3,196,948         |                                 |                                        |
| 65                                | You-Yang                  |         | 84,121             | 405,500           | 4.9-                            | 150.3                                  |
| 66                                | Fu-ling                   |         | 208,417            | 1,043,837         | 5.0-                            | 234.0                                  |
| 67                                | Fungtu                    |         | 114,737            | 528,121           | 4.4-                            | 173.1                                  |
| 68                                | Nauchwan                  |         | 82,915             | 335,375           | 3.9-                            | 204.0                                  |
| 69                                | Pen Shwie                 |         | 62,706             | 301,605           | 4.9-                            | 54.4                                   |
| 70                                | Chienkiang                |         | 26,095             | 116,342           | 4.6-                            | 62.4                                   |
| 71                                | Hsiu Shan                 |         | 74,109             | 327,084           | 4.4-                            | 67.5                                   |
| 72                                | Shih-Chu                  |         | 29,762             | 139,084           | 4.6                             | 62.4                                   |
| <u>Ninth Political District</u>   |                           |         | 640,496            | 3,105,290         |                                 |                                        |
| 73                                | Wauhsien                  |         | 157,221            | 803,001           | 5.1-                            | 338.1                                  |
| 74                                | Fungchi                   |         | 68,812             | 356,697           | 5.2-                            | 217.5                                  |
| 75                                | Wu-shan                   |         | 39,763             | 174,181           | 4.4-                            | 163.2                                  |
| 76                                | Wu-Chie                   |         | 27,116             | 120,856           | 4.8-                            | 151.8                                  |
| 77                                | Yungyang                  |         | 86,035             | 369,897           | 4.3-                            | 108.9                                  |
| 78                                | Kaihsien                  |         | 124,742            | 664,893           | 5.3-                            | 70.2                                   |
| 79                                | Chengkau                  |         | 24,626             | 109,876           | 4.1-                            | 123.9                                  |
| 80                                | Chunghsien                |         | 112,172            | 505,889           | 4.5-                            | 199.5                                  |
| <u>Tenth Political District</u>   |                           |         | 667,936            | 3,243,045         |                                 |                                        |
| 81                                | Ta-Chu                    |         | 97,534             | 476,793           | 4.8-                            | 378.9                                  |
| 82                                | Chuhsien                  |         | 125,611            | 523,234           | 4.2-                            | 259.6                                  |
| 83                                | Kwang An                  |         | 142,505            | 730,850           | 5.1-                            | 474.3                                  |
| 84                                | Liangshan                 |         | 95,816             | 424,919           | 4.4-                            | 364.2                                  |
| 85                                | Lingshi                   |         | 69,224             | 368,871           | 5.5-                            | 215.7                                  |



| No. of<br>County<br>on Map | Name of County<br>English Chinese    | Number<br>Families | Number<br>Persons | Number<br>Persons<br>Per Family | Density of<br>Population<br>Per Sq. Mi. |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 86                         | Tienkiang                            | 63,033             | 335,160           | 5.3-                            | 163.3                                   |
| 87                         | Changshew                            | 74,213             | 383,218           | 5.1-                            | 366.0                                   |
|                            | <u>Eleventh Political District</u>   | 715,466            | 3,580,322         |                                 |                                         |
| 88                         | Nanchung                             | 170,754            | 906,374           | 5.3-                            | 230.4                                   |
| 89                         | Yao-chih                             | 92,896             | 464,337           | 5.1-                            | 87.6                                    |
| 90                         | Hsiehchung                           | 56,421             | 278,467           | 4.9-                            | 221.4                                   |
| 91                         | Pong An                              | 56,037             | 307,510           | 5.3-                            | 92.1                                    |
| 92                         | Yungshan                             | 99,617             | 419,848           | 4.2-                            | 124.5                                   |
| 93                         | Ih-lung                              | 42,150             | 233,333           | 5.5                             | 102.9                                   |
| 94                         | Nan-Pu                               | 127,471            | 606,996           | 4.7-                            | 139.5                                   |
| 95                         | Wu-shin                              | 70,120             | 363,457           | 5.0-                            | 99.3                                    |
|                            | <u>Twelfth Political District</u>    | 1,035,224          | 5,854,507         |                                 |                                         |
| 96                         | Su-liang                             | 138,513            | 785,202           | 5.4-                            | 180.0                                   |
| 97                         | Tungnan                              | 74,867             | 408,040           | 5.4-                            | 280.5                                   |
| 98                         | An-yao                               | 142,391            | 804,867           | 5.6-                            | 220.5                                   |
| 99                         | Lo-Chih                              | 82,791             | 469,897           | 5.2-                            | 123.6                                   |
| 100                        | Chungkiang                           | 161,958            | 891,287           | 5.4-                            | 253.1                                   |
| 101                        | San-Tai                              | 175,335            | 970,111           | 5.5-                            | 324.3                                   |
| 102                        | Shai-hung                            | 84,674             | 465,926           | 5.4-                            | 333.6                                   |
| 103                        | Yien Teng                            | 62,358             | 334,673           | 5.3-                            | 246.0                                   |
| 104                        | Pong-Chih                            | 112,337            | 724,495           | 4.7-                            | 276.6                                   |
|                            | <u>Thirteenth Political District</u> | 527,455            | 2,530,792         |                                 |                                         |
| 105                        | Mien yang                            | 82,832             | 431,119           | 5.2-                            | 163.2                                   |
| 106                        | Tzetung                              | 30,038             | 169,157           | 5.3-                            | 89.1                                    |
| 107                        | Anhsien                              | 40,383             | 184,572           | 4.5-                            | 51.5                                    |
| 108                        | Lokiang                              | 32,697             | 151,766           | 3.1-                            | 145.8                                   |
| 109                        | Miechu                               | 64,952             | 273,987           | 4.2-                            | 194.4                                   |
| 110                        | Tehyang                              | 46,304             | 205,258           | 4.4-                            | 275.7                                   |
| 111                        | Shihfung                             | 50,484             | 262,047           | 5.2-                            | 301.2                                   |
| 112                        | Kwanghan                             | 58,917             | 268,032           | 4.5-                            | 283.5                                   |
| 113                        | Chien Tang                           | 120,848            | 584,854           | 4.8-                            | 169.2                                   |
|                            | <u>Fourteenth Political District</u> | 318,172            | 1,399,627         |                                 |                                         |
| 114                        | Chien Kao                            | 39,783             | 176,358           | 4.4-                            | 21.6                                    |
| 115                        | Kwan Yuang                           | 39,401             | 164,457           | 4.2-                            | 42.9                                    |
| 116                        | Tsongchie                            | 59,294             | 224,722           | 4.0-                            | 153.8                                   |
| 117                        | Chao-Hwa                             | 20,191             | 98,526            | 4.4-                            | 30.9                                    |
| 118                        | Kiang Yu                             | 46,176             | 192,143           | 4.2-                            | 55.1                                    |
| 119                        | Chang Ming                           | 23,185             | 107,409           | 4.7-                            | 203.4                                   |
| 120                        | Behchwan                             | 7,311              | 25,809            | 3.5-                            | 7.8                                     |
| 121                        | Pien Wu                              | 21,595             | 86,196            | 4.0-                            | 4.8                                     |
| 122                        | Liongehung                           | 61,236             | 306,007           | 5.0-                            | 77.1                                    |
|                            | <u>Fifteenth Political District</u>  | 553,784            | 2,435,213         |                                 |                                         |
| 123                        | Ta-hsien                             | 125,401            | 675,189           | 5.5-                            | 54.0                                    |
| 124                        | Kai-kiang                            | 41,797             | 246,276           | 5.9-                            | 34.2                                    |
| 125                        | Ba Chung                             | 186,679            | 644,434           | 3.4-                            | 36.0                                    |
| 126                        | Hsuan Han                            | 104,478            | 465,431           | 4.4-                            | 214.8                                   |
| 127                        | Wan Yuan                             | 31,933             | 152,420           | 5.0-                            | 42.1                                    |
| 128                        | Tong kiang                           | 31,102             | 133,092           | 4.3-                            | 31.8                                    |
| 129                        | Nan kiang                            | 32,394             | 118,371           | 3.9-                            | 23.1                                    |

| No. of<br>County<br>on Map          | Name of County |         | Number<br>Families | Number<br>Persons | Number<br>Persons<br>Per Family | Density of<br>Population<br>Per Sq.Mi. |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
|                                     | English        | Chinese |                    |                   |                                 |                                        |
| <u>Sixteenth Political District</u> |                |         | 80,750             | 270,001           |                                 |                                        |
| 130                                 | Mong-hsien     |         | 15,109             | 45,255            | 3.0-                            | 2.7                                    |
| 131                                 | Lee Fang       |         | 9,861              | 29,159            | 3.0-                            | 0.9                                    |
| 132                                 | Wen Chwan      |         | 7,734              | 24,619            | 3.2-                            | 4.8                                    |
| 133                                 | Mongkung       |         | 14,980             | 44,020            | 3.1-                            | 7.5                                    |
| 134                                 | Songpan        |         | 27,742             | 87,733            | 3.3-                            | 1.2                                    |
| 135                                 | Chien Hwa      |         | 5,324              | 17,255            | 3.5-                            | 2.1                                    |
| Total                               |                |         | 9,629,819          | 47,803,792        |                                 |                                        |

more cold weather and high mountains. Lee-fang county (No. 131 on the map) has the lowest density of population among the 135 counties of the province, with less than one person per square mile. There are 12 counties which have over 600 persons per square mile of land, but the total area of these is not as large as Song-pang county (No. 134 on the map). The combined area of the six counties on the Chengtu Plain (No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 on the map) is smaller than Lee-fang county. Counties 27, 28, and 29 on the map show a high density of population because they are on the rivers and close to Chungking city. County 59 on the map has the largest salt wells region in China. County 41 on the map is producing silk, and white waxes similar to paraffin, so it has a high density of population.

Several counties had great changes in the density of population from 1931-35, as counties 125, 128, 129, 115, and 117, because the Red troops took this region during those years, and 70 percent of the people were murdered, dispersed, or overcome by pestilence and starvation.

Here are some reasons why we have a high density of population in this province:

1. Good climate for rich crops to feed the people.
2. The areas beside the rivers have very rich soils.
3. Many people come to the salt well areas to get jobs and high wages.
4. Favorable irrigation from the rivers for rice crops.
5. Undevelopment of transportation for emigration.

6. The easy way of obtaining land or "stick property" in the past by merely placing a boundary of sticks around it and claiming it for the family.

7. The custom of sub-dividing the property among the children and encouraging them to stay in the region. An old proverb says, "Do not leave mother country — rather starvation."

Figure 8 and tables 3 and 5 contain a summary of the facts showing persons per square mile of land throughout the province.

Table 5. Density of Population in Various Counties (Hsien)

| <u>Persons per<br/>square mile</u> | <u>Number of<br/>counties</u> | <u>Percent of<br/>counties</u> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| - 50                               | 20                            | 14.8                           |
| 51 - 100                           | 26                            | 19.2                           |
| 101 - 200                          | 34                            | 25.2                           |
| 201 - 300                          | 24                            | 17.7                           |
| 301 - 400                          | 12                            | 9.0                            |
| 401 - 500                          | 4                             | 3.0                            |
| 501 - 600                          | 3                             | 2.2                            |
| 601 - up                           | 12                            | 8.9                            |
| Total                              | <u>135</u>                    | <u>100.0</u>                   |

The number of families.—The family is the basic unit in the composition of society, and therefore of much importance in China, where each family has a patriarch, or "Chia-chang", with full authority to represent the group and to manage its property.

