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The Economic and Social Aspects of Mobility of Oklahoma Farmers

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SOME IMPORTANT FACTS BROUGHT OUT IN THIS BULLETIN

About one-half of all tenants and one-third of all farmers in Oklahoma were on new farms in 1924. Excluding those who first began farming that year probably one-fourth of all farmers in the state actually moved.

The extent of moving varied all the way from 14 per cent of all farmers in the northwest part of the state to over 40 per cent in the eastern part of the state. There were 13 counties situated generally in the southeastern part of the state in which more than 60 per cent of all tenants were on new farms in 1924.

There is no conclusive evidence that the average stay on farms of Oklahoma farmers has tended to increase in the past 15 years. Farmers seemingly move as frequently now as they ever did.

The total magnitude of farm moving in Oklahoma is indicated by the fact that seven and three-fourths million acres of farm land, and four and two-tenths million acres of crop land are estimated to have changed hands in 1924. In three crop reporting districts, over 38 per cent of all farm land and building value was estimated to be in new hands in 1924.

The social significance of moving is in part indicated by the fact that probably about one-third of all farm population was on new farms; that 36.5 per cent of all farm children under 10 years of age were involved in the shift, and that 31.4 per cent of the farm population over 10 years of age were involved. In areas of greatest moving the largest proportions of young children were involved. If all persons living on new farms in Oklahoma in 1924 were stood in a line two feet apart it would be one hundred and fifteen miles in length.

The direct cost of moving is estimated to be about two million dollars per year for Oklahoma farmers. Possibly half of this moving is of no economic or social benefit to the moving farmer, the owner of the land, or to the state. On the other hand it causes a tremendous amount of loss to all concerned. Useless moving is estimated to have cost the farmers interviewed, in direct cost only, an equivalent of 5.4 per cent of their present net wealth.

There is a close relationship in the various counties of Oklahoma between the investment of farmers in machinery and livestock and the amount of moving. Roughly speaking for each $30 increase in the average value of machinery and livestock per farm, the percentage of moving

in the county drops one point. Dividing all farmers interviewed for the special study into three classes, the more frequent movers, the intermediate movers and more stable farmers, it was found that in nearly all cases excessive movers had a markedly smaller amount of equipment capital and operated a much less valuable farm than the more stable group.

There is some ground for the statement that excessive movers depend more on the one crop type of farming than do the more stable farmers, although the evidence in this investigation is not conclusive on this point.

In four different areas it was found that the fourth of all farmers interviewed, who ranked as the accumulators of the least wealth, were also on an average the more frequent movers; while the fourth whose earnings in the past had been greater than the other three-fourths were, on an average, the least frequent moving fourth. In short, wealth accumulation and stability without doubt were closely associated.

For four different surveys, facts indicate that the landlords of frequent movers, (when operators are classed on the basis of receipts from cotton) get a smaller return on their investment than do landlords of infrequent movers, this excess return amounting to a third in most areas.

Children of the less frequent movers averaged around one-fifth more educational progress per school age year than did the children of more frequent movers.

Undesirable effects of moving on children are accentuated by the fact that in the cotton belt counties for each increase of 1.6 per cent in the percentage of moving there is an increase of 1 per cent in the proportion of young children to all farm population. Also the evil effects of moving farmers on the educational accomplishments of their children are made much worse by a mobility of country teachers which averaged around 50 per cent per year in 19 counties in the state in 1926, 1927 and 1928.

The more stable group of owners took 50 per cent more dailies than did the more frequent moving group. The more stable group of tenants took about 25 per cent more dailies and 33 per cent more farm journals than did the more frequent movers.

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF MOBILITY OF OKLAHOMA FARMERS

By J. T. SANDERS*

PART I

THE EXTENT OF, AND CHANGES IN, FARM MOBILITY

Since the earliest days of this country, moving from farm to farm and from locality to locality has been an important part of settlement and pioneering. Although this moving was not always a means of betterment to the mover, nevertheless, the aggregate good probably far outweighed the aggregate evil.

Present day farm moving frequently results in numerous evils. These evils are easily seen and stand out vividly in the minds of most people interested in rural welfare and rural social advancement. The good that comes from moving, (or rather, moving resulting in economic or social improvement) is more easily overlooked than is the evil of moving. There are many areas in the nation and in Oklahoma where the good probably far outweighs the evil. The purpose of this bulletin is to inquire in some detail into the nature and effects of farm moving.

Possibly no other agricultural people are so migratory as are the farmers of this country; and there seems to be few parts of the country where farmers are more migratory than in Oklahoma. A recent study made by the United States Department of Agriculture on farm moving revealed the fact that in 1924 the farmers of only three states did a greater proportionate amount of moving than did Oklahoma farmers and that Oklahoma farmers exceeded those of all other states in the amount of moving in 1909**. The actual proportion of all farmers moving was estimated to vary in 1924 from 1 per cent in Maine to 26 per cent in Arkansas; in 1909 it varied from 4 per cent in Maine to 33 per cent in Oklahoma.

Figures calculated from United States Census data on practically all farms in the state show that almost exactly one-third of all Oklahoma farmers first began the operation of the farm they were on in 1924. This means that one-third of all farms in Oklahoma had new operators in 1924, although it does not mean that each new operator on a farm necessarily was a mover. In most cases it was clearly a move, but a certain percentage of all the new farm

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*A major portion of the material used in this bulletin was collected in cooperation with the Division of Land Economics, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, Dr. L. C. Gray in charge.

**Changes in the occupancy of farms, 1924-25, compared with previous years, pages 6 and 7. Mimeograph Release.

operators are new entrants into farming, and hence cannot be counted as farmers who have moved in the strict sense of the word.

Both good and evil result from this unusually large proportion of moving and change in farm operators. The benefit of it comes from the advantage of adjusting the size and type of farm, and the farm organization to the growing ability of the advancing farmer. The benefit to the individual probably is far more evident than the benefit to the community. Except through benefit to the individual, it is doubtful if farm moving benefits the communities as a whole. The evil of moving plainly falls on both the individual and society. To the individual, useless moving is expensive; it often prevents a businesslike, long-time organization policy of farming, and seriously impairs the educational and religious life of the farmer and his family. Not only do these evils bear heavily on the individual farmer, but they bear none the less heavily on the community, state and nation.

Probably one of the most outstanding social losses accompanying excessive farmer mobility is wastage of soil fertility and lack of care of farm improvements. About half of the 115 thousand tenants in Oklahoma transferred their interests to a new farm in 1924. If this is a typical picture of Oklahoma tenant moving it is unquestionably safe to assert that the conservation of soil fertility of more than a half—possibly more than two-thirds—of the 14 million acres of Oklahoma rented farm land received no serious attention, especially was little attention given to the building up of depleted fertility. The moving tenant, in the nature of things, cares nothing for the maintenance of soil fertility of the farm that he is leaving and in most cases little for that to which he is moving.

A system that permits this is a most serious indictment, not alone of the tenant, but also of owners of this land and of Oklahoma people in general. Above all, society should not take a short-sighted view of its well-being. A system of tenancy characterized by so much moving as is ours, with its attendant soil wastage, is without doubt a short-sighted policy on the part of Oklahomans.

This study was undertaken with the hope of finding out how much moving takes place on Oklahoma farms; why these moves are made; the cost of the moves; and, to a limited extent, what are the good and evil results of this moving.

The basis of the study is largely information taken from farmers in the state by direct interview. In getting this information, no effort was made to get a select group of moving or non-moving farmers. For this reason, it is believed that the facts secured are fairly representative of the conditions prevailing on Oklahoma farms at the time the information was secured. The number of farms on which this study is based varies with different items in the study. A valuable source of general material was found in the census, especially the 1924 schedules, from which the total amount of moving for Oklahoma was tabulated by the Division of Land Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture.

From a glance at the summary given in Table I, it will be seen that a third of all farmers in the state in 1924, and one-half of all tenants, began operating for the first time in 1924 the farms on which they were living. That is to say, a third of all of these farmers and a half of all tenants had been running the farms they were on for one year or less. In the eastern half of the state, 38.2 per cent of all farmers moved; in the southwest part, 31.0 per cent; while in the northwestern wheat counties, 14.1 per cent moved or were on new farms in 1924.

TABLE I

The Number and Per Cent of Farmers Who Were on Their Farm First in 1924, by Tenures and Sections of Oklahoma

Section of State	Total Number of Farmers			Total Number of Farmers on New Farms 1924			Percentage of All Farmers on New Farms 1924		
	Tenants	Owners	All	Tenants	Owners	All	Tenants	Owners	All
Northwest District I and II*	10753	15661	26414	3030	695	3725	28.2	4.4	14.1
East. Okla. District III, IV, VI, VIII and IX*	84003	49694	133697	45493	5531	51024	54.2	11.1	38.2
Southwest Dist. IV and VII*	20742	15797	36539	9943	1367	11310	47.9	8.6	31.0
STATE	115498	81152	196650	58466	7593	66059	50.6	9.4	33.6

*Throughout this bulletin, Districts of the State referred to by Roman numerals are the United States Crop Reporting Districts. A general description of the location of these Districts is as follows: Approximately the northern third of the State is divided into three districts numbered from west to east as District I, District II and District III, approximately the central third (running east and west) of the State is divided into three Districts also, District IV being on the west, District V lying immediately east, and District VI on the eastern side of the State. Approximately the southern third of the State is also divided into three Districts with the numbers reading from west to east VII, VIII and IX. In other words, District I is the Northwest District and consists of Cimarron, Texas, Beaver, Harper, and Ellis counties; District II is the North-central District, and consists of Woods, Alfalfa, Grant, Kay, Woodward, Major, Garfield and Noble counties; District III is the Northeastern District, and consists of Osage, Pawnee, Washington, Nowata, Craig, Rogers, Wagoner, Mayes, Tulsa, Ottawa and Delaware counties; District IV is the West-central District and consists of Roger Mills, Dewey, Blaine, Custer, Washita, and Beckham counties; District V is the Central District, and consists of Kingfisher, Logan, Payne, Creek, Lincoln, Okfuskee, Seminole, Pottawatomie, Cleveland, Oklahoma, McClain, Grady, and Canadian counties; District VI is the East-central District, and consists of Okmulgee, Muskogee, Cherokee, Sequoyah, Haskell, McIntosh, Pittsburg, Hughes, and Adair counties; District VII is the Southwestern District and consists of Harmon, Greer, Kiowa, Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Tillman, and Jackson counties; District VIII is the South-central District and consists of Stephens, Garvin, Pontotoc, Coal, Atoka, Bryan, Marshall, Johnston, Murray, Carter, Love and Jefferson counties; and District IX is the Southeastern District and consists of Latimer, LeFlore, Pushmataha, McCurtain and Choctaw counties.

It cannot be denied that this is an alarming amount of migration for our farmers, even though some of it be for good. When the fact is faced that one-third of all farmers in the state took their teams, livestock, farm machinery, household goods, and nearly all their possessions, and moved into new homes and onto new farm land, in one year, it is a striking fact indeed. It is more striking in the case of tenants, half of whom did this. Small indeed must be the home solidarity and contentment symbolized in the average farmstead, which is left behind so frequently by our moving tenants! Little must be the thought of care for the soil by these tenants who move on an average every other year!

As stated previously, a portion of these new farm managers each year are new entrants to the farming occupation, and are thus a part of farm changes that cannot be done away with. In order to convey some information on this important point, data on the years of entrance to farming for 993 Oklahoma farmers are summarized in Table II. The 993 farmers on which this table was

based had moved an aggregate of 3,230 times, 31 per cent of the number being in reality entrance moves—the beginning of farming careers. As these 993 farmers were actively engaged in farming (and had not retired), they had many years of farming, and many moves ahead before the entire group should retire. If they were a representative sample, and no marked changes in the farming life period had taken place, they had farmed an aggregate of probably one-half as long as they finally will farm. The 993 "entrance moves" would thus become 15.4 per cent of the probable aggregate moves of this group of farmers, providing they move as often during the remainder of their earning life as they have moved in the past.

TABLE II

All Past Moves of 993 Oklahoma Farmers and the Proportion of These Moves Made for the Purpose of Beginning Farming and the Proportion of all Farmers Moving for Reasons Other Than to Begin Farming

Year of Period	Number of Farmers Farming	Total Number of Moves	Moves Made to Begin Farming		Other Reasons Than to Begin Farming
			Number	Per Cent of All Moves	
1924	993	99	14	14.1	85
1923	889	130	16	12.3	114
1922	963	112	13	11.6	99
1921	950	132	14	10.6	118
1920	936	141	19	13.5	122
1919	917	127	30	10.2	97
1918	887	118	15	12.7	103
1917	872	130	30	23.1	100
1916	842	118	25	21.2	93
1915	817	126	37	29.4	89
1914	780	102	15	14.7	87
1913	765	95	17	17.9	78
1912	748	102	29	28.4	73
1911	719	103	17	16.5	86
1910	702	80	15	18.8	65
1909	687	79	20	25.3	59
1908	667	99	28	28.3	71
1907	639	76	20	26.3	56
1906	619	78	21	26.9	57
1905	598	57	8	14.0	49
1904	590	60	22	36.7	38
1903	568	62	18	29.1	44
1902	550	64	15	23.4	49
1901	535	41	13	31.7	28
1900	522	51	17	33.3	34
1899	505	32	0	.0	32
1896-1898	505	189	113	59.8	76
1893-1895	392	157	82	52.2	75
1890-1892	310	133	81	60.9	52
1887-1889	229	117	76	65.0	41
1884-1886	153	87	58	66.7	29
1881-1883	95	51	31	60.8	20
1878-1880	64	41	29	70.7	12
1875-1877	35	29	23	79.4	6
1872-1874	12	11	11	100.0	0
1869-1871	1	1	1	100.0	0
Total - - -	21056	3230	993	30.7	2237

But, as will be shown later, they will not move as often in their later farming life as they have done in their earlier years. The probable percentage of their "entrance moves," when they have all finished their farming careers, will therefore likely fall between 15 and 30 per cent of all their moves. Possibly, it would not be far amiss to say that entrance moves for these farmers would be around 20 to 25 per cent of all their moves.

This figure may be assumed to be the proportion of all farm moves in the state that are entrance moves. This assumption may or may not be close to the fact of the case for the state. But under this assumption, when the percentage of all farms in the state that had new managers in 1924 (33.6 per cent) is reduced by one-fifth and one-fourth respectively, it leaves a total percentage of actual change of farms (by farmers moving from one farm to another), of 27 and 25 per cent respectively. Possibly, therefore, about one-fourth of all farmers normally move from one farm to another each year and approximately 8 to 9 per cent of all farmers retire or quit farming, and new ones take their places each year.

One noticeable and significant thing brought out in Table II is that there was a marked falling off in farming entrants from 1920 to 1924. During these four years, only 57 out of the 993 farmers began farming. In preceding four year periods, the number of entrants were 94 for 1917-1920; the same for the next preceding four years; 81 for 1909-1912; 77 for 1905-1908; 68 for the years 1901-1904, and finally, for each of the five three-year periods from 1884 to 1898, the number ranged from 58 to 113 new entrants. Thus it will be seen that even during three year periods back in the eighties, there were more new farm entrants than during the four years of 1921 to 1924. In short, a much larger proportion of farmers, who were farming in 1925, began farming each year preceding 1920 than in each year from 1920 to 1925.

This fact is more striking when another influence on the data is accounted for. Of all those entering the occupation of agriculture between the years 1920 and 1925, a much larger proportion were living than was the case of those entering, let us say, for the 4 years, 1895-1900. In other words, farmers entering the occupation during the earlier period were not represented as fully as were the entrants of the latter period, since death and retirement from farming had thinned the ranks of the earlier entrants more than it had those of younger entrant groups*.

Another important thing to note about the data, is that the greatest amount of moving done by this group of men took place in 1920, the year of most pronounced depression. Furthermore, moving was more pronounced in 1915, following the "buy a bale movement" of 1914, again, in 1908, following the 1907 financial stringency; and finally, during the three year period from 1896 to 1898. It could be concluded, therefore, that depression causes an increase in the amount of moving.

This falling off of farming entrants from 1920 to 1924, doubtless was due in part to the economic status of farming, as compared with other industries during these last four years. At the time of this writing (1929) this condition has not materially changed, and there is ample evidence of a continuation of the dwindling entrance of young men into farming. However, further examination of Table II will reveal the fact that the percentage of all moves due to new entrants, gradually increases as data are traced further back into the period. This is not representative of an actual change that has taken place historically, but typifies a defect found in many historical data, based on facts collected on a sample of men at a given time. Briefly, the bias here introduced is due

*Since a new entrant means a change of the operator of the farm and since there is no way of separating entrance moves during the remaining discussions all changes of farm operators will be spoken of as moves.

to the fact that normally one would expect about equal numbers of the 993 farmers to enter farming each year back for a number of decades. Moves due to new entrants should not change in number very much. In 1924 all 993 farmers were farming, but as the data are traced back, the actual number out of the 993 that were farming dwindles, and as a consequence, entrance moves assume a larger and larger proportion of all moves. Finally, it is evident that the year of the first entrance will have only one move—an entrance move.

TABLE III

Percentage of Oklahoma Farmers Who Operated Their Farms for the First Time in 1924 by Tenures and Crop Reporting Districts

Crop Reporting Districts	Full Owners	Part Owners	Cash Tenants	Croppers	Other Tenants	All Farmers
District I Northwest	5.0	3.7	43.7	46.4	31.0	14.0
District II N. Cent'l	5.4	3.5	37.4	50.2	27.0	16.2
District III Northeast	12.4	9.5	43.9	67.1	50.2	33.9
District IV W. Cent'l	9.4	5.9	42.4	65.6	43.4	25.6
District V Central	9.2	8.8	48.0	68.1	48.3	33.3
District VI E. Cent'l	12.5	14.2	47.3	73.4	55.2	42.2
District VII Southwest	10.8	7.7	40.1	67.0	47.7	34.5
District VIII S. Central	11.6	10.4	50.3	71.4	54.5	41.9
District IX Southeast	13.4	14.1	52.8	73.1	56.1	43.1
State	9.8	7.8	44.6	68.8	48.8	33.6

A study of the distribution of this moving in various parts of the state shows marked contrast, as will be seen by comparison of the figures in Table III. In general, the least amount of farm moving took place in the northwestern, while the greatest amount took place in the southeastern part of the state. In fact, there is no exception to the statement that moving increases as one passes from any district in the state to the district or districts lying either east or south of it. In passing from the northeast to the southwest districts, or vice versa, the proportion of moving remains practically the same, being 34 per cent in the southwest, 33 per cent in the central, and 34 per cent in the northeast. These three districts also have almost exactly the same proportion of moving as does the average of the state.