It is common for the Chinese family to have 3 or 4 generations together, but usually it is only in one blood relation — that of the husband. The wife's people are always thought of as guests, and seldom



stay in the home for any long period of time. Quite often when a son marries he remains with his parents. When the father of this son becomes 60 years of age, the son assumes the role of patriarch and represents the large family group. However, as long as the old father lives the young patriarch must confer with him concerning the sale of property or the engagements which are arranged for unmarried members of the family. The young patriarch may be the eldest of the sons, or the son with the most education.

A Chinese household residing in temporary quarters such as a hotel is never considered a real family. Until recently there was a type of family usually called the SUBFAMILY (附戶), the following cases of which are common examples:

1. A group composed of a young widow and children under 16 years of age.
2. A maiden and her properties without anyone to succeed to her properties.
3. Parents who have given their properties to their sons except one share kept for their use until death.
4. Sons who have gotten the properties from parents but are young and not over 20 years of age.

All of the subfamilies were under their parents, elder brothers, uncles or other relatives, and obtained help from them. Since this custom of having subfamilies has been changed in the last few years, Table 3 shows the families according to the new system. The new system of counting families includes the small family group such as we find in America.

Table 3 reveals that in 1936 the total families in the province was over 9½ millions. The average number for the 16 political districts was 601,863. The average number per county was 71,331 as shown in table 6. Luhsien county (57 on map) led all counties in number of families with 227,081. This county is in the Yangtze Valley which produces very rich crops. ChinHwa county (135 on map) had only 5,324 families — the smallest number for any county. It is in the high mountain region.

Table 6. Average Number of Families and Persons Per County,  
Szechwan Province, China, 1936

| No. of political district | No. of counties | Total families | Av. No. of families per county | Total persons | Av. No. of persons per county |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st                       | 12              | 506,735        | 42,227                         | 2,367,002     | 197,250                       |
| 2nd                       | 8               | 1,123,778      | 147,472                        | 5,372,067     | 671,508                       |
| 3rd                       | 10              | 1,039,019      | 103,902                        | 5,751,499     | 575,150                       |
| 4th                       | 10              | 395,278        | 39,528                         | 2,049,653     | 204,965                       |
| 5th                       | 7               | 305,880        | 43,697                         | 1,420,354     | 202,907                       |
| 6th                       | 9               | 296,019        | 32,891                         | 1,498,951     | 166,550                       |
| 7th                       | 8               | 740,965        | 92,620                         | 3,728,521     | 466,065                       |
| 8th                       | 8               | 682,862        | 85,357                         | 3,196,948     | 399,618                       |
| 9th                       | 8               | 640,496        | 80,062                         | 3,105,290     | 388,161                       |
| 10th                      | 7               | 660,936        | 94,423                         | 3,243,045     | 463,292                       |
| 11th                      | 8               | 715,466        | 89,433                         | 3,580,322     | 447,540                       |
| 12th                      | 9               | 1,035,224      | 115,024                        | 5,854,507     | 650,501                       |
| 13th                      | 9               | 527,455        | 58,606                         | 2,530,792     | 281,199                       |
| 14th                      | 9               | 318,172        | 35,347                         | 1,399,627     | 155,514                       |
| 15th                      | 7               | 553,784        | 79,112                         | 2,435,213     | 347,888                       |
| 16th                      | 6               | 80,750         | 13,458                         | 870,001       | 145,000                       |
| Total                     | 135             | 9,629,819      | 71,331                         | 47,803,792    | 354,102                       |

The size of families.—Many writers have written about the large number of persons per family in China, and in some cases they have not given a true picture. Some families are much larger than American families because they have three or four generations living together,

but this custom is becoming unusual. Here are several reasons for the large families of the past:

1. Some parents were unwilling for their children to leave them after their marriage, so they remained until the death of the parents.
2. According to Chinese custom the parents had the responsibility to care for and give training to the new couple on how they should treat each other, manage family affairs, and rear the children.
3. All children were successors to the parents' properties, and all the sons and daughters who did not marry had the right to have a share in it. Due to the small farms of 5 or 6 acres it was better for the family members to live together rather than divide the land into so many small parts.
4. The Chinese homes of 12 or more rooms were suitable for large families. However, these homes did not have either basement or storage rooms.
5. A large number of brothers and uncles working together made it possible to retain the farm throughout the years.
6. It was possible for the young couple with inexperience to have a higher standard of living by residing with the parents.
7. The children felt that when their parents were old it was better to live together in order to aid and serve them throughout their sunset and evening of old age.
8. It is a custom for new couples to stay with the parents in order to lessen their tasks and to help with the work on the farm. However, the present families are not large as the data presented in



figure 9 and table 7 shows. This table shows that 80 percent of all the families in Szechwan province average 4.1 to 5.5 persons per family. The larger families are found in the areas of rich soils and dense population. Thus counties 23 and 26 average over 6 persons per family, since they are close to Chungking City. It is a custom for some people who have jobs in Chungking to leave their wives and children in order to stay with their parents and uncles.

Table 7. Size of Families in the Various Counties

| Persons per<br>family | Distribution in<br>number of<br>counties | Distribution in<br>percent of<br>counties |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 3.0 - 3.5             | 12                                       | 9.0                                       |
| 3.6 - 4.0             | 5                                        | 3.0                                       |
| 4.1 - 4.5             | 27                                       | 20.0                                      |
| 4.6 - 5.0             | 37                                       | 27.4                                      |
| 5.1 - 5.5             | 44                                       | 32.6                                      |
| 5.6 - 6.0             | 8                                        | 6.0                                       |
| 6.1 - up              | 2                                        | 1.4                                       |
| Total                 | 135                                      | 100.0                                     |

However, there are some factors that tend to keep rural families from becoming large in Szechwan Province:

1. Troubles or quarrels between brothers or between wives sometimes cause brothers to separate their families.
2. Differences in individual ability and personal interests between brothers and sisters or the securing of a better job in other sections cause some to separate from their family and to become independent.
3. There is a general custom that after grandchildren are born the younger family separates from the parents and makes a home of its



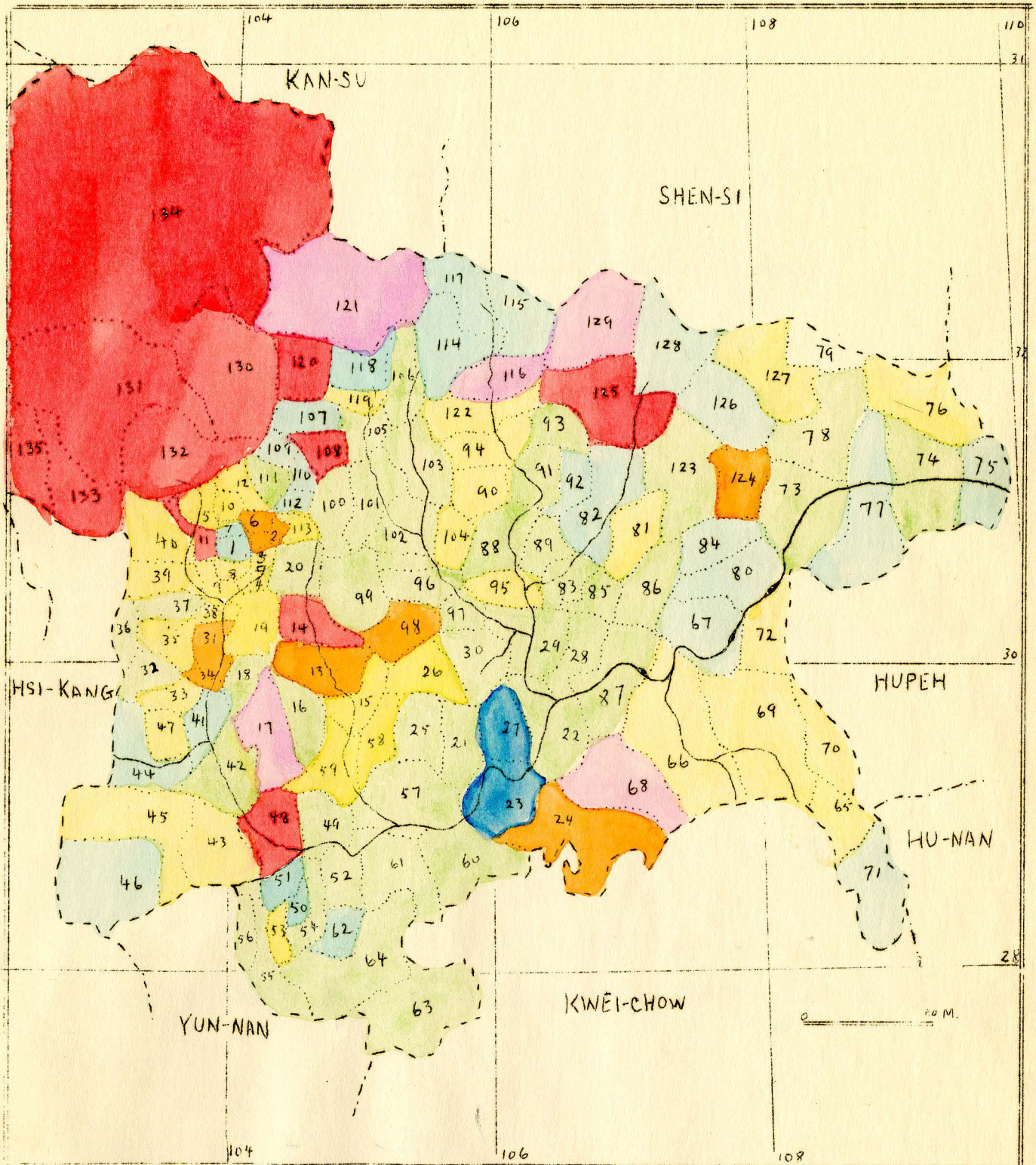


Figure 9. Average Persons per Family



own. The grandparents do not feel any responsibility to feed and care for grandchildren.

4. In times when the government levied special taxes on large farms, the land would be divided equally between the brothers in order to avoid the tax. This also brought about division of families into smaller ones.

5. During the last 3 or 4 centuries, the government several times called to military service young men from the larger families. As a result the farmers often divided their properties so as to make smaller families.

6. Young people with more education in the present day prefer small families after marriage.

Table 8 and figure 8 reveal the reasons for separations in 4,600 families who had received their properties from their parents or grandparents. These are called "divided family properties". These data were worked out by the students of West China Union University in 1934 as part of a study of Szechwan province.

Table 8. Number and Percent of Families for Each Reason of  
Family Division in 4,600 Families of  
13 Counties in Szechwan Province

| <u>Cases</u>                                                      | <u>No. of families</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Troubles or quarrels                                              | 684                    | 15             |
| Unequal abilities                                                 | 365                    | 7.93           |
| Arrival of grandchildren                                          | 803                    | 17.4           |
| Division by parents to make for<br>more harmony after their death | 1080                   | 23.47          |
| Avoid taxes                                                       | 793                    | 17.2           |
| Avoid the military service                                        | 450                    | 9.7            |
| Higher education                                                  | 225                    | 5.0            |
| Others                                                            | 200                    | 4.3            |
| Total                                                             | 4,600                  | 100.0          |



## Section C

## C. THE PEOPLE OF SELECTED AREAS, AS SHOWN BY SPECIAL STUDIES

During the years 1930 to 1936 the author spent several summer and winter vacations studying economic and social conditions in selected areas of Szechwan Province. Detailed studies were made in nine different counties. Prior to this time the only studies that had been made were two Farm Surveys done jointly by Dr. H. D. Brown, of West China Union University, and the author. These surveys, one of 25 farms and the other of 50 farms, were published in "The Chinese Economic Journal", Dec. 1927 and Jan. 1928. In each of the nine counties a special study was made of 500 to 2,400 families in representative rural areas. These areas were also representative of other counties in the province as shown in figure 10. Tables 9, 10, and 11 give a summary of the average size of family, average size of farm, farm livestock numbers, and acres of farm crops in each of the counties studied.

Table 9. Number of Families, Total Number of People, Average Size of Family, and Average Size of Farm in  
Nine Counties of Szechwan Province, China, 1930-36

| No. of county | Name of county | Year of sample study | No. of families in sample study | No. of persons in sample study | Av. size of families | Av. size of farms (areas) | No. of counties for which sample study is representative |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1             | Wen-chiang     | 1931                 | 1,600                           | 7,682                          | 4.8                  | 5.6                       | 18                                                       |
| 19            | Jengshew       | 1936                 | 2,400                           | 13,444                         | 5.6                  | 7.3                       | 18                                                       |
| 47            | Omie           | 1932                 | 700                             | 3,579                          | 5.1                  | 10.6                      | 5                                                        |
| 57            | Lu-shien       | 1932                 | 1,200                           | 6,369                          | 5.3                  | 4.0                       | 22                                                       |
| 66            | Fu-ling        | 1930                 | 1,300                           | 7,412                          | 5.7                  | 5.6                       | 12                                                       |
| 73            | Wan-Hsien      | 1930                 | 900                             | 4,409                          | 4.9                  | 7.4                       | 18                                                       |
| 96            | Su-Lin         | 1933                 | 1,400                           | 7,842                          | 5.6                  | 5.6                       | 21                                                       |
| 114           | Chien-Kao      | 1934                 | 900                             | 3,781                          | 4.2                  | 9.0                       | 13                                                       |
| 131           | Lee Fang       | 1933                 | 500                             | 2,108                          | 4.2                  | 14.8                      | 8                                                        |
| Total         |                |                      | 10,900                          | 56,626                         |                      |                           |                                                          |

Table 10. Crops Grown by the People of Selected Areas  
in Szechwan Province, 1930-1936

| No. of<br>county | Name of<br>county | Percent of farm land in different crops |      |       |              |                 |        |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|------|-------|--------------|-----------------|--------|
|                  |                   | Rice                                    | Corn | Beans | Summer crops |                 |        |
|                  |                   |                                         |      |       | Potatoes     | Cotton          | Others |
| 1                |                   | 90                                      | 1    | 2     | 0            | 0               | 7      |
| 19               |                   | 40                                      | 3    | 5     | 20           | 20              | 12     |
| 47               |                   | 15                                      | 20   | 6     | 40*          | 0               | 19     |
| 57               |                   | 61                                      | 10   | 3     | 5            | 5               | 16     |
| 67               |                   | 34                                      | 11   | 12    | 33           | 0               | 10     |
| 73               |                   | 25                                      | 28   | 3     | 25           | 2               | 17     |
| 96               |                   | 23                                      | 4    | 2     | 25           | 32              | 14     |
| 114              |                   | 5                                       | 32   | 6     | 38           | 0               | 19     |
| 131              |                   | 0                                       | 30   | 4     | 50*          | 10 <sup>b</sup> | 6      |

| No. of<br>county | Name of<br>county | Rice<br>field | Wheat | Barley | Winter crops  |     |      |        |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------|--------|---------------|-----|------|--------|
|                  |                   |               |       |        | Broad<br>Bean | Pea | Rape | Others |
| 1                |                   | 5             | 34    | 1      | 15            | 3   | 25   | 16     |
| 19               |                   | 30            | 16    | 2      | 10            | 28  | 5    | 9      |
| 47               |                   | 14            | 31    | 7      | 5             | 16  | 4    | 23     |
| 57               |                   | 45            | 5     | 8      | 4             | 10  | 16   | 12     |
| 67               |                   | 30            | 28    | 9      | 2             | 2   | 10   | 19     |
| 73               |                   | 23            | 18    | 6      | 11            | 22  | 6    | 14     |
| 96               |                   | 20            | 26    | 3      | 10            | 21  | 8    | 12     |
| 114              |                   | 5             | 44    | 25     | 3             | 2   | 1    | 20     |
| 131              |                   | 0             | 48    | 26     | 5             | 0   | 0    | 31     |

\* Sweet Potatoes  
# Irish "

<sup>b</sup> Buckwheat  
Oats

Table 11. Average Number of Livestock kept by the Families  
of Selected Areas in Szechwan Province, 1930-1936

| No. of<br>county | Name of<br>county | Water  |                |        | Sheep<br>or<br>Goats | Chickens | Duck | Dogs | Cats |
|------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------------|----------|------|------|------|
|                  |                   | Cattle | Buffa-<br>loes | Horses |                      |          |      |      |      |
| 1                |                   | .1     | 1.4            | 0      | 12.4                 | .1       | -20  | 2.1  | 3.5  |
| 19               |                   | .3     | 1.1            | .1     | 6.6                  | .2       | 14   | 3.6  | 2.8  |
| 47               |                   | 1.6    | .2             | .2     | 3.2                  | 10.1     | 8    | 2.0  | 1.9  |
| 57               |                   | .6     | 1.6            | .1     | 1.6                  | .1       | 12   | 4.6  | 2.9  |
| 66               |                   | .8     | 2.2            | .1     | 8.1                  | .3       | 14   | 4.1  | 2.1  |
| 73               |                   | .7     | 2.1            | .3     | 6.3                  | 1.2      | 16   | 3.2  | 2.6  |
| 96               |                   | .1     | 1.9            | .2     | 9.4                  | 2.1      | 18   | 2.4  | 2.2  |
| 114              |                   | 1.1    | 0              | .6     | 4.2                  | 6.5      | 10   | 0    | 1.4  |
| 131              |                   | 6.0    | 0              | 1.1    | 1.4                  | 28.9     | 6    | 0    | 1.1  |

The large number of dogs per family, as shown in table 11, raises the problem of adequate food supply for some counties. Studies at the Medical College of West China Union University have pointed out that two and a half dogs would eat as much food as one person. For these counties as a whole, the number of dogs averages about two for each farm.

The Chinese people like pork better than beef. Furthermore, they lack the land essential for the production of forages for cattle feed. At the same time the large number of hogs competes seriously with people for farm products of corn, sweet potatoes, and Irish potatoes. In the Chengtu plain, hogs compete with humans for rice. In the mountain regions of Lee-Fang and Omie counties and adjacent areas, mutton and beef are more widely eaten than pork due to lack of corn and potato crops and to greater production of hay and pasture.



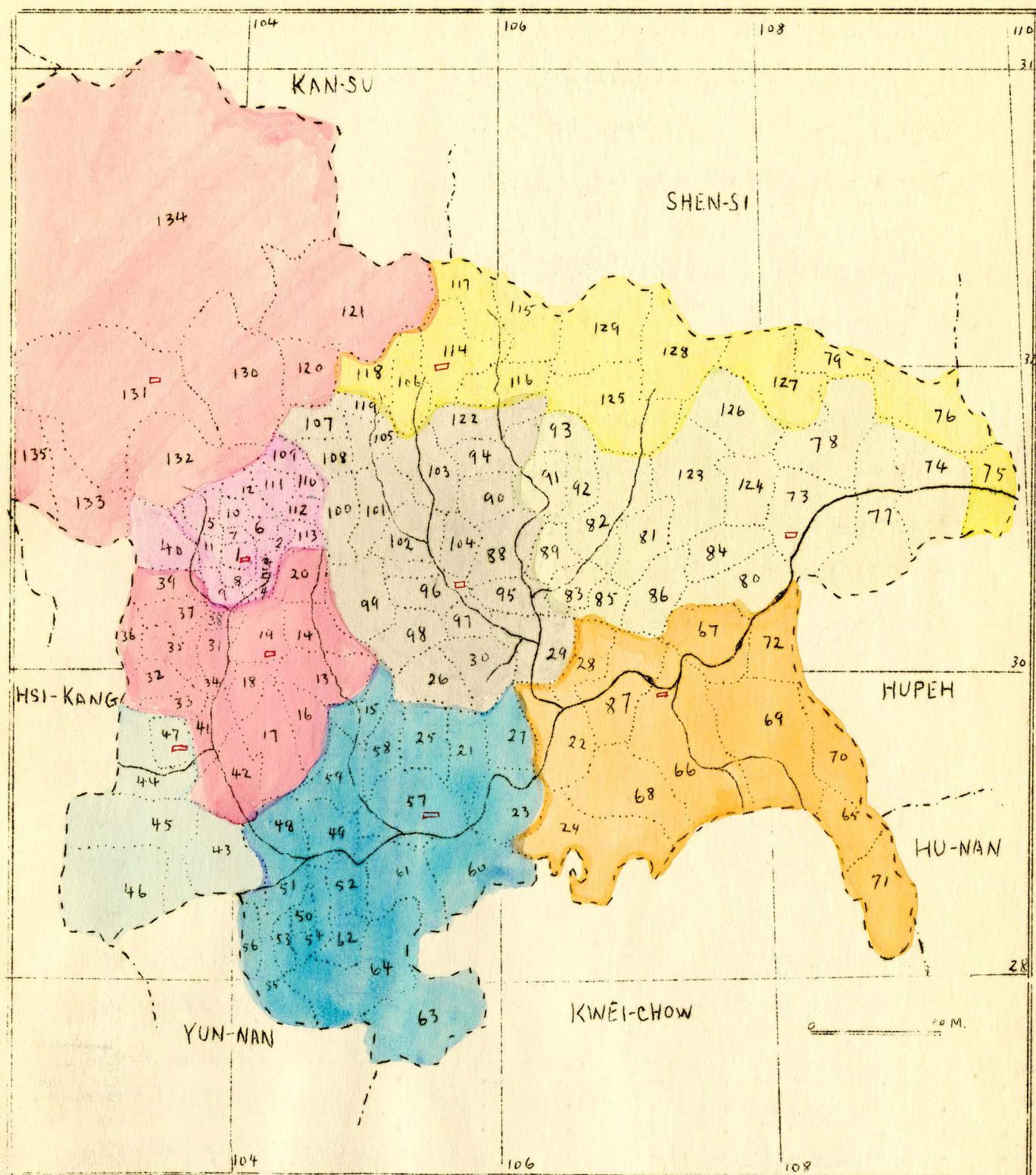


Figure 10. Selected areas of Szechwan Province in which studies have been made of economic and social conditions. These studies were sponsored by West China Union University, and made by Li Ming-liang and his students. Each area shown in red mark is representative of the regions shown in other colors.



Racial Difference.—The people of Szechwan are entirely Chinese.