The distribution of moving in different sections of the state can be seen better by supplementing these facts with figures to show, for all classes of tenants, the proportion of tenants who operated their farms first in 1924. Aside from the three Panhandle counties, the main wheat belt counties have less than 30 per cent of tenant moving. A strip of counties from Washington

on the Northeast to Beckham in the Southwest had from 40 to 50 per cent of tenants on new farms in 1924. From 50 to 60 per cent of all tenants had moved in the tier of counties lying southeast of the last mentioned group, and running from the northeast corner of the state to the southwest corner. Roughly speaking, two-thirds of all tenants in the whole southeast corner of the state lying southeast of Stephens, Garvin, Seminole, McIntosh and Muskogee Counties, moved, excepting those of the southeast mountain area and of a tier of counties along the Red River, from Bryan County west. From Tillman to Bryan county is a tier of counties in which the amount of moving is considerably less than that in the counties north of them.

Outstanding local variations in the distribution of moving in Oklahoma are the small amount of tenant moving in Adair County and in the southeast mountain counties, as contrasted to adjacent counties, and the low percentage of farmers who move in counties bordering on the Red River. In the eastern mountain sections, farmers do not specialize so much on the one crop type, which encourages mobility; this probably accounts also for the small amounts of moving in the southeastern mountain counties. It is more difficult to account for the small amount of moving in the counties adjacent to the Red River.

Although there is a wide variation in the amount of moving between different sections of the state, there is a much greater variation in the amount done by various classes of tenures in any given part of the state. Table III indicates that in the district where the least amount of moving is found, that is, the northwestern wheat counties, full owners moved from a fourth to a third more frequently than did part owners; and cash tenants moved more than ten times more frequently than did the part owners.

In the cotton sections, from 8 to 15 per cent of all part owners operated their farms for the first time in 1924. In nearly all parts of the cotton belt a larger per cent of full owners than part owners had moved onto their farms first in 1924. From five to eight times as large a proportion of croppers as part owners were first operating their farms in 1924. In most parts of the cotton section of the state, from a half to three-fourths of all croppers were operating new farms in 1924. Possibly the average period of stay on a farm for these cropper farmers was about a year and a half.

As a general thing, part owners move less frequently than any other tenure group, the probable explanation of this being that full owners have expanded the size of their farms, or have acquired a more satisfactory farm otherwise, in many instances, by selling out their entire farm and purchasing a more desirable one in another location. They have done this, rather than to expand their farms by finding, purchasing, and adding to their farm a piece of adjacent land. It is usually a far easier task to rent an adjacent tract of land than to buy one; hence, part owners often have chosen to rent and not to move rather than to buy a new farm and move.

In the main, the far greater amount of moving done by the three classes of tenants, in contrast with that done by the two owners classes, may be accounted for, in part, by the fact that a tenant move is more easily accomplished than is an owner move. Tenants have less property to move, and the severance of their legal and business relations from the land they have been operating is far more easily consummated than is that of the owners. Tenants have only to seek a new rental agreement; owners must not only sell their farm, but must find another one for sale at a satisfactory price. To get the use of land by ownership is a far more complex and difficult legal task than to get use of land by renting.

The ease of moving without serious interruption to the type of farming carried on, is possibly the main reason for the fact that croppers in every district are the most frequent movers. They rarely own any of the teams and

farm implements they use. Their rental contract is usually a verbal agreement for one year only, and the type of farming they follow rarely demands plans and work with more than one year's business as an aim. As a rule, this is moving and tenancy at their worst.

There is another important reason, however, why owners move less than tenants. Among tenants there is a high percentage of young men who are rapidly expanding the size of their farm businesses and are changing at frequent intervals the type of their farming. Frequently these developing young men are compelled to move in order to make more satisfactory rental contracts, or to get a larger farm or one better suited to their business or social needs. This is not so with owners who are older and have completed these adjustments. More detailed facts along this line will be shown later.

There is still a third important reason why tenants move more than do owners. Tenants, as a class, have a larger percentage of incompetents among them than have owners. One of the worth while merits of our present tenure system is that it encourages the competent and thrifty to climb toward ownership, while the incompetent farmer frequently finds himself compelled to go back to a lower tenure status. In short, our tenure system is a means of promoting the competent to a higher tenure status and reversing the incompetent back to a lower tenure status, where he can be more closely supervised by a land owner who frequently is a competent, active farmer himself. This promoting and demoting process often requires moving, and probably is the cause of a half of all moves, as will be brought out in detail later.

Cash tenancy in the United States is usually considered a more stable form of tenure than the share tenant status. The data in Table III indicate that this does not hold true in the wheat section of Oklahoma, since 44 per cent of cash tenants and 32 per cent of "other tenants," mainly share tenants, moved in the northwest district, and 37 per cent of cash tenants and 27 per cent of "other tenants" moved in the north central district. The west central and central districts show nearly as much moving among cash as among share tenants. This situation with regard to the amount of moving among cash and share tenants is reversed in all the cotton districts of the state, for there cash tenancy is clearly a more stable tenure stage than is share tenancy. The difference in the comparative stability of cash and share tenancy in the two areas is hard to explain.

Moving at its very worst is shown by the figures on croppers. In seven of the nine crop reporting districts of the state, from two-thirds to three-fourths of all croppers were operating the farms they were on, for the first time in 1924. The cropper usually has no livestock or machinery; his household belongings are very few, and, all in all, he has very little to move. Since his type of farming is mainly the one crop system, he has no permanent interest in a long time farm organization, consequently he is ready to move at the least provocation, or possibly at the most insignificant whim. The greatest amount of cropper moving is found in the east central district, where 73.4 per cent of all croppers moved, or began to operate their farms for the first time in 1924. The least amount of cropper moving, 46.4 per cent, took place in the northwest district. All three of the districts on the eastern boundary of the state, and, also the south central district show over 70 per cent of cropper moving.

Share tenancy is the most important tenant status in the state. It constituted, in 1924, approximately 75 per cent of all tenants in the state. Furthermore, it is a form of tenure in which one frequently finds better organized farms, more successful operators, and greater independence of farming than is found among croppers. This form of tenancy is practically the entire constituent of the group classed as "other tenants" by the Census. The moving of this group, therefore, has far more social significance than has that of croppers.

The greatest amount of moving among share tenants, 59.5 per cent, is found in the east central district. In all three of the eastern districts and in the south central district, over half of all share tenants moved in 1924. The smallest amount of share tenancy moving took place in the north central district, where 27 per cent of all tenants in this class moved. The average proportion of share tenants that move, for the state as a whole, is but a fraction below half.

The real heart of the social significance of moving is found in the moving of this class, together with the (numerically, relatively unimportant) moving of cash tenants. In these two groups are found the opportunities for developing the individual farmer as a manager, and the bulk of the opportunities for financial advance before ownership is attained. Yet, in these two classes will be found approximately half of all farmers in the state, and a half of this half were induced to take a new farm in 1924. No figures for the states are available to indicate how much of this shifting was useless, economically considered. More detailed discussion on this important point must be based on special survey data, which are taken up in a succeeding part of this study.

Further light is thrown on the amount of moving that has taken place at dates previous to 1924, by Table IV. These data have a different basis from the 1924 data used in the preceding discussion. The 1924 census moving data are based on the date when men said they began to operate the farms they were on. The 1910 and 1920 data are based on the number of years men said they had been on farms when the census was taken*.

One very significant thing brought out in Table IV is that the percentage of owners who had been on their farms less than two years, remained practically unchanged from 1910 to 1920. On the other hand, owners who had been on their farm ten years or over markedly increased in the decade, this increase occurring at the expense of the two intermediate groups, i. e., the groups who have been on their farms two years and less than ten years. In the main this probably signifies two important things. One of these is that young beginning farm owners were being promoted into the owner stage in about the same proportions at both dates. The other significant fact is that the decline of the intermediate groups and the increase of the older group is largely explained by the historical fact that much of the state was in early development stages in 1910. In other words many owners had not been in the state ten years in 1910 and hence, could not have been on their farms ten years. The marked increase in percentage of owners found in the older groups cannot, therefore, be interpreted to mean that it is due entirely to a general increase in the stay of owners on farms.

The last mentioned influence on data concerning owners, undoubtedly also had some influence on tenant data. Nevertheless, it is important to note that there is unmistakable evidence of an increasing tendency to prolong the stay on the farm in all tenant groups of two years or more. Furthermore, it is important to note that this increasing tendency toward stability is most pronounced among share tenants, who are by far the most socially significant tenant class, as has been previously stated.

One very important question brought up by these data is: To what extent are Oklahoma farmers becoming more stable? This is a question that cannot

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*The census calculations, both for 1910 and 1920, classified the farmers in the less than two year group of the table into two separate groups, that is into the "less than one year" group, and the "one year and less than two years" group. These two groups were combined in the table because the date of taking the census was changed in 1920 from that of 1910, and this introduced an element that made the same classes for the two years not comparable. Their comparability is improved by combining the two classes.

be measured quantitatively, exactly, but evidence of greater stability may be had from different sources.