There are no members of any other races or other countries in the province except a few white people who are missionaries or business folk and who are there for a short time only. However, there are several different tribes in the province who keep their own customs, language, and literature. The Han Tribe, usually called the Chinese tribe, numbers about 90 percent of the total population. Most of the political and economical authorities are Han. Their ancestors came to this province during the period 1640-1700 following the reign of the ruffian butcher, Chang Hsien-Chong, who had killed about three-fourths of the people during the last period of the Ming Dynasty, 1620-1635. Many people were killed while others fled to the wilds of the mountains to perish without clothing, food, and shelter. Chin became the Emperor at Peking, China in 1643. Then the government started a policy of immigration and brought people to Szechwan province from Huh-peh, Canton, Fu-Kien and some other provinces, but the majority of the people came from Huh-peh. All of the first settlers in this province were supported by the government. Anyone could take farm land wherever he liked by merely staking out the boundaries of his property. In addition, the land was tax free for two years.

The people who came from Huh-peh province brought many kinds of plants, seeds, and animals from their own country. These were sorely needed, since the ruffian butcher, Chang Hsien-Chong, had burned or destroyed all foods, equipment, buildings, and cities, and killed nearly all lives human and animal alike. Figure 11 shows the routes

followed by immigrants into the province of Szechwan. Some of the people came into the province along the Yangtze valley up to Chengtu Plain and to other counties (2). Before this period many people entered the province from the north (1), since there was a stone-slate highway which was built during the latter half of the Han Dynasty, in 400-600 A.D., from Chang-an to Chengtu. Since 1937, as a result of the Sino-Japanese War, many refugees have moved into Szechwan from eastern, southern, or northern provinces. There are three ways for the refugees to enter. One is the Yangtze valley, another one is the Chwan-Shan Highway in the north, and a third one is the French-Indo China Railway to Kwan Ming which connects with the highway to Chungking, as shown on figure 11 (3).

The Mohammedan tribe is the largest single group in the north-western counties of Szechwan Province. These people came in from Kan-su Province and settled in counties 121, 130, 131, and 134. Mohammedans are also found in some other counties where they can be distinguished by their churches which are called Mohammedan Temples or Chin Dien Sze. They do not permit other peoples to enter their churches, for they consider those unclean who eat pork. They do not drink any water from public wells, but dig and keep covered their own wells for water supplies. Marriage into other tribes by Mohammedans is unknown and forbidden. Their children must go to their own schools for a few years to learn KO-RAN before attending the government schools, since all of them must know the Mohammedan literature and commandments. They learn to speak and write the Mandrain Language, which is the official language of China. This is part of their training to be officers in their own



provinces or counties. There are several modern schools and churches in Chengtu City for their people. The Mohammedans do not increase as rapidly as the Chinese and do not scatter much due to the limitations of their religious commandments. There are about 200,000 followers of Mohammedanism in this province.

There is another tribe, called "Se-fan", living in the higher mountain region of the 16th Political District. This tribe is semi-civilized and in religious belief is Buddhist, as are the people of Tibet. There are two large LAMA Schools with 4,500 Lama boys in Lee-fang and Songpan counties. These schools are Buddhist religious schools for the Se-fan people. Each family must send the eldest one of two or three sons to enter the school to study Buddhism and Tibetain Literature as soon as he is 6 years old. This boy does not return home to live with his parents nor can he marry and have a family. Instead he becomes a Lama in the schools or Buddhist Temple for life. A few of the more capable Lama continue their studies in order to have a chance to be a leader of the Lama. These leaders have charge of certain affairs in the schools or are appointed to go to the Tibetain Buddhist College by the local schools. After this they may perhaps get another scholarship to go to the India Buddhist College for further study of from three to six years. On return from India, the Lama becomes an instructor or member of the local school board or Master in the school. Even though the Lama do not go back to their homes they receive one share of the family property at their parents' death. Since the son is thus serving Buddha as the family representative, the brothers or sisters work hard to support him in the school.

All of the other Se-fan who do not go to the Lama school have no chance to get an education. They become farm laborers or farm operators. The Se-fan people drink milk, eat cheese and butter as is done in America, but unsanitary conditions prevail. They drink tea every meal without sugar, which is actually a little butter and salt mixed together and boiled. Their main food is wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat and some kinds of beans. There have been some changes in the last 100 years such as the growing of corn and Irish potatoes, which have been introduced to this region by missionaries. They are always honest, peaceful, and loyal to their leaders the Lama and governors. They pay a little tax to the government with grains. The population of the tribe has been decreasing in last two centuries. At present there are about 110,000 Se-fan people in Szechwan province.

There is another tribe called MAO (苗) who also live in the high mountain areas of the 5th and 16th Political Districts. They have a gentle character and a small physical body. They number about 14,000 persons in total. Their language is Chinese, and they wear the same type of clothing as the Chinese, but their level of living is lower. They have no schools, hospitals, or Chinese drugs. All of these people are farmers. Only a few of the Mao believe in Buddhism. They are very simple, frugal, and sincere to one another. The population of this tribe has been decreasing during the last several centuries. In an effort to conserve their own culture they live entirely in their own areas. The Mao tribes have a larger population in the southern provinces of Yun-Nan, Kwei-Chow, Kwan-Si and Huh-Nan, where they have their own language and literature.

The smallest tribe in this province is called Kuo-lo, which is savage, cruel and uncivilized. The Kuo-lo live in the higher and colder mountain regions of the 5th and 16th Political Districts. Their religion is very elementary, and the cremation custom is practiced. They have no Buddhist theories, such as retribution or transmigration for the human soul. In body structure, they are the largest and strongest of all the tribes in Szechwan Province. But there is much fighting and killing among them. They were driven back into the mountains by the Chinese during the last generation. Today the Kuo-lo population is only about 14,000 in Szechwan. However, there is a larger number of them in the Hsi-kang, Yun-Nan and Kwie-Chou Provinces.

Figure 12 shows the approximate distribution in Szechwan Province by counties of the four tribes discussed above.



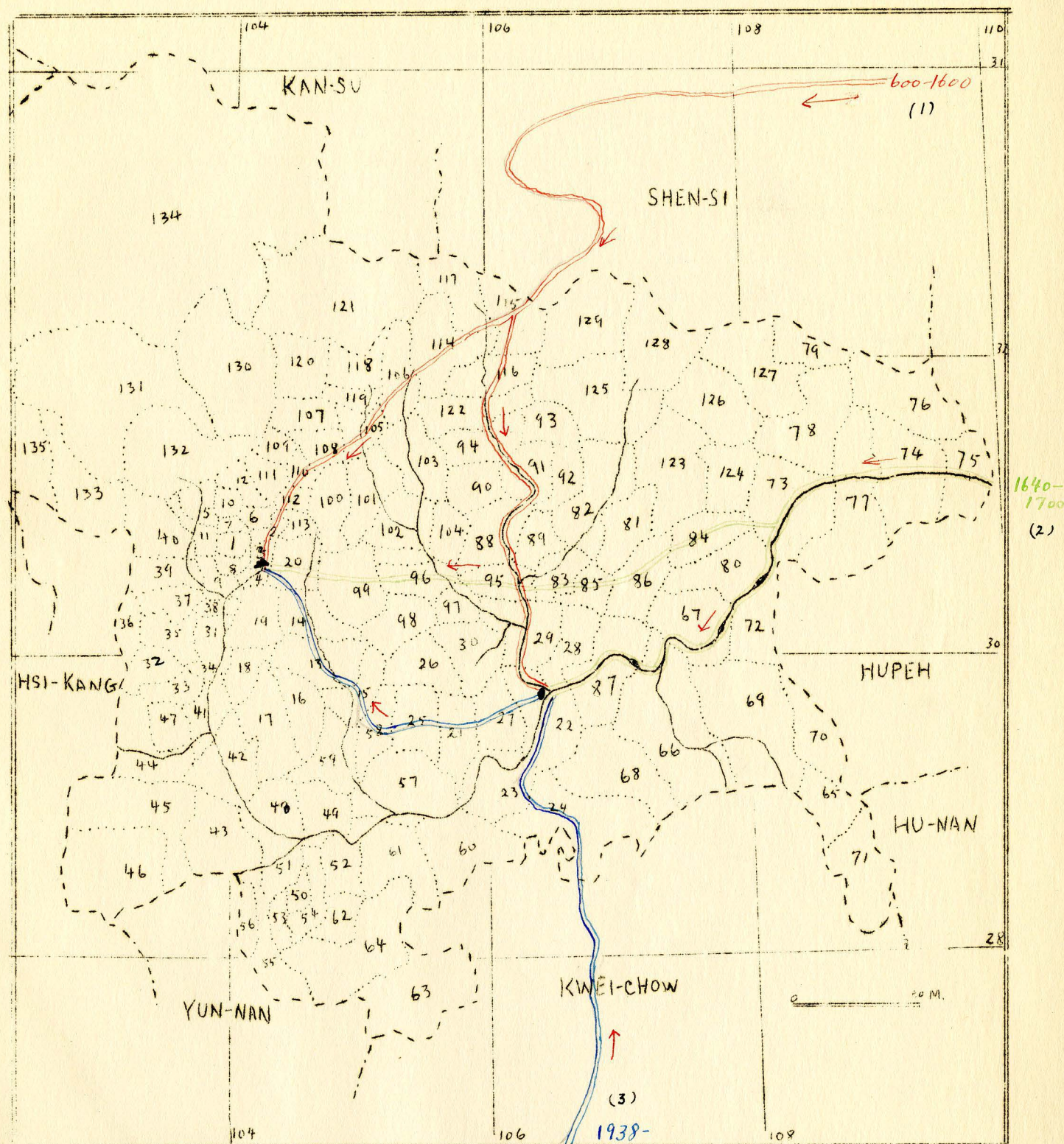


Figure 11. Routes Followed by Immigrants into Szechwan Province, China

- (1) Red route 600-1600
- (2) Green " 1640-1700
- (3) Blue " 1938-



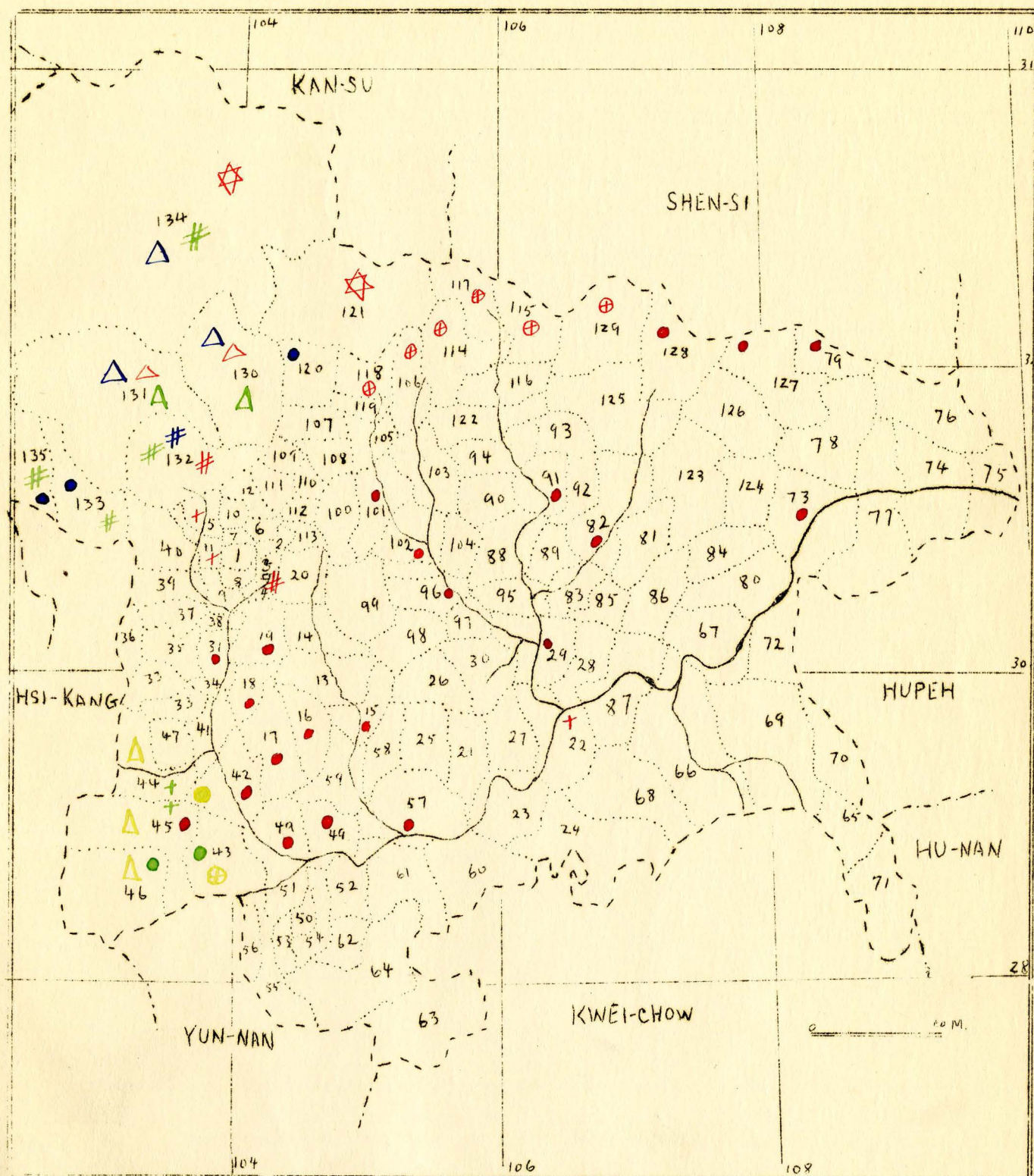


Figure 12. Distribution of Four Minority Tribes by Countries in Szechwan

Red -- Mohammedan

Blue -- Sefan

Green -- Mao

Yellow -- Ku-Lo

1001-10000 Pop.

5001-10000 "

10001-20000 Pop.

30001-50000 "

50000- up "

Age Distribution.—The age distribution of the selected areas studied in Szechwan Province is apportioned among the age periods of life according to a pattern which is generally characteristic of rural life areas of China. There is an excess of children and youth. As shown in table 12, of the 56,625 total population there are 33,300 persons, or 58.8 percent, under 20 years of age; and 16,911 persons, or 29.8 percent, under 10 years of age. The stronger adults, ages 21 to 40, number 11,966 persons, or 21.1 percent, of the total population. Less than 1 percent of the people are over 65 years old.

The population of Szechwan Province is said to be "top heavy" with young people, that is, there is a relatively large percentage in the younger age groups. Such an age distribution, as shown in table 12 and figure 14, is the cause of a number of problems. One of the first to arise is that of family support. With the smaller proportion in the productive age group left to bear the burden of rearing the greater proportion of children, the matter of support becomes very difficult. The standards of living must of necessity be low. In rural communities this productive age group, which is the backbone of any group, is much too small to support adequate educational facilities.



Table 12. Age Distribution of the Population in Selected Areas of Szechwan Province, China

| No. of<br>county | Year | Total<br>persons<br>in area<br>studied | Number by age groups |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |            |
|------------------|------|----------------------------------------|----------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
|                  |      |                                        | 5 and<br>under       | 6-10 | 11-15 | 16-20 | 21-30 | 31-40 | 41-55 | 56-65 | over<br>65 |
| 1                | 1931 | 7682                                   | 1029                 | 1214 | 1098  | 1048  | 922   | 752   | 814   | 776   | 30         |
| 19               | 1936 | 13444                                  | 2232                 | 1721 | 1680  | 1922  | 1277  | 142   | 1520  | 1520  | 147        |
| 47               | 1932 | 3579                                   | 616                  | 602  | 546   | 415   | 408   | 458   | 340   | 186   | 44         |
| 57               | 1932 | 6369                                   | 911                  | 1045 | 834   | 1032  | 668   | 675   | 618   | 529   | 57         |
| 66               | 1930 | 7112                                   | 1171                 | 1134 | 956   | 1142  | 726   | 830   | 638   | 674   | 141        |
| 73               | 1930 | 4409                                   | 758                  | 622  | 578   | 714   | 498   | 402   | 436   | 335   | 66         |
| 99               | 1933 | 7842                                   | 1184                 | 1050 | 1318  | 1168  | 848   | 816   | 730   | 674   | 54         |
| 114              | 1934 | 3780                                   | 499                  | 552  | 650   | 578   | 423   | 364   | 408   | 304   | 3          |
| 131              | 1933 | 2108                                   | 301                  | 271  | 371   | 339   | 259   | 215   | 207   | 143   | 1          |
| Total            |      | 56625                                  | 8700                 | 8211 | 8031  | 8358  | 6029  | 5937  | 5675  | 5141  | 543        |

| No. of<br>county | Year | Total<br>persons<br>in area<br>studied | Percent by age groups |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |            |
|------------------|------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
|                  |      |                                        | 5 and<br>under        | 6-10  | 11-15 | 16-20 | 21-30 | 31-40 | 41-55 | 56-65 | over<br>65 |
| 1                | 1931 | 7682                                   | 13.4                  | 15.8  | 14.3  | 13.6  | 12.0  | 9.8   | 10.5  | 10.1  | .4         |
| 19               | 1936 | 13444                                  | 16.6                  | 12.8  | 12.5  | 14.3  | 9.5   | 10.6  | 11.3  | 11.3  | 1.1        |
| 47               | 1932 | 3579                                   | 17.2                  | 16.8  | 15.3  | 11.6  | 11.4  | 12.8  | 8.5   | 5.2   | 1.2        |
| 57               | 1932 | 6369                                   | 14.2                  | 16.4  | 13.1  | 16.2  | 10.5  | 10.6  | 9.7   | 8.3   | .9         |
| 66               | 1930 | 7112                                   | 15.8                  | 15.3  | 12.9  | 15.4  | 9.8   | 11.2  | 8.6   | 9.1   | 1.9        |
| 73               | 1930 | 4409                                   | 17.2                  | 14.1  | 13.1  | 16.2  | 11.3  | 9.1   | 9.9   | 7.6   | 1.5        |
| 99               | 1933 | 7842                                   | 15.1                  | 13.4  | 16.8  | 14.9  | 10.8  | 10.4  | 9.3   | 8.6   | .7         |
| 114              | 1934 | 3780                                   | 13.2                  | 14.6  | 17.2  | 15.3  | 11.2  | 9.6   | 10.8  | 8.04  | .06        |
| 131              | 1933 | 2108                                   | 14.3                  | 12.85 | 17.6  | 16.1  | 12.3  | 10.2  | 9.8   | 6.8   | .05        |
| Total            |      | 56625                                  | 15.3                  | 14.5  | 14.2  | 14.8  | 10.6  | 10.5  | 10    | 9.1   | 1.0        |

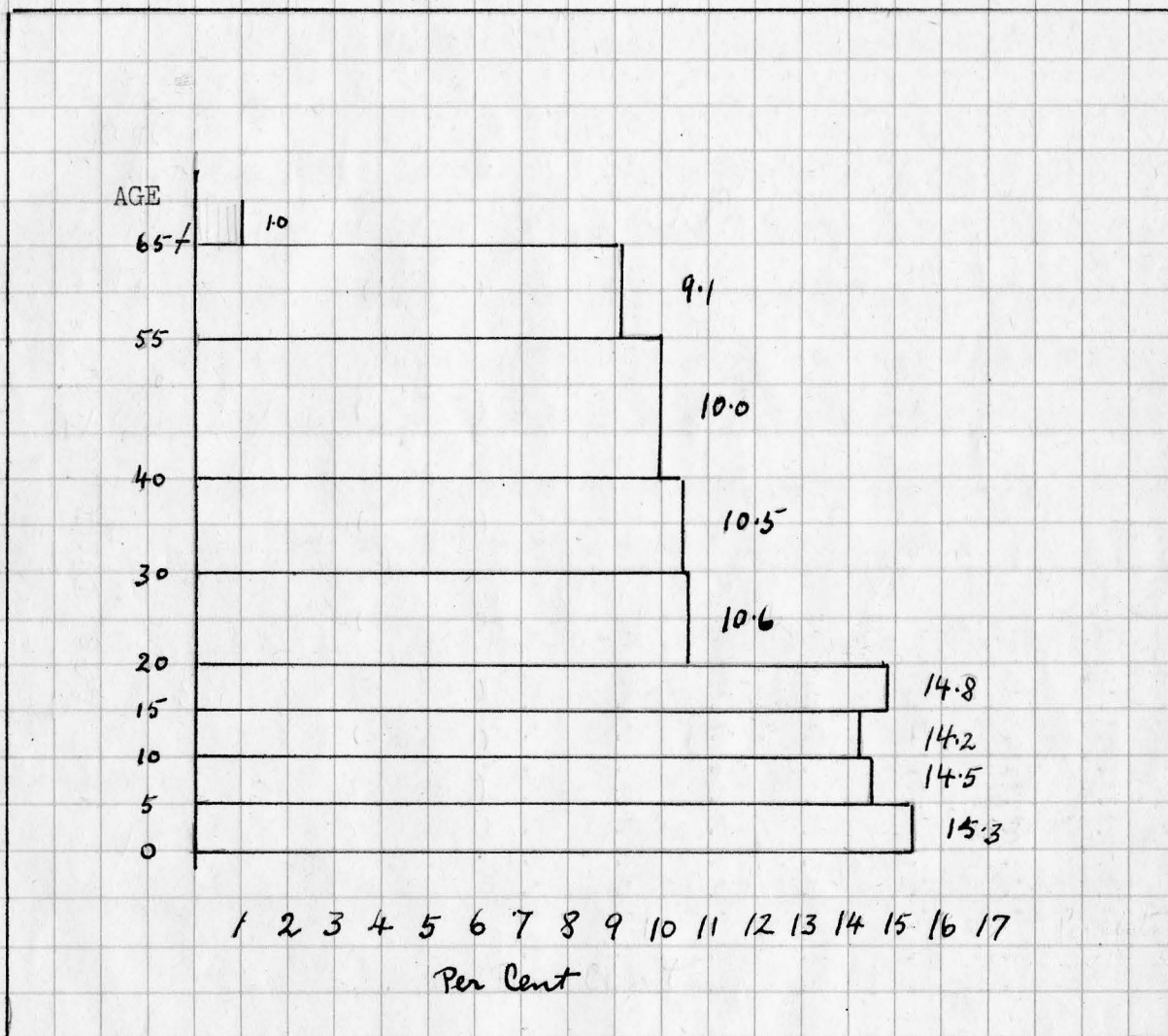


Figure 13. Age Distribution of 56,625 People in Areas Covered by Special Studies in Szechwan Province, China

Sex Distribution.—The number of males and females in the selected areas is shown in table 13. Out of a total population of 56,625 there were 28,742, or 50.8 percent, males and 27,883, or 49.2 percent, females. Thus, males predominate by about 1.6 percent. At the same time there were three counties in which females predominate by 3.6 percent in county 47, 4.4 percent in county 114, and 8.4 percent in county 131. The higher proportion of females in these three areas is due to heavy migration of males from areas of high altitude and poor soils. This uneven distribution is also associated with poor health and low education. A large number of males in these areas leave their homes for jobs in other counties. Some men shorten the normal span of their life by having to work very hard in order to support their families.