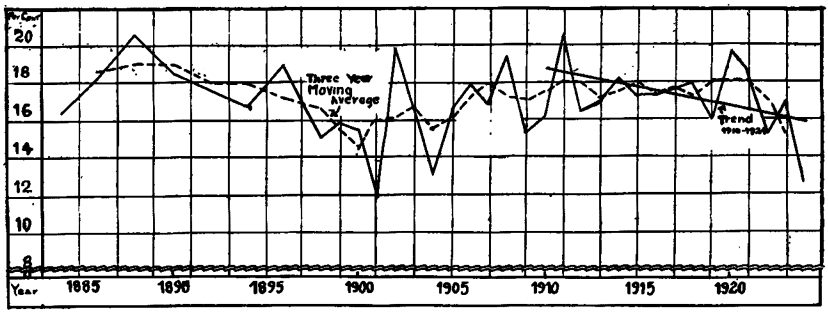

Figure 1—Percentage of 680 Oklahoma Farmers that Moved in Each Calendar Year of Their Earning Life Prior to the Time of Interviewing Them in 1924.

Table IV, as previously stated, seems to indicate an increasing stability of farm operators. The percentage of all farmers who had been on their farms less than two years, declined from forty-eight in 1910, to thirty-eight in 1920, and the percentage of farmers in the ten years and over group, rose from 11.5 per cent in 1910, to 21 per cent in 1920. A portion of the increase, as previously stated, can be accounted for by the fact that the state is young, but probably not all of it is caused from this, nor can all the decline in the percentage of men in the most unstable group be accounted for by the fact that men previously staying less than two years are increasing their period of occupancy on each farm. Facts which have been shown indicate that fewer new farmers have entered the calling each year since the World War than was the case before the war. This would tend to lower the percentage of all farmers in the "less than two year" occupancy class, which would, in turn, lessen the significance of the census figures to show the actual lengthening of the stay on farms in Oklahoma in the later years.

One method of roughly estimating the average stay of all farmers in 1910 and in 1920 from the occupancy figures shown in Table IV is as follows: assuming that the various frequency groups given, stayed an average number of years that was the median of the group, (for example the average stay of the "two years and less than five" being three and a half years) and multiplying this average for each group by the percentage of all the men, the products, when added, will give the aggregate average stay of a hundred typical farmers. Dividing this by 100 gives a rough index of the average stay. Difficulty with the "ten year and over group" arises, since there can be no median determined. This can be overcome only by a guess at the average stay for the group. Since the percentage for this group increased considerably during the period, it is fair to guess at the average as being greater in 1920 than in 1910. In 1910 it is placed at thirteen years; in 1920 it is placed at seventeen years. This increase in average years is probably conservative since the percentage of farmers in the group more than doubled, while the assumed increase in average years is only about thirty-one per cent. Calculating thus, the average stay on each farm for all men in the state, it is estimated that the average period which Oklahoma farmers stayed on farms was 4.0 years in 1910 and 6.0 years in 1920. In other words, thus estimated, the average stay for the state as a whole, increased 50 per cent during the decade from 1910 to 1920.

TABLE IV

The Per Cent of Oklahoma Farmers in Different Tenure Classes That Had Operated the Farms They Were on for Various Numbers of Years

	Total Number of Farmers in Class Reporting		Per Cent in Tenure Class That Had Operated the Farms They Were on For:							
			Less Than Two Years		Two Years and Less Than Four		Four Years and Less Than Nine		Ten Years and Over	
	1920	1910	1920	1910	1920	1910	1920	1910	1920	1910
All Farmers	179564	170997	38.1	48.3	26.4	24.7	14.2	15.5	21.1	11.5
All Owners	84948	72270	20.1	20.5	22.9	26.7	19.0	28.3	38.0	24.4
All Tenants	89218	98152	55.8	68.6	29.9	23.3	10.0	6.2	4.3	2.0
Full Owners	66847	53146	18.9	19.4	22.1	25.8	18.8	28.4	40.2	26.4
Part Owners	22651	19124	23.7	23.9	25.1	29.1	19.6	28.1	31.7	18.9
Share Tenants	73981	72366	57.7	72.3	29.4	21.4	9.3	4.8	3.7	1.4
Cash and Unspecified	15237	25786	47.0	47.9	32.3	28.5	13.3	9.9	7.3	3.8

Were this truly representative of the actual normal increase in stay, the solution to the farmer moving question would be well on the road to self-solution so far as the quantity of moving is concerned. But there are three things invalidating the estimates as showing the normal increase of stay. In the first place, the youthfulness of the state in 1910, as compared with 1920, would greatly influence the stay by tending to increase it at the latter date. In the second place, there was a smaller number of young men that entered farming from 1916 to possibly 1919 than normal. Young men do most of the moving (as will be shown later) and if the normal number fail to enter farming, the tendency is to dilute the farm population with older and more stable farmers, who move less frequently.

Special inquiries as to the percentage of all farms on which the occupants changed in 1909 and in 1924 have been made by the United States Department of Agriculture. It was found that in 1909, 33 per cent* of all Oklahoma farms on which information was secured, had new occupants while in 1924, 20 per cent had new occupants. In other words, 67 per cent of all farms in 1910, and 80 per cent in 1924, retained their operators of the previous year. Thus the increase in the number of farms not having a change of operators was 20 per cent.

These two estimates of the amount of moving and its converse, the amount of stability, can be still more closely compared. If in 1910, the average stay was estimated as 4.0 years, it can be seen that 25 per cent of all farmers moved annually; similarly, with an average stay of 6 years, 17 per cent of all farmers moved in 1920; or to put it otherwise, 75 per cent of the farmers did not move in 1910, while 83 per cent did not move in 1920. Thus in terms of percentage of farmers not moving, the stability for the decade from 1910 to 1920 may be estimated to have increased 11 per cent, as compared with an increase of 20 per cent for the fifteen years following 1910, estimated on the basis of surveys by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Data collected for this study will throw some new light on this important point. These data are presented graphically in Figure 1, which shows the percentage of the 680 farmers interviewed that moved each calendar year of their previous earning life up to the time of interview with them. Earning life means the period that they were working for themselves.

The trend of the percentage of farmers moving, drops from about 18.6 per cent in 1910, to about 15.8 per cent in 1924. Conversely stated, the trend would indicate that 81.4 per cent of these farmers did not move in 1910 and that 84.2 per cent did not move in 1924. In other words, this special survey shows that stability among 680 farmers increased only by 3.4 points during the fifteen years. This is such a small change that it is not at all significant of change in the amount of stability. In connection with these data, it has been shown previously that the period of 1920 to 1924 seemingly was one of considerable moving by those who were not beginners in farming. This explains in part why the trend does not show a greater drop.

There is a factor entering these data that may possibly even neutralize the small 3.4 points of increase in stability indicated. This factor is the tendency for the amount of moving to decrease with increase of the age of farmers. To bring this fact out in detail it is necessary to introduce at this point Table V, which shows the amount of moving that has been done by farmers at various times during their earning lives.

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*See Preliminary Mimeograph Report of March, 1926, entitled "Changes in the Occupancy of Farms, 1924-25 as compared with Previous Years," Bureau of Agricultural Economics. United States Department of Agriculture, Page 6.

It will be noted from a study of Table V, that there is a marked decline in the amount of moving that men do as they advance in earning life. During the first five years of their earning life, 17.8 per cent of the 680 farmers surveyed, moved on an average each year. When they had been farming from six to ten years inclusive, 21.3 per cent of them moved each year. This increase in the amount of moving at the six to ten years period of farming life is shown for every survey area. Moreover, data for every survey also indicated that beyond this period, the amount of moving that farmers did became consistently less. In fact, the decline from the tenth year on in the amount of moving is striking, in that there is a decline in all of the twenty-five instances except five contained in the table for the four counties. These five instances are in the older year groups, where the data are probably somewhat erratic because of the small numbers represented. Hence, they are not significant in weakening the very general trend downward in the amount of moving that comes with greater age.

TABLE V

Changes in the Amount of Moving of 680 Oklahoma Farmers as Their Number of Years of Earning Life Increased for Various Areas in Oklahoma

Years of Earning Life	Per Cent of All Farmers Farming During Various Periods of Earning Life, That Moved During the Respective Period				
	All Areas	Bryan County	Jackson and Greer Counties	Pottawatomie County	Alfalfa and Grant Counties
First 5 years	17.8	24.8	17.8	15.3	12.1
6 to 10 years	21.3	29.4	23.5	16.0	14.1
11 to 15 years	17.4	26.5	17.2	13.4	9.7
16 to 20 years	14.9	22.2	15.5	12.4	8.5
21 to 25 years	10.5	16.8	8.5	9.6	5.9
26 to 30 years	12.1	20.3	12.8	7.2	6.4
31 to 35 years	8.3	13.5	9.6	7.1	2.6
36 to 40 years	7.7	10.5	9.1		5.1
41 to 45 years	5.2	13.6			
46 to 50 years	2.2	6.1			
All years	16.0	23.4	15.8	14.0	9.5

A free hand trend line drawn on the data for all areas, exclusive of that for the first five years, shows that the percentage of moving drops from 21 per cent for about the fifth year of earning life, to only about 4 per cent in the forty-fifth year of earning life. In other words, the trend indicates that on an average, a fifth of all these farmers moved during their fifth year of farming life; while only one twenty-fifth of them, on an average, moved during their forty-fifth year of farming life. In the former case, an average farmer moved every five years; in the latter case, every twenty-five years. Thus the average stay increased twenty years during forty years of earning life. This is about a half year increase in the average time of stay on the farm with each year of greater age of earning life. As would be expected from data previously presented on the amount of moving in various sections of the state, the amount in the different county figures here shown, varies widely.