Table 13. Sex Distribution of the Population of Selected Areas  
of Szechwan Province, China

| No. of<br>county | Year | Total<br>persons<br>in the<br>selected<br>areas | Number |        | Percentage |        |
|------------------|------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|------------|--------|
|                  |      |                                                 | Male   | Female | Male       | Female |
| 1                | 1931 | 7682                                            | 3962   | 3720   | 51.6       | 48.4   |
| 19               | 1936 | 13444                                           | 6973   | 6471   | 51.9       | 48.1   |
| 47               | 1932 | 3579                                            | 1724   | 1855   | 48.2       | 51.8   |
| 57               | 1932 | 6369                                            | 3294   | 3075   | 51.7       | 48.3   |
| 66               | 1930 | 7412                                            | 3766   | 3646   | 50.8       | 49.2   |
| 73               | 1930 | 4409                                            | 2361   | 2048   | 53.5       | 46.5   |
| 96               | 1933 | 7842                                            | 3996   | 3846   | 51.0       | 49.0   |
| 114              | 1934 | 3780                                            | 1805   | 1975   | 47.8       | 52.2   |
| 131              | 1933 | 2108                                            | 861    | 1247   | 40.8       | 59.2   |
| Total            |      | 56625                                           | 28742  | 27883  | 50.8       | 49.2   |



Illiteracy.—Many rural children live so far away from school that they are unable to attend, since there are no means of transportation to bring them to the schools. However, there are a few old type private schools in the rural areas, but there are not enough for all. These schools are also out of date, and the teachers do not have modern training in new teaching methods. So the children and their parents can find little value in this kind of education. Table 14 shows that of 10,915 children of school age only 3,968, or 36.4 percent, were attending school at the time of the study, and 6,947, or 63.6 percent were not attending school. The majority of those attending were boys. Girls do not have much chance to go to school. Before having completed the lower primary school training, many children are taken out of school by their parents who need them to help with the work on the farm, often when they are yet quite young. Some parents are unable to buy for their children the better clothes, shoes, and school equipment needed, so they do not put them into school.

Table 15 shows the number of persons unable to read or write in the selected areas. The amounts of illiteracy are as follows: 9,384 persons, or 65.2 percent, of ages 16 to 30, 8,205 persons, or 70.7 percent, of ages 31-45, and 4,183 persons, or 73.6 percent, of ages 46 years and over. This shows a higher percentage of illiteracy in the ages of 46 years and over, than in the younger ages of 16-30. These figures show that an increasing proportion of the younger people are learning to read and write.

As table 16 indicates, about one-fourth of the people in the selected areas can read and write. Of these only about one-ninth are females, which means that the proportion of literate males to females is about eight to one.

One of the serious problems of rural Szechwan is its low rate of literacy of females who play such an important role in the development of the next generation. Fortunately, a great promotion of mass education is under way in China in the last few years as a result of the Sino-Japanese war, and should go a long way towards a more literate Chinese people.

Table 14. Children of School Age of Selected Areas of Szechwan Province China, who are attending school and children of school age who are not attending.

| No. of<br>county | Year | Total<br>persons | Children<br>ages<br>8-14 | No.<br>in<br>school | No.<br>not in<br>school | Percent<br>in<br>school | Percent<br>not in<br>school |
|------------------|------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1                | 1931 | 7682             | 1586                     | 967                 | 619                     | 61.0                    | 39.0                        |
| 19               | 1936 | 13444            | 2096                     | 608                 | 1488                    | 29.0                    | 71.0                        |
| 47               | 1932 | 3574             | 813                      | 196                 | 617                     | 24.1                    | 75.9                        |
| 57               | 1932 | 6369             | 1309                     | 828                 | 481                     | 63.3                    | 36.7                        |
| 66               | 1930 | 7412             | 1461                     | 390                 | 1071                    | 26.7                    | 73.3                        |
| 73               | 1930 | 4409             | 890                      | 303                 | 587                     | 34.1                    | 65.9                        |
| 96               | 1933 | 7842             | 1446                     | 466                 | 1030                    | 31.1                    | 68.9                        |
| 114              | 1934 | 3780             | 809                      | 185                 | 624                     | 22.9                    | 77.1                        |
| 131              | 1933 | 2108             | 455                      | 25                  | 430                     | 5.5                     | 94.5                        |
| Total            |      | 56625            | 10915                    | 3968                | 6947                    | 36.4                    | 63.6                        |

Table 15. Classification of Illiteracy to Different Ages in  
Selected Areas of Szechwan Province by Special Studies.

| No. of<br>county | Year | Number of illiteracy with different ages |                     |               |                     |               |                     | Percentage<br>of illiteracy |          |           |
|------------------|------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|
|                  |      | 16 - 30                                  | 31 - 55             | 56 - up       | 16 - 30             | 31 - 55       | 56 - up             | 16 to 30                    | 31 to 45 | 46 and up |
|                  |      | Total persons                            | Illit-eracy persons | Total persons | Illit-eracy persons | Total persons | Illit-eracy persons |                             |          |           |
| 1                | 1931 | 1970                                     | 883                 | 1566          | 772                 | 806           | 543                 | 44.8                        | 49.3     | 67.4      |
| 19               | 1936 | 3199                                     | 2139                | 2945          | 2318                | 1667          | 1256                | 66.9                        | 78.7     | 75.4      |
| 47               | 1932 | 823                                      | 622                 | 762           | 605                 | 230           | 167                 | 75.8                        | 79.4     | 72.6      |
| 57               | 1932 | 1700                                     | 974                 | 1293          | 757                 | 586           | 369                 | 57.3                        | 51.5     | 63.0      |
| 66               | 1930 | 1868                                     | 1200                | 1468          | 949                 | 815           | 564                 | 64.2                        | 64.6     | 69.2      |
| 73               | 1930 | 1212                                     | 711                 | 838           | 532                 | 401           | 275                 | 59.0                        | 63.5     | 68.6      |
| 96               | 1933 | 2016                                     | 1539                | 1546          | 1295                | 728           | 625                 | 76.3                        | 83.8     | 85.9      |
| 114              | 1934 | 1001                                     | 739                 | 772           | 566                 | 307           | 244                 | 73.9                        | 73.3     | 79.5      |
| 131              | 1933 | 598                                      | 577                 | 422           | 411                 | 144           | 140                 | 96.5                        | 97.4     | 97.2      |
| Total            |      | 14387                                    | 9384                | 11612         | 8205                | 5684          | 4183                | 65.2                        | 70.7     | 73.6      |

Table 16. Classification of Literate Persons According to Age  
in Selected Areas of Szechwan Province, 1930-1936

| Total persons | Literate persons | Percent literate | Number of literate |         | Percent of literate |         |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
|               |                  |                  | Males              | Females | Males               | Females |
| 56,625        | 13,879           | 24.51            | 12,231             | 1,648   | 88.1                | 11.91   |

Marriage Data.—During 1930-1936, a marriage study was made in Szechwan Province in selected areas of 23,412 married persons. Of these 12,075 were males and 11,895 females. The results of this study are presented in table 17 and reveal several pertinent facts. In the first place, it shows that there are more girls marrying under 16 (11.5 percent) than boys (4.2 percent). At the same time the vast majority (66.5 percent) of males are married at the ages of 19 and over as compared with only (39.1 percent) about one-third of the females. In the second place, more men have married the second or more times (7.2 percent) than



women (5.5 percent). This is due to the custom that a woman waits longer than a man before remarrying. This period varies from one to three years. After middle life is reached, the number of persons remarrying after the death of the mate is greater for men than women. In cases of the death of the husband, women who are over 30 years of age seldom remarry. In the third place, it shows that there is a higher per cent of widows than widowers. This is true because fewer females than males are married the second time, and it seems that the life span of females is a little longer than that of males.

Table 17. Age at Marriage and Relative Numbers of Second Marriages and Widowers in Selected Areas of Szechwan Province, China

| No. of<br>county | Year | Marriages |       |        | Percent of marriage ages |        |         |        |         |        |
|------------------|------|-----------|-------|--------|--------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
|                  |      | Total     | Male  | Female | Under 16                 |        | 16 - 18 |        | 18 - up |        |
|                  |      |           |       |        | Male                     | Female | Male    | Female | Male    | Female |
| 1                | 1931 | 3209      | 1856  | 1353   | 4.4                      | 6.8    | 25.5    | 49.4   | 80.1    | 43.8   |
| 19               | 1936 | 6918      | 3292  | 3626   | 8.2                      | 10.2   | 31.6    | 56.6   | 60.2    | 33.2   |
| 47               | 1932 | 1236      | 577   | 719    | 3.5                      | 8.2    | 28.4    | 44.3   | 68.1    | 44.8   |
| 57               | 1932 | 2238      | 1430  | 808    | 2.1                      | 4.3    | 36.3    | 51.6   | 66.6    | 44.1   |
| 66               | 1930 | 2816      | 1562  | 1254   | 4.1                      | 8.5    | 29.6    | 57.1   | 66.3    | 34.4   |
| 73               | 1930 | 1651      | 901   | 750    | 5.3                      | 7.4    | 31.4    | 49.9   | 63.3    | 42.7   |
| 96               | 1933 | 3084      | 1472  | 1612   | 4.2                      | 10.1   | 29.5    | 42.2   | 66.3    | 47.7   |
| 114              | 1934 | 1371      | 714   | 1215   | 3.7                      | 11.3   | 32.4    | 51.4   | 63.9    | 37.3   |
| 131              | 1933 | 889       | 331   | 558    | 2.1                      | 14.4   | 22.8    | 61.8   | 75.1    | 23.8   |
| Total            |      | 23412     | 12075 | 11895  | 4.2                      | 11.5   | 29.3    | 49.4   | 66.5    | 39.1   |

| No. of<br>county | Year | Percent of<br>second or more<br>marriages |        | Percent of<br>widower |        |
|------------------|------|-------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
|                  |      | Male                                      | Female | Male                  | Female |
| 1                | 1931 | 4.6                                       | 2.4    | 3.7                   | 4.6    |
| 19               | 1936 | 6.8                                       | 7.8    | 4.9                   | 5.3    |
| 47               | 1932 | 4.9                                       | 4.6    | 3.9                   | 5.6    |
| 57               | 1932 | 8.8                                       | 7.1    | 4.2                   | 4.8    |
| 66               | 1930 | 10.1                                      | 6.8    | 5.1                   | 5.6    |
| 73               | 1930 | 8.8                                       | 7.1    | 4.3                   | 4.9    |
| 96               | 1933 | 9.7                                       | 3.6    | 4.8                   | 4.7    |
| 114              | 1934 | 6.2                                       | 5.3    | 3.8                   | 4.5    |
| 131              | 1933 | 4.6                                       | 5.8    | 2.9                   | 3.5    |
| Total            |      | 7.2                                       | 5.5    | 4.2                   | 4.8    |

Another finding in this study was the low number of divorces, which totaled about 10 for the selected areas. The infrequency of divorces in Szechwan is due to the Chinese custom that only the husband can apply for it, and the constant effort by local leaders to maintain peace and harmony among the families.

For the 23,410 marriages, there was also reported 105 men with concubines. This means that the husband has additional wives if the first wife consents.

Birth Rate and Death Rate.—According to census records in China there have been significant changes in the natural gain rate of the population. At the time of the census of 1730 the rate of nature increase in China was 15 per 1,000 persons. However, since 1800 it had decreased to about only 5 per 1,000 persons.

Table 18 shows the birth rate and death rate in the selected areas of Szechwan Province. There were 2,800 births and 2,197 deaths over a 12-month period. In other words, there were 49.4 births per 1,000 of population, and 38.8 deaths per 1,000 of population. This means that the birth rate was 10.6 persons higher than the death rate, or a natural increase rate of 10.6 in Szechwan Province. Counties 47 and 131 were found to have a much lower natural gain rate than the average for all the counties studied, while county 1 had a much higher rate than the other counties. This higher rate of natural increase in county 1 is probably due to the better soils and better climate of that area which support a more prosperous agriculture and a higher culture.

Table 18. Birth, Death, and Natural Gain Rates of the  
Population in Selected Areas of Szechwan Province, China

| No. of<br>county | Year | Total<br>popu-<br>lation | No. of<br>births | Births<br>per 1000<br>persons | No. of<br>deaths | Deaths<br>per 1000<br>persons | Total gain<br>in births<br>over deaths | Nature<br>increase<br>rate |
|------------------|------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1                | 1931 | 7,682                    | 355              | 46.2                          | 230              | 29.9                          | 125                                    | 16.3                       |
| 19               | 1936 | 13,444                   | 789              | 58.6                          | 668              | 48.8                          | 122                                    | 9.8                        |
| 47               | 1932 | 3,579                    | 116              | 32.4                          | 92               | 25.7                          | 23                                     | 6.6                        |
| 57               | 1932 | 6,369                    | 301              | 47.3                          | 230              | 36.2                          | 71                                     | 11.1                       |
| 66               | 1930 | 7,412                    | 381              | 51.4                          | 291              | 39.3                          | 90                                     | 12.1                       |
| 73               | 1930 | 4,409                    | 232              | 52.6                          | 181              | 41.0                          | 51                                     | 11.5                       |
| 96               | 1933 | 7,842                    | 388              | 49.4                          | 310              | 39.4                          | 78                                     | 9.9                        |
| 114              | 1934 | 3,780                    | 175              | 46.3                          | 144              | 37.9                          | 31                                     | 8.3                        |
| 131              | 1933 | 2,108                    | 63               | 29.9                          | 51               | 24.2                          | 12                                     | 5.6                        |
| Total            |      | 56,625                   | 2,800            | 49.4                          | 2,197            | 38.8                          | 603                                    | 10.6                       |

Infant Population.—The birth rate among Chinese women is high.

Dr. W. Crawford, of West China Union University, recently reported an average of 8.1 births per woman in Szechwan province. However, it is estimated that a fourth to a third of all babies die before they reach one year of age. The birth rate is somewhat higher in rural than urban areas. This is probably due to the younger age of marriage of rural girls and to their stronger physique which results from farm labor. At the same time the rate of infant mortality is also higher, for several reasons. In the first place, most of the rural women are uneducated and have little opportunity to learn child care. In the second place, there are practically no hospitals, doctors, or nurses in rural areas. In the third place, there is an utter lack of sanitation at the time of child birth, especially with instruments used to cut the umbilical cord. In the fourth place, most families are too poor to provide clean clothes, blankets or a comfortable bed for newly born babies. Soap is very



expensive and there are few families who can make soap at home.

In table 19, there is a summary of infant mortality data in the selected areas of the study in Szechwan. Of a total of 2,800 births in the cases studied, 555 of the babies, or 19.8 percent, died before reaching 3 months of age, 137, or 9.9 percent died between the ages of three and twelve months. This makes a total of 692 deaths, or a 24.7 percent infant mortality rate. In counties 47 and 131 the infant mortality rate is highest, and is over 32 percent. This is due mainly to the colder climate and poorer soils in these counties, which results in poor health and lack of food and clothing.

Table 19. Infant Mortality in Selected Areas of Szechwan

Province, China

| No. of<br>county | Year | Total<br>persons | Total<br>women | Total<br>births | <u>No. of deaths</u><br><u>under one year of age</u> |                |                 | <u>Percent of</u><br><u>deaths</u> |                |       |
|------------------|------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|-------|
|                  |      |                  |                |                 | Under 3<br>months                                    | 3-12<br>months | Total<br>deaths | Under 3<br>months                  | 3-12<br>months | Total |
| 1                | 1931 | 7,682            | 1,353          | 355             | 57                                                   | 19             | 76              | 16.0                               | 5.4            | 21.4  |
| 19               | 1936 | 13,444           | 3,626          | 789             | 149                                                  | 32             | 181             | 19.1                               | 4.1            | 23.2  |
| 47               | 1932 | 3,579            | 719            | 116             | 27                                                   | 11             | 38              | 23.3                               | 9.5            | 32.8  |
| 57               | 1932 | 6,369            | 808            | 301             | 52                                                   | 12             | 64              | 17.3                               | 4.0            | 21.3  |
| 66               | 1930 | 7,412            | 1,254          | 381             | 84                                                   | 17             | 101             | 26.5                               | 4.5            | 31.0  |
| 73               | 1930 | 4,409            | 750            | 232             | 57                                                   | 9              | 66              | 24.6                               | 3.9            | 28.5  |
| 96               | 1933 | 7,842            | 1,612          | 388             | 76                                                   | 22             | 98              | 19.6                               | 5.7            | 25.3  |
| 114              | 1934 | 3,780            | 1,215          | 175             | 41                                                   | 6              | 47              | 23.6                               | 3.4            | 27.0  |
| 131              | 1933 | 2,108            | 558            | 63              | 12                                                   | 9              | 21              | 19.0                               | 14.3           | 33.3  |
| Total            |      | 56,625           | 11,895         | 2800            | 555                                                  | 137            | 692             | 19.8                               | 8.9            | 24.7  |

## Section D

## POPULATION IN RELATION TO LAND

Forms of Settlement.—The form of settlement of rural people in Szechwan province is in marked contrast with the village patterns of settlement in the rural areas of North China. In Szechwan each farm home is located among the fields worked by the family, and the type of settlement is characterized by scattered or isolated farmsteads. The homes of farmers are widely separated from one another. This makes for close and constant contacts between the members of the family, but more distant relations with other farm families.

There are varying types of single farmsteads. If the density of the population is low and the size of holdings is large, the houses will be more dispersed than in areas of denser population and smaller farms.

The culture and language of the first settlers who came from Canton, Fuh-Kien or Huh-peh provinces had a great influence on the type of settlement. Many rural communities and market towns have been named for one of the first settlers in that area. Natural features and topography of the land affected the location of homesteads. Szechwan settlers preferred to build their homes in a valley at the bottom of a slope or ridge, or on a river bank. Streams were frequently used for boundary lines and as a source of water supply. This tends to place each farm home near the center of the holdings and more remote from the neighbors.

There are some advantages for single farmsteads. One is the

saving in time to get to the farm fields for work each day. Another is the convenience for transporting animal manure to the farm and in bringing crops home from the fields, as there are no highways for driving carriages or cars. Third, since the farmers work by hand nearly 12 months a year, they have an unbroken pattern of relationship with the children and wives at home. But this type of settlement has many serious disadvantages. First, the children have a long distance to go to school. Second, in regard to schools, the thought that one's family and one's self are too distant from the spot to derive any material benefit is common in scattered homesteads. Third, the family is cut off from daily and social intercourse and becomes more self-centered. The mind and manners are more rough, forbidding, gross, solitary or universally disagreeable.

However, lack of social intercourse is partially offset in rural Szechwan Province where farm homes are large enough for two to four or sometimes six families. Living together like this is a Chinese custom. The richer people like to build large houses so that when their children marry they can use a part of the home for their own family.

System of land division.—About 1100 B.C. Chinese farmers gave mutual aid in cultivating public fields, which served as a means of paying taxes to the government. The system of land division was laid down by the government with one public field for eight families. All of the boundary lines were defined with squares, since the division of the land into squares made for equality. A square Li covers nine



squares of land, which nine squares contain nine hundred mow (one mow =  $1/5$  acre). The central square was the public field. Adjoining this were eight private fields, one for each family which in combination worked the public field for the government. Not until the public work was finished could the families attend to their private affairs.

This old system of land division was changed after 255 B.C., and three systems of land divisions are now used. Each of the systems is used in different sections depending on natural geographic features, such as hills, mountains, slopes, rivers, and plains.

The first system of indiscriminate location of boundaries has a wide use on about 80 percent of all farms. It is the result of two ideas. One is the Chinese custom that the parents give a share of the property to each child. Thus the farm is cut into smaller pieces making many boundaries. Soil and topographic conditions are carefully considered so that the land is divided into equal parts or shares. Another reason for indiscriminate location is that all of the rice fields have ridges built up around them to keep water for rice growing. This illustrates how one small farm may be many small plots and cut by ridges, which depend on conditions of slope. The type of boundaries sometimes depends on the land slopes between adjoining properties.

In the second system boundary lines are more stable and more clearly defined. In this type it is customary to put in the land contracts a description of the boundaries as the middle of the river, stream, channel, ponds, or private road. Although this is a better system, it is in use on only about 15 percent of the land.

A third system is rectangular division, but this method is used in only a few sections of Szechwan Province in Chengtu Plain and some areas of level land near the river.

Each farmer, when buying land, selects the land that better suits him, seats himself upon it, and sets forth the limits of his claim with trees, stones, creeks, or other natural phenomena. A few farmers on rich soil or in densely populated regions mark their boundaries with stone posts. This post is square in shape and projects five to eight inches above the surface of the ground. Some richer farmers have carved their family name on this stone post. In poor soil regions or cheaper land areas the boundaries are explained in the title deeds with such description as east of "A Plots", field adjoins the land of Mr. B, through the slope to touch Mr. C's boundaries, and so forth. When someone buys a new farm in a community, he must ask the local leaders and the owners of the farms adjoining his land and together they go over all boundaries in order to locate and identify them to the satisfaction of all parties.

Size of Holding.--In Szechwan Province the average density of population is over 168 persons per square mile of land. The number of occupants per farm varies greatly with the usual condition of more on the larger farms. The family system is in existence throughout Szechwan, and occupants will usually include some of two or three generations. Sometimes several brothers with their wives and children will live on one farm and in combination work the same farm. This is usually called the "Chinese large family system". In some instances there are four to six men living on one farm. However, the larger family

generally results in a number of small farm holdings, each a family farm in itself.

Historically in China, there was a standard for those who tilled the fields. Each husbandman received 100 mow, or about 18 English acres. It was assumed that when 100 mow were well manned, the best husbandmen of the highest class could support nine persons, and those ranking next to them could support eight. In theory the best husbandmen of the second class could support seven persons, and those ranking next to them could support six; while husbandmen of the lowest class could support only five. Two thousand years ago, therefore, no Chinese farmer had less than 100 mow or 18 acres.