In the first part of this discussion, 50 per cent of all tenants were shown to be on new farms in 1924, and 9.4 per cent of all owners were on new farms. Much of the moving, therefore, is associated with tenancy. Since ownership is not a status where moving is as great as tenancy, it was thought well to in-

quire into the extent to which all the farmers interviewed had passed through the tenancy stage. It was found that 61 per cent of all owners had begun their farming life as tenants, and 7 per cent as croppers. Approximately a third of all owners, therefore, began farming life as owners or part owners. Only 3.3 per cent of all tenants began as owners and none of the croppers started life as owners.

Since tenancy is clearly the stage in which most of the farm moving takes place, it is well to examine the length of the present stay (the stay at the time farmers were interviewed) of owners and tenants who were in different stages of earning life when the data were taken. Table VI summarizes the information on this point. One important fact to be noted is that early earning life was a period of considerable moving, both for those who were owners and for those who were tenants. The average present stay of owners who had farmed 10 years or less was 4.6 years; of tenants, 3.1 year; while the average stay of owners who had farmed from 11 to 20 years was 3.8 years, and for tenants, 3.7 years. In the earlier year group were 47 owners and 156 tenants; in the latter year group, 135 owners and 121 tenants. On an average, these tenants and owners had stayed on their farms from 3 to 4 years, and there was very little difference in point of stability, as measured by present stay, between tenants and owners. The stay for owners probably tends to be shortened by the proportionately large numbers who acquire ownership during these years. This is especially true for the last decade group. This assumption is probably borne out by the fact that the second decade shows an average stay for owners that is shorter than that of the first. Owners of the first decades, in large part, began as owners, while the 11 to 20 year decade is probably the period when many successful farmers are able to attain the ownership status by climbing the tenure ladder. Nevertheless, it is important to note that the average of the present unterminated stays, both for owners and tenants, is about the same for all those who have farmed 20 years or less. Beyond the 20th year of farming life, (or somewhere near the average of 40 years of age and older), the present stay increases markedly for both tenants and owners, but especially for owners. For owners who had been farming from 21 to 30 years, the average present stay was 13.7 years, or between three and four times as long as the stay of the owners in the preceding decade. Tenants' average stay was 6.1 years, or an increase of about two-thirds over that of the previous decade. During this decade, owners' present stay thus averages more than twice as long as that of tenants'. These owners probably had come into their own as a group, and were probably settled in their farm life. Tenants, in this group, probably consisted of those who have had hard luck in some way, or were incompetent, hence were still moving in large proportions, seeking more satisfactory farming arrangements.

TABLE VI

The Present Stay of Farmers on Farms, for Farmers in Different Stages of Earning Life by Tenures and All Farmers Combined

Farmers Classed on the Basis of Number of Earning Life Years	All Farmers		Owners		Tenants	
	Number	Average Stay	Number	Average Stay	Number	Average Stay
0 to 10 years...	203	3.4	47	4.6	156	3.1
11 to 20 years...	256	3.8	135	3.8	121	3.7
21 to 30 years...	131	9.6	60	13.7	71	6.1
31 to 40 years...	196	16.4	74	17.4	32	8.8
41 to 50 years...	36	15.3	23	17.7	13	11.0
50 and over.....	10	8.7	7	10.6	3	4.3

Nevertheless, it is important to note that even the tenants in this study above the twentieth year of earning life were about twice as stable in their present stay as tenants who had farmed less than ten years. Furthermore, this increase in stability of tenants rises to more than three times that of the first decade group among tenants who have farmed 41 to 50 years. Owners who have farmed from 41 to 50 years have been on their present farm nearly 18 years, on an average. For both tenants and owners, therefore, youthfulness in farming is the time of instability—moving; and age brings on a marked tendency toward stability, even among tenants, but especially among owners.

By way of applying the facts of Tables V and VI to the lowering trend in the amount of moving shown previously in Figure 1 for the years 1910 to 1924 it will be seen that if the element of increasing age is progressively introduced in the data, the element of decreasing amount of moving due to ageing of the farmers will be introduced automatically. In short, if the average age of the men represented in the 1924 figures is older than the age represented in the 1910 figures (in Figure 1), it will result in a lowering of the amount of moving.

This is what occurs in arranging the data by calendar years as was done for Figure 1. The sample of men was taken in 1924; hence any data taken on the life of these same men five years previously mean that, at the time, they all were five years younger than they were when the 1924 data were taken. The percentage of men moving (as shown in Table V), for all the areas combined, drops approximately 15 points in forty years of passage of earning life. In fifteen years, from 1909 to 1924, as shown in the data of Figure 1, the lessening of the percentage of men moving in Table V would be 5.6 per cent. Thus, if ageing had had the same influence on the data of Figure 1 as it had on the data of Table V, for the fifteen years 1910 to 1924, it would have lowered the percentage of moving by 5.6 per cent instead of by 3.4 per cent, as shown in Figure 1. In short, if one takes out of the data the influence of ageing on the lengthening of the stay on the farm, he finds that the average stay on the farm does not show any indication of having been lengthened. On the other hand, it does appear to have been shortened.

In conclusion it cannot be said that there is clear cut evidence of a lengthening of the average stay of Oklahoma farmers on their farms. The probabilities are, however, had it not been for the influence of the post war deflation, the evidence would have been more indicative of an increasing stability among farmers in the state.

PART II

THE NATURE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF FARM MOVING

In previous pages the amount of moving, the distribution of this moving in the various parts of the state, and the changes that have taken place in the amount of moving have been taken up. In this portion of the discussion, facts will be given that show the nature, the significance, and the motives of farm moving.

In presenting these data, it is recognized that they are not conclusive in many respects. Frequently, the facts were available in only a small number of cases. These facts are taken from a series of studies, most of which did not have the study of moving as a prime purpose. For this reason, there is a great variation between the number of cases on which various items in the study are based. Since a study of moving was incidental in gathering much of the data, it is evident that some of the facts are not as complete as they might otherwise have been.

TIME OF MOVING

The time of moving naturally is determined largely by the time of certain farm operations, and since farming in this latitude is in distinct annual cycles, there is nearly always a time of the year when there is a maximum amount of moving. In conformity with these facts, tenant moving in the various parts of the state falls for the most part at certain times of the year. In the main, the tenants of the cotton belt move, as is quite well known, in the winter time, while in the wheat belt moving is more widely scattered throughout the year, as will be seen from a glance at Table VII. This table gives the time when only tenants move and does not include owners.

The wheat belt of the state comprises mainly the northwest and north central crop reporting districts, and has four peak months of moving scattered throughout the calendar year. In the western part of the belt, March and October predominate as the main moving months for tenants. One half of all moving took place during March and April in 1924 in this district, while 23 per cent was done in October and 15 per cent in August. Thus there are three distinct moving months in this district, during which over three-fourths of all moving takes place. In the eastern part of the wheat belt (District II) August is the main moving month, accounting for 26.2 per cent of all moving done by tenants, and January is a close competitor with 22.0 per cent of all moving. There is only one minor moving period for tenants in this district, March and April, these two months accounting for 17.4 per cent of all moving in 1924. In this district the three months of July, August, and September account for 39.2 per cent of all moving. There is only one month in the two districts where moving is markedly low, June, which is the main harvest month. Less than one per cent of all farmers in the northwest district and slightly over one per cent in the other district moved in June, 1924. It is surprising that with the exception of June, moving in the wheat belt is so evenly distributed throughout the year.

January is the outstanding month for moving in all other districts of the state outside the wheat belt. Roughly speaking, from a half to three-fourths of all cotton belt moving is done in January. December is the next largest moving month in all three of the districts on the south, and in the east central district. All of the cotton belt districts show relatively little moving during the months from April to October inclusive.

TABLE VII

Percentage of the Moving Done by Oklahoma Tenants in Various Months in 1924 by Crop Reporting Districts

(Based on Special Calculations from the Census)

Month	CROP REPORTING DISTRICTS									
	I Northwest	II Northcentral	III North East	IV West Central	V Central	VI East Central	VII South West	VIII South Central	IX South East	State
Total Number of Tenants Involved	605	889	1044	601	1110	888	867	1299	554	7757
January	8.5	22.0	63.7	55.6	69.5	73.9	77.4	66.8	46.8	57.3
February	4.8	7.8	6.0	9.0	2.6	4.2	3.6	5.7	4.0	5.1
March	39.2	12.8	7.0	8.3	1.4	2.1	2.5	2.5	8.1	7.1
April	10.3	4.6	2.2	2.8	.8	.3	.7	.5	1.4	2.0
May	3.0	1.3	1.1	.7	.5	.1	.6	.1	.5	.9
June	.8	1.1	.7	.5	.09	.5	.2	.1	.5	.5
July	2.8	6.6	.8	1.8	.7	.3	.6	.3	.2	1.3
August	14.8	26.2	1.6	5.3	13.6	.2	1.7	.4	.9	6.7
September	3.8	6.4	2.8	3.7	1.1	1.4	1.8	.8	.7	2.2
October	23.4	3.1	2.4	3.0	1.9	1.0	1.5	.8	.9	3.0
November	3.4	3.6	5.4	3.3	2.0	5.2	3.1	3.9	5.0	3.9
December	3.2	4.3	6.3	6.0	6.3	10.8	6.2	18.0	30.9	10.0
Jan. and Dec.	11.7	26.3	69.0	61.6	75.8	84.7	83.6	84.8	77.7	67.3

TABLE VIII

The Estimated Amount and Proportion of Oklahoma Farm Property That Had New Operators in 1924, by Crop Reporting Districts*

Crop Reporting Districts	Acreage Changing Hands		Value Changing Hands Land and Buildings	Value Moved Implem'ts and Machinery	PER CENT CHANGING HAND			
	All Land	Crop Land			All Land Acres	Crop Land Acres	Val. Land and Buildings	Val. Implements and Machinery
State total	7,781,487	4,174,887	280,376,993	14,527,808	26.6	28.7	27.4	21.0
District I (Northwest)	442,121	186,710	8,525,183	583,237	12.1	13.0	12.3	11.3
District II (North-central)	706,856	377,106	30,907,862	2,306,405	14.5	15.1	15.2	9.7
District III (Northeast)	922,299	435,752	34,834,368	11,306,624	30.7	32.1	31.4	28.1
District IV (West-central)	625,737	317,224	19,844,004	1,181,859	21.8	21.5	21.7	19.9
District V (Central)	1,444,688	777,195	54,256,213	2,573,344	21.0	32.4	31.0	27.1
District VI (East-central)	869,943	535,563	30,896,909	1,478,069	40.2	43.6	38.7	37.8
District VIII (Southwest)	1,105,493	623,933	45,591,655	2,578,012	31.2	32.5	31.1	28.6
District VIII (South-central)	1,257,808	691,504	43,337,999	1,971,637	37.4	40.8	38.0	34.2
District IX (Southeast)	406,542	229,902	12,173,800	548,622	37.1	42.0	38.8	36.2

*These estimates are based on the assumption that the average moving owner changes to an average sized owner farm and that the average moving tenant changes to an average sized tenant farm.

MAGNITUDE OF MOVING AS SHOWN BY PROPERTY CHANGE AND POPULATION

No exact figures on the total property value, total population, total land area, or the total crop area involved in the moving of farmers are available for the entire state. Estimates of these, however, may be made, and are of assistance in forming an understanding of the total magnitude and the economic significance of Oklahoma farm moving.

There are no statistics showing whether or not the average farm changing hands in 1924 was the average size farm of the state. Probably the 30 per cent of these changing farms that were taken over by beginning farmers, (as has been estimated previously) were not average size farms. For this reason, the average size of farms changing hands, may tend to be somewhat smaller than the average size of all farms for the state. On the other hand, since, as a tenant, a farmer may get a large size farm almost as soon as he has demonstrated his ability to run it; and further, since the satisfied non-mover often lives on a relatively small farm, there is a possibility that the frequent mover gets at least an average sized farm.

Table VIII gives estimates of the acres and value of farm property that changed hands in 1924, based on the assumption that the farms with changing operators were average sized tenant farms or average sized owner farms. According to this estimate, seven and three-fourths million acres of farm land, or about 27 per cent of all Oklahoma farm land, had new operators in 1925. There were twelve states, each of which actually had less farm land in 1924 than the total estimated land in Oklahoma on which there were new operators. If every farmer in the whole state of Florida could have been moved off the farm he operated, about the same amount of land would have changed caretakers as was the case in Oklahoma. In fact, all the farms in Delaware, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, and New Hampshire combined, could have had a change of operators without as much total farm land changing hands as is estimated to have changed hands in Oklahoma in 1924.

Moving doubtless is more detrimental to crop land than it is to other farm land, and in this respect, it is more important to compare all crop land which has new farm operators, than to compare all farm land with land in other states.

Four and two-tenths million acres of crop land is estimated to have changed into new operators' care in Oklahoma in 1924. This was nearly 29 per cent of all the crop land in the state. At this rate, practically enough crop land would pass into the hands of new farmers in three years to equal all Oklahoma crop land. With this fact in mind, there is little wonder that authorities tell us that a large part of the land of the state is being allowed to wash away because of improper cultivation and want of terracing. Probably no one has yet fully realized the full magnitude of this menace to the future prosperity of Oklahoma.

The crop land of Oklahoma that changes hands as compared with the total amount of crop land in other states, is more striking than is a comparison of all farm land. In seventeen different states, every farmer in the state could move, yet in no one, would there be as much crop land change hands as changed hands in Oklahoma in 1924. In fact, if all the farmers in eight states combined* should change farms, there would be about the same turnover of crop land as took place in Oklahoma in 1924. All the crop land in Louisiana

*New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Arizona and Nevada.

and Oregon combined amounted to about the same as the crop land that changed hands in Oklahoma in 1924.

A comparison of the proportion of estimated crop land changing hands in the different parts of the state varies from 12 per cent of all land and 13 per cent of crop land in the northwestern district, to 40 per cent of all land and 44 per cent of crop land in the east central district.

The estimated proportion of land and building value plus farm machinery value that changed hands or was moved, varies from 12 per cent of land and building value, and 11 per cent of machinery in the northwest district, to 39 and 38 per cent respectively for these classes of property in the east central district.

Thus it will be seen that there is a tremendous amount of property in the state that rapidly shifts from one attendant to the other, and it is common knowledge that real care and protection of this valuable resource is conspicuous for its absence. Were industrial property of this country allowed such little protection and care as is being given the invaluable soil resources and the farm improvements of our state, and were its care-takers so transitory in their attachments to it as are our farmers to farm land, we probably would lose rapidly our present industrial power. Yet there can be no question that there is just as urgent need for carefully protecting and conserving our soil resources, as there is to protect industrial property from waste. In fact, when one considers the future prosperity of the state and the great difficulty of replacing natural soil fertility, as compared with the replacing of industrial property, there is little doubt that the protection of our soil resources is far more important than the protection of our more easily replaceable industrial properties.

In this connection, it is well to make some comparison of instability of property and human relationship in agriculture and industry. Studies made by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company show that there is an extremely variable amount of turnover in employment in industry. Figures based on 300 representative industries scattered throughout the country, employing 600,000 people, indicate that during July, 1929, the turnover of employment when reduced to an annual basis, amounted to 45 per cent of all workers engaged in these business concerns. It is well to quote from a published report on these investigations:

"The average separation rates in these companies in July, 1928, were equivalent to 38 per cent per year of the number on payroll. Only six months earlier the average was but 28 per cent on the same equivalent annual basis. In July, 1926, it was 53 per cent; in July, 1924, 37 per cent, and in July, 1923, 107 per cent. These figures refer to the total separation rate.

"Still more significant are these comparisons when we see how singularly the main constituents of the total separation rate behave. Those constituents—the quitting rate, the layoff rate and the discharge rate—really need to be observed separately. Within the past ten years there has been during some months a quit rate equivalent to as little as 15 per cent per year, while at other times it was more than 140 per cent.

"During the same ten-year period the discharge rate has ranged between 2.5 per cent and 22 per cent per year, and the layoff rate all the way from 50 per cent late in 1920, down to practically zero a year before. In July, 1928, the discharge rate was equivalent to 4.9 per cent and the layoff rate 5.9 per cent per year.

"Meanwhile the accession rate likewise moved up and down through a wide range. When the market for manufactured goods is extraordinarily good and the competition by employers for factory labor is active—as in late 1919 and

and early 1923—accession rates naturally rise. At such times the median accession rate of all work forces covered by the study has risen as high as 218 per cent. During general business depressions like that of 1921, accessions invariably follow; in July, 1921, the average was equivalent to only 14 per cent per year. In July, 1928, it was 47 per cent*."

There is one outstanding difference that should be noted between industrial labor turnover, which separates the worker from property he uses in production and the separation of farmers and farm property by moving. Industrial turnover does not involve, to any marked extent, the management of industrial property, but the moving farmer in nearly all cases is the manager of the property he rents or owns. In the case of farm turnover, it is a complete turnover of management and laborer on the property. The alarming thing about this transitory relationship is that wastage of this property (by soil fertility depletion) can be replaced only by most expensive methods. It is not a simple case of moving out one worn-out machine and moving another in, as is so often the situation in industry. In agriculture, the machine that must take the place tomorrow of the present worn-out farm is the same worn-out farm rehabilitated. And its rehabilitation doubtless will be a burden in years to come, that in all justice, should not be placed on future generations.

The social costs of moving that are largely subjective and immeasurable, are doubtless, equal to, and probably far exceed in their importance, the physically measurable costs of tenant moving. The magnitude of the social problem involved in moving may be in part conceived by an examination of the total numbers of people involved in our farm moving.

In the matter of actual numbers involved in the change of farms in the state, there are again no reliable statistics, but reliance must be placed on derived estimates. For the first time in the history of the census, the number of people classed as tenants or owners, by age group, were tabulated for the 1924 Agricultural Census. Using these data and the percentage of all tenant and owner farms with new operators as bases, the number of people involved in our 1924 farm shift was estimated. In making these estimates of total farm people involved in the state's 1924 farm shifting, the moving tenant was assumed to have an average size tenant family, and the moving owner, the average size owner family. These estimates are given in Table IX.

As to the possible accuracy of this estimate, it should be said that there are counterbalancing points to both an over- and an under-estimate. Young beginning farmers undoubtedly have less than the average size family; on the other hand, tenant families, who are the greatest movers, average slightly larger than owner families Furthermore, in areas of a large amount of moving, the largest families are found.

The statement that districts of large farm families and large amounts of moving are closely associated, is a fact clearly borne out by a calculation showing the relationship between the size of families on farms and the proportion of farmers moving, by crop reporting districts of the state. A free hand trend of this relationship indicates that for each increase of one-tenth of a person, in the size of the average population per farm, there is an average increase of 3.5 per cent in the proportion of all farmers moving in the district**. Thus it will be seen that, (like so many social problems) the increase in the menace of

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*Labor Turnover Series No. 4, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, pages 4 and 5.