Now the density of population is much higher and the size of holding is smaller. Table 7 shows that about 60 percent of all families have more than five persons per family. The Chinese government census reported in 1934 that the average size of farm holding was only 20.8 mow, or about 3.5 acres. However, Szechwan farmers grow two or three crops a year in the long growing season of nearly 11 months. But they do not have any tractors, trucks or other modern machinery or other time-saving equipment as have farmers in the United States. As a matter of fact, farmers throughout the whole of China are using primitive equipment and the same methods that have been used for thousands of years.

In the poor soil regions, the farmers' wives work almost equally with the men, and children too have a share in the farm work. Hoeing, harvesting, and watering of young plants are the duties of women and children, while cultivating, harrowing, and rice planting fall to the



men. Marketing, which involves social contacts and occasional relaxation, is also a special privilege of the men.

Each farm contains two classes of fields. One group is known as "rice or water fields", meaning that the field's boundaries are made of ridges or banks designed to hold the water in the field for the production of rice. The other group is called "land or dry fields", from which are harvested two crops a year. These may be barley, corn, cotton, wheat, or peas. Rice is such a dominant crop that the people eat too much rice starch. This affects the size of their bodies. Thus inhabitants in Szechwan province are smaller in size than the people of North China where foods made from wheat and wheat flour are the main elements in the diet. The chief cause for this condition is the small size of holding per farm, which prevents the Szechwan farmer from growing a very large number of different crops.

Land Tenure Classes.—Farm land is the one stable investment in China. Many people of the cities, such as political leaders, doctors, and teachers, buy land as an investment either for their children or for their own period of retirement.

In the richer regions of good soil and better irrigation, farm land values are relatively high.

From the point of view of land tenure, there are three general classes: owners, renters, and part-owners. In 1933 as a result of a study of 46 counties, the Szechwan Provincial Agricultural Bureau issued a report on land tenure classes which revealed that among farmers, 22 percent were owners, 59 percent were renters, and

19 percent were part-owners. Table 20 contains a summary of the information on tenure classes obtained from our special studies, 1930-1936.

Table 20. Distribution of Farms by Tenure Classes in  
Selected Areas of Nine Counties, Szechwan Province, China

| No. of<br>county | Year | No. of<br>farms | Density | Percent |         |             |
|------------------|------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|
|                  |      |                 |         | Owners  | Renters | Part-owners |
| 1                | 1931 | 1600            | 1117.5  | 42      | 48      | 10          |
| 19               | 1936 | 2400            | 261.0   | 54      | 38      | 8           |
| 47               | 1932 | 700             | 102.0   | 64      | 26      | 10          |
| 57               | 1932 | 1200            | 105.5   | 68      | 20      | 12          |
| 66               | 1930 | 1300            | 234.0   | 50      | 34      | 15          |
| 73               | 1930 | 900             | 338.1   | 46      | 45      | 9           |
| 96               | 1933 | 1400            | 180.0   | 69      | 29      | 2           |
| 114              | 1934 | 900             | 21.6    | 65      | 22      | 13          |
| 131              | 1933 | 500             | .9      | 74      | 24      | 2           |

It is apparent from this table that there is a higher percent of tenancy in counties 1, 19, 66, and 73 where the density of population is greatest. In China, the more productive lands are generally the most densely populated. At the same time, well-to-do folk who wish to invest money in land usually buy it in the more productive areas. Thus a high proportion of the land in densely populated regions is owned by people of the cities; political leaders, professionals and other non-residents. In many cases, farm rent is the chief support of a family living in the city. Although rents are high, the tenants do not pay taxes, since these are borne by the owners. Rents are usually charged at the rate of about 10 percent

of the value of capital invested in the land. In cases of special governmental taxes, there is an advantage in being a tenant.

There are three types of tenants. Money renters, share tenants, and those who pay a specified amount in crops of either rice, corn, or wheat. In general, all rents must be paid in the fall during the harvesting season. Share tenants usually receive 60 to 70 percent of the crops; provide their own seed, equipment, etc.; and keep up the buildings on the farm. Those who pay a certain amount may pay 30 bushels out of each 100 bushels of rice or out of the total yield. The amount paid as rent depends upon the agreement made in advance.

Social Activities.—The market-towns are the rural community centers of Szechwan. In the market-town, out of every 10 days 3 to 5 are market days. The farmers buy and sell all kinds of farm products, farm equipment and household needs. Marketing activities require 3 to 4 hours only, then the people go to the nearby tea-shops to rest, talk, and read the papers with their company. A market-town that is the center for 3,000 families will have 10 to 20 tea-shops, and each tea-shop may contain 50 to 100 persons on market day. These shops are furnished with 3 to 12 square tables and chairs or benches. The people sit around the tables and drink tea, and pay 2 to 5 cents for a period of one or two hours. The tea-shops provide the best opportunity in rural areas for social intercourse. It is a custom where you go to the tea-shop for a friend to provide you some tea. You reciprocate by inviting to tea someone who came later.

There are some social activities with one's family, neighbors and



relatives, such as weddings, birthday celebrations for old people, and funeral rites. The host is prepared to serve 100 to 500 people at one of these events. The guests come dressed in their best and bring gifts for the host.

There are a number of different social organizations based on Buddhist religious rites. Each has meetings for worship one or two days every year. They have a temple in the market-towns and some farm land in the country which is used as a source of yearly support. The main purpose is to help the poor and support orphans and aged people. Sometimes these organizations present free stage plays in their temples for the general public that extend from three to ten days.

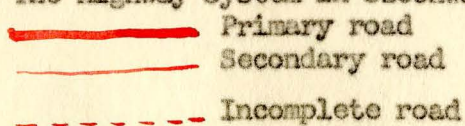
There are some other social activities based on agriculture, such as flower shows, seed fairs, pigeon clubs, and irrigation clubs. Frequently, several communities or counties join in events of this kind. All of the social organizations have been weak and inactive during the last century. In the last three years the New Life Movement Council has been promoting activities and organizations in the rural communities. Some of these are child welfare, home economics, and public health clinics, young farmers' clubs, and evening schools.

## Section E

## THE PROVINCE OF THE FUTURE

The most hopeful factor in all Szechwan Province is the 45 million people who have not yet been touched in the lagging development of the province. However, her chief exports to foreign countries are valued at forty million dollars a year. The abundant products of tung-oil, raw silk, wool, bristles, rabbits skin, goat skin, hides, linen, gallnut (for coloring), medical plants, and others are the most important export items. Exports to the world will be much greater when the potential mineral wealth is more systematically worked and the 20 million acres of cultivable land, now uncultivated, is utilized through scientific farming.

The present agricultural improvement program of the Szechwan Provincial Government consists of the following projects: first, to work out a system of agricultural extension on a county unit basis with the expectation of its adoption by the national government; second, to train a group of local leaders for improvement of agriculture through short courses; third, to operate an experimental farm for testing and propagating improved seed varieties for extension work; fourth, to experiment with methods of fruit storage and control methods for diseases and insect pests of local plants; fifth, to provide facilities for the training of research personnel in the field of agriculture. Although these projects were started in 1938, they have produced good results with the farmers of the province.





Before the Sino-Japanese war affected Szechwan, there was only about 1,000 miles of improved highways in the province, and travel during the rainy season was practically impossible. But at the present time there are over 3,000 miles of improved roads (See figure 14). Several highways were built by the farmers. In the northern part of the province there is the 500 mile Szechwan-Shansi highway, leading from Chengtu, capital of Szechwan, to Paochi, western Shansi's industrial center. Another northern route is the Szechwan-Kansu highway of 650 miles connecting Chengtu and Lanchow, capital of Kansu Province. In the southern part of the province there is the Szechwan-Kwiechow highway between Chungking and Kwie-yang, capital of Kwiechow Province. The Szechwan Yunnan Railway will be completed by the spring of 1941. In the west is the Szechwan-Sikang highway which connects with Chengtu. At the present time, Szechwan airports are much more in use than those of any other province in China. There are several railroad lines planned. It is difficult to get steel and machines from other countries in war time; however, these railroads should be completed shortly after the war. All of the roads need further development so that transportation of imports and exports of farm products will be facilitated.

The Sino-Japanese war has undoubtedly helped to give the Szechwan farmers a new idea and deeper sense of the basic and pressing importance of rural reconstruction education. The mass education movement, organized as a national association in 1937, arose in recognition of the problems inherent in this situation of a vast, neglected population. Its

purpose has been to explore the potentialities of the rural masses to find a way of drawing out the best and the deepest in the people. The mass education movement started with a literacy program in co-operation with the government and with college students. Rural awakening is basic and dynamic. With scientific techniques and competent leadership, it will meet the needs of China today and lay the foundation for the China of tomorrow.

## Section F

## SUMMARY

This study was made of 10,900 families comprising 56,625 people in selected areas of nine counties of Szechwan Province, China. It gives a picture of each area which is typical of the major portions of the province. There is much land in the vast areas of Szechwan; however, up to the present time no systematic study of the population has been made. The following problems appear as a result of this study.

1. The people living in the mountain regions have not yet been touched by modern culture and in both numbers and birth rates show decreasing trends. Some counties in the province are over crowded in proportion to the fertility of the soil. Emigration from these thickly populated areas seems to be the most practical suggestion, since there are sparsely settled regions in the northwestern and southwestern counties.

2. The age distribution of the Szechwan population is unbalanced with a high percent of children and a low percent of old people. This is due partly to the relatively short life span of the people. The government has not yet provided any welfare or public health service in rural areas.

3. The distribution of sexes is well balanced except in the mountain regions where females outnumber the males. In general, the level of living on the mountain farms is very low. So it is a natural consequence for men to migrate from these regions to find jobs elsewhere.



4. Although this study indicates a slight decrease in illiteracy, the majority of our people have practically no chance to get school training. Schools are far from home and there is no means of transportation provided for the children. In addition many mothers keep their daughters at home to look after the young children and other household duties.

5. From the marriage data, it has been found that nearly 10 percent of the women and 5 percent of the young men marry under 15 years of age. Many of these premature marriages result in poor health for one or more members of the family. They are also a cause for the high proportion of second and third marriages.

6. Health is an important consideration in the standard of living. Poor health, sickness, etc., prevent accumulation of resources and rapidly consume the surplus income. This study indicates that death rates in the selected areas are high, especially in the mountain regions. All counties of the province have an insufficient number of doctors, nurses, and hospitals. The death rate of infants is very high and a serious problem.

7. In addition to the major problems outlined above, there are other elements in the structure of Szechwan Province that need attention. There are far too few highways within the province or its counties and between its cities and towns. Farmers have practically no opportunity to transport farm products from one town to another. The high percent of tenancy in the province must also be considered. High rents in the cash-crop areas result in a low level of living. Another aspect

of the agriculture situation which is of great importance to the people is organization activities. There is a prevailing disinterest on the part of the farmers of Szechwan to affiliate themselves with organizations of a social and cooperative type. It is usually true that the existence of organizations is a mark of an advanced rural community spirit and group life.

The advent of the Sino-Japanese war has awakened a deep and far-reaching interest in the problems of rural China. In order to organize its people to deal with the invader, the National Government has sponsored four agencies which in only three or four years have produced significant results. These agencies are: (1) The New Life Movement, (2) The Chinese Youth Corps, (3) Rural Reconstruction, and (4) Mass Education. With these China should go forward!