**The data on which these conclusions are based are as follows: District I, average farm population per farm 4.1, percentage of moving 14; District II, 4.2 and 16.2 per cent; District III, 4.8 and 33.9 per cent; District IV, 4.5 and 25.6 per cent; District V, 4.7 and 33.3 per cent; District VI, 5.0 and 42.2 per cent; District VII, 4.7 and 34.5 per cent; Dstrict VIII, 4.9 and 41.9 per cent and District IX, 4.6 and 43.1 per cent respectively.

TABLE IX

ESTIMATED NUMBER AND PROPORTION OF ALL OKLAHOMA FARM POPULATION THAT MOVED IN 1924

	Number of Population			Population on New Farms		Proportion Total Population on New Farms			
	All	All over 10 Years	Less than 10 Years	10 yrs and Over	Under 10 Years	All Years	Over 10 Years	Under 10 Years	Percentage Excess of Older Group Over Younger Group
District I Northwest	35209	25884	9325	3173	1368	12.9	12.2	14.7	2.5
District II North Central	88574	69840	18734	10306	3910	16.0	14.9	20.9	6.0
District III Northeast	102496	73937	26559	21237	8053	28.6	28.7	30.3	1.6
District IV West Central	64715	47444	17271	11090	4884	24.7	23.0	28.3	5.3
District V Central	179719	129761	49958	42110	18236	33.6	32.4	36.5	4.1
District VI East Central	134021	93466	40555	38843	17865	42.3	41.6	44.1	3.5
District VII Southwest	103820	75195	28625	24723	10681	34.1	32.9	37.3	3.4
District VIII So. Central	143236	102792	40444	41804	17724	41.6	40.7	43.8	3.1
District IX Southeast	73900	52198	21702	22000	9758	43.0	42.1	45.0	2.9
State	925690	672517	253173	213486	92479	33.1	31.4	36.5	5.1

moving is accompanied by an increase in the undesirable nature of the menace, that is, the greater the moving, the larger the moving families, which in this case is an increased number of people and especially young people involved in the moving. The social truth that is herein typified by the moving of farm families, and which very probably is a general truth in many other aspects of social problems, may be stated generally as follows: **with each quantitative increase in a social menace, there is a tendency toward a well defined qualitative increase in the socially undesirable nature of the menace, increasing the total magnitude of the menace at a greater rate than is indicated by the growth in the quantitative aspects of the menace. In other words, with an increase in the amount of a social menace, there is an increase in the intensity of the menace.**

With the above statement in mind, the social implications in the number and proportion of farm people involved in moving in various sections of the state, as shown in Table IX, can be more fully grasped. There was a total farm population of 925,690 in Oklahoma in 1924, of which number it is estimated that 305,965 changed farms, which is almost exactly one-third of the total farm population of the state. It is impossible to picture physically, this vast throng of moving humanity. If each person in it were placed in a line two feet apart the entire line would be one hundred fifteen miles in length. This was a greater moving population than was estimated by the United States census, to be in the two largest cities of the state in that year.

The estimated total number of children under ten years of age that are included among the moving farmers is 92,479 which was 36.5 per cent of all the farm children in the state ten years of age and under. On the other hand, 31.4 per cent of all the state's farm population ten years and over, are estimated to be among the movers. Thus it will be seen that the proportion of very young children of the state that are among the movers, is almost 16 per cent greater than is the proportion of the state's people ten years old and over, that are moving. In other words, very young children are the victims of the moving menace in greater proportions than are older people. It is evident that the possible effects of moving do not all show up in today's conditions; and that moving is conditioning and affecting the lives of greater proportions of future Oklahoma farm citizens than it is of the present citizens.

As would be supposed from previously presented facts on the amounts of farm moving, the proportion of total farm population involved in moving in different sections of the state varies widely. In the northwestern district, slightly more than one-eighth of all the farm population changed farms in 1924. While 12.2 per cent of those ten years of age and over changed to new farms, the proportion of all people under ten years of age found on new farms was 14.7 per cent.

The highest proportion of moving farm people was found in the southeast district, where 43 per cent of all farm people, 42.1 per cent of all ten years and over, and 45 per cent of all farm children under ten years of age are estimated to have been on new farms in 1924.

As stated previously, there is a proportionally greater number of children ten years of age and under who move than there is for those people ten years of age and over. Furthermore, it will be noted by a glance at the last column of Table VIII, that this excess proportion of older over the very young, diminishes in going south or east across the districts of the state in all of the nine possible cases except two. The reasons for this smaller difference in the proportion of the younger and the older groups in the districts of high moving is to be found in the fact that where tenants constitute such a large part of the total farm population, as is the case of the districts to the south and east, there are many older tenants among the moving tenants. Older tenants do not have as many young children as do young tenants. In short, a higher propor-

tion of all tenants in the northwest part of the state are young, and have a higher proportion of young children, which in turn, would raise the figure of proportion of all children less than ten years of age that move in the Northwest, as compared with those that move in the Southeast. Regardless of this situation, however, it stands out in all districts, that the proportion of all very young farm children that are moving is larger than normal age distribution would justify. In other words, if there are educational and social penalties attached to such moving, larger numbers of the very young of the state are suffering these penalties than there are of the older people. Furthermore, it does not in the least seem unreasonable to assume that the social penalties of a large amount of mobility falls with a far heavier weight on the young than it does on the old.

One of the noticeable close socio-economic relations in the South is, that existing between a high population of negro farmers and a high percentage of tenancy with many undesirable aspects. Naturally the conclusion might be drawn from this general relationship that large amounts of moving would be associated with high percentage of negro farmers in Oklahoma.

Tabulations on comparative amounts of moving by whites and colored in Oklahoma were made for this study, but both negroes and Indians were classed as "colored" in one group and there is no means of comparing negro moving and white moving. Probably Indians move much less than negroes since many of the Indian farmers are restricted as citizens (that is for a certain period of life they cannot dispose of their allotments of land) while restrictions on all allottees of pure negro blood have been removed. Possibly figures on negroes alone may show a larger per cent of moving than figures for the census group classed as "colored" which include Indians.

Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that "colored" farmers do not show a greater amount of changing of farms than do white farmers. (Table X). There are relatively large numbers of colored farmers in Districts III, V, VI, VIII, and IX. In every one of these districts, except District IX, the precentage of all colored farmers (regardless of tenure) on new farms in 1924, was less than the corresponding percentage of white farmers.

A far better idea of the comparative amount of moving of negroes and whites may be had from a comparison of the amount of moving by white and colored tenants, since there is no reason thought of by the writer why Indian tenants should move less than do negro tenants. In District III, 51 per cent of colored tenants began to operate the farms which they then occupied first in 1924, while 51 per cent of the white farmers had begun operating their farms that year. In District V, the corresponding figures were, colored 47, white 51; in District VI, colored 49, white 59; in District VIII, colored 48, white 55. In all the districts where the proportion of colored population to white is at all large, it will be seen that only in District IX, did the percentage of moving by colored tenants exceed that of the white tenants; in this District 62 per cent of the colored tenants moved and 58 per cent of the white. From the foregoing, it seems quite evident that negroes in Oklahoma do not move in greater proportions than do whites. In fact, the presumption is probably justified from the evidence that negroes are more stable than are white farmers.

TABLE X

Comparative Amount of Moving of Whites and Negroes in Oklahoma, by Crop Reporting Districts, 1924

Crop Reporting Districts	FARM OPERATORS						Per Cent of Each Class That Moved in 1924			
	Owners			Tenants			Owners		Tenants	
	White	Negro	Percentage Negro Owners are of White Owners	White	Negro	Percentage Negro Owners are of White Owners	White	Negro	White	Negro
District I Northwest	5476	0	0	2885	0	0	5.3	0	3.2	0
District II North Central	11142	103	9	9294	223	2.4	4.7	9.7	29.1	6.1
District III Northeast	7725	1446	18.7	10547	1563	14.8	11.5	11.5	50.8	51.0
District IV West Central	7317	173	2.4	6806	98	14.4	7.1	2.9	45.8	33.7
District V Central			17.2	17296	3322	19.2	8.6	9.0	50.8	46.8
District VI East Central	4308	1772	41.2	8527	2859	33.5	19.6	12.3	59.2	48.9
District VII Southwest	7941	499	6.3	13395	443	3.3	10.6	11.2	48.8	58.0
District VIII South Central	7612	1004	13.2	17801	790	4.4	11.0	12.0	55.0	47.7
District IX Southeast	4475	1018	22.75	8764	1664	19.0	13.6	14.0	57.9	62.1
State	68688	8202	11.95	95315	10962	11.5	7.9	11.2	49.8	51.0

COST OF MOVING

The costs of moving may be classified into two kinds, direct and indirect costs. The indirect costs of moving are those costs which militate against the most profitable types of farming, against the highest type of community and family life, and against educational progress. It is evident that the indirect cost of moving can not be appraised. The best that can be done in connection with this is to show that there is positive relationship between it and excessive moving. An estimate of the direct costs of moving is on somewhat surer grounds, although for even this estimate one can not claim exactness. The figures obtained for Table XI were estimates given by individuals on the costs of the last move they had made. The cotton belt areas included in these data were in Jackson, Greer, Bryan and Pottowatomie counties. The average distance moved is somewhat misleading so far as the average move is concerned, for a few excessively long moves in the various areas raise the total mileage of moving to an average of 69 miles for the cotton belt counties, and 41 miles for the wheat belt counties. Tenants on an average in both groups of counties moved a less average number of miles than did owners. Moving in the wheat belt took a less number of man and horse labor days per move than it did in the cotton belt areas. In the wheat belt, an average of 4 days of man labor and 8 days of horse labor was consumed, whereas, in the cotton belt, an average of 7 days of man labor and 9 days of horse labor were utilized.

The estimated cost of moving, including man and horse labor costs, averaged $32.00 per move in the cotton belt counties, and $43.00 per move in the wheat belt counties. It cost tenants in the cotton belt areas an average of $25.00 per move and in the wheat belt counties $38.00 per move. The average cost for owners in these two areas was, respectively, $45.00 and $44.00. Irrespective of location and tenure the average move represented in Table XI cost $34.00.

TABLE XI

The Average Days of Horse and Man Labor, of Miles Moved, and the Average Cost of Moves Made by Oklahoma Farmers, for Selected Areas

Area and Tenure	Total Number of Moves	Average Miles Moved Each Move	Average Number of Days of Work for Each Move		Average Cost of Each Move (Dollars)
			Man Labor	Horse Labor	
Cotton Areas (Jackson, Greer and Pottawatomie Counties					
Owners	154	77	11	11	45
Tenants	272	65	4	8	25
All	426	69	7	9	32
Wheat Areas (Alfalfa and Grant Counties					
Owners	125	47	4	10	44
Tenants	72	30	4	7	38
All	197	41	4	8	43
Both Areas					
Owners	279	62	10	11	45
Tenants	344	57	3	8	27
All	623	60	6	9	34

In 1924, 66,059 farmers in Oklahoma were on new farms. As previously stated, each new farmer did not necessarily move, since some were entering

farming for the first time, and new entrants were not necessarily movers. However, no way is at hand to ascertain how many of the new farm operators in 1924 were new entrants nor how many of the entrants were movers.

Ignoring these defects in the data, and estimating on the basis of the costs of moving as given in Table XI, we can arrive at an estimate of the total moving cost of Oklahoma per year. In Table I (page 7) it was shown that there was a wide variation between the moving of farmers in the wheat belt and the moving of those in the cotton belt of the state; also, it was shown that there was a wide variation between the amount of moving which owners and tenants do, in both the wheat and the cotton belts. The data given in Table XII represent an effort to estimate by various methods, the total cost of moving to farmers in Oklahoma in 1924. First, separate estimates are made by tenures for the wheat and cotton belts and the estimated costs for these classes added; second, estimates are made for these two areas separately, regardless of the tenure of operators; third, estimates are made, both of the wheat and cotton belts, on the basis of tenants and owners; and lastly, an estimate of the costs of moving in the state is made on the basis of all farmers, regardless of whether they are in the wheat or cotton belt areas. It is interesting to note that the first method of estimating, yields a total cost of moving of slightly over $2,000,000 for all farmers in the state. The second method of estimating gives a total cost of $2,155,000. The third method, which combines the wheat and cotton belts in making the calculation, but separates the estimates for tenures, gives a total cost of moving in the state, of $1,920,000. Finally, where the estimates are made for all farmers in the state, regardless of tenures or areas, the total cost of moving is estimated at $2,246,000.

TABLE XII

Estimated Total Cost of Moving for all Farmers of Oklahoma Who Moved in 1924, Calculated by Four Different Methods

Area of State and Method of Estimating Total Moving Cost	Number of Farmers on New Farms in 1924*	Average Cost per Move (Dollars)**	Cost of Moving for all Farmers in Class (Dollars)
1. Estimate by Tenure and by Crop Areas			
Wheat Belt			
Owners	695	44	30,580
Tenants	3,030	38	115,140
Cotton Belt			
Owners	5,531	45	470,585
Tenants	45,493	25	1,385,900
Total Cost of State (Sum above four items)	66,059		2,002,205
2. Estimate by All Farmers Regardless of Tenure for Crop Areas			
Wheat Belt	3,725	43	160,175
Cotton Belt	62,334	32	1,994,688
Total Cost (Sum above two items)	66,059		2,154,863
3. Estimate for All Farmers of the State by Tenures			
Owners	7,593	45	341,685
Tenants	58,466	27	1,578,582
Total Cost (Sum of above two items)	66,059		1,920,267
4. Estimate for All Farmers of State Regardless of area or tenure	66,059	34	2,246,006

*See Table I, page 7.
**See Table XI, page 30.

In all probability the average costs of moving for the various classes in Table XII is an underestimate of the average direct costs of moving. For example, it is believed that no reliable estimate was secured on the damage done to machinery and household goods in the course of moving, although estimates on these were requested. If this assumption is correct, these various methods of estimating, indicate that the total direct cost of moving to Oklahoma farmers approximates at least $2,000,000 per year.

In Table XIV and the discussions accompanying it, it is estimated that at least one-half of the farm moves of Oklahoma probably could not be justified on economic and social grounds. If this estimate approximates the truth, it is evident that about $1,000,000, due to moving costs, is subtracted each year from the economic status of Oklahoma farmers. In other words, the net income, or the net accumulation of wealth of farmers in Oklahoma is probably reduced $1,000,000 per year, as a result of unjustifiable moving. One way of getting the full significance of this cost to Oklahoma farmers is to capitalize the $1,000,000 of net increase of income which would result, if the direct cost of useless moving were eliminated. Capitalizing $1,000,000 at 5% interest rate gives us a total investment of $20,000,000 on which no income is realized by the farmers of the State. This investment represents more than one-third of the total investments of Oklahoma farmers for implements and machinery.

It should be emphasized at this point, that the costs herein estimated, are only the direct costs, which are, in all probability, a minor portion of the total costs of moving to Oklahoma farmers. The indirect costs lie in a reduced income caused by excessive moving. This reduced income is intangible and can not be adequately estimated. In another portion of this bulletin, data are given which indicate that there is a reduced income as a result of excessive moving.

The economic significance of useless moving may be further emphasized by estimating the total cost of moving, which the farmers who were interviewed had made during their entire earning lives, and by comparing this to their present net wealth. The total cost of moving for the lifetime of these farmers may be estimated by assuming that all moves which they had made were equally as expensive as the last move, on which they gave cost data. Table XIII gives the estimated costs of all moving for these farmers during their earning lives on this basis. These facts are then interpreted in terms of the net worth of the farmers.

In another portion of this study, it has been estimated that approximately one-half of all moving could be classified as useless moving. Assuming that one-half of the moves made by these farmers during their earning life were useless moves, and that the cost of these moves as estimated in Table XI were representative, we find that 43 owners in Grant county had incurred an estimated direct cost of $4,302 for moving and that 43 tenants had incurred $5,456. Using these data as a basis, and assuming that these costs were distributed over the earning life of these men, and calculating a compound interest of 7% on the expenditures for useless moving from the time they were supposed to have been incurred to the date of taking the data, the cost of this type of moving would amount to 1.5 per cent of the total net wealth of the owners in Alfalfa and Grant counties, and to 4.9 per cent of the wealth of tenants in these counties. Similar calculations for Pottowatomie county indicate that owners had decreased their net wealth by useless moving by 4.8 per cent, and tenants by 13.1 per cent. Likewise, Jackson and Greer county owners had decreased their net wealth 4.8 per cent and tenants 5.5 per cent. Similar estimates indicate that owners in Bryan county had reduced their net wealth by 5 per cent and tenants by the unusual amount of 38 per cent. A summary of all four areas combined, indicates that the owners interviewed had possibly decreased their net well-being by an average of 3 per cent of their total wealth, while tenants had similarly decreased by 11 per cent their net wealth. All

farmers decreased their net wealth directly by useless moving by about 5.4 per cent.

TABLE XIII

Estimated Cost of All Moving Compared with the Net Wealth of Farmers, Four Areas of Oklahoma

Area and Tenure	Number of Farmers	Average Years of Earning Life	Total Net Wealth	Total Cost and Interest of Moving*	Estimated Cost of Useless Moving**	Ratio of Cost of Useless Moving to net Wealth
Alfalfa and Grant						
Owners	43	26.2	414,436	4,302	6062	1.5
Tenants	43	18.0	111.451	5,450	5501	4.9
All	84	22.1	425,581	9,758	11563	2.7
Pottowatomie						
Owners	55	16.2	166,867	8,494	7975	4.8
Tenants	55	12.8	24,243	4,342	3168	13.1
All	110	14.5	191,110	12,836	11143	4.8
Jakson and Greer						
Owners	33	30.9	279,073	7,557	13325	4.8
Tenants	52	16.6	109,746	6,077	6039	5.5
All	85	22.1	388,819	13,634	19364	5.0
Bryan						
Owners	33	23.9	110,918	4,134	5572	5.0
Tenants	135	21.0	162,108	27,179	31060	38.3
All	168	21.6	273,026	31,313	36632	13.4
All Areas						
Owners	164	23.3	971,294	24,487	30447	3.1
Tenants	285	18.2	407,548	43,054	43510	10.7
All	449	20.1	1,378,842	67,541	74066	5.4

*Direct cost plus interest compounded from time move was made to date data were taken.
**Assuming one-half of all moves were useless and calculating interest (compounded at 7%) on moving costs distributed uniformly over earning life.

These summary figures show clearly that useless moving can easily be a most important factor in the net financial progress that farmers make. It should be remembered that these estimates are crude in their nature, but it is entirely possible that they are underestimates of the total direct cost of useless moving to these farmers. Also, it should be remembered that these calculated effects on net well-being represent only the direct costs of moving, and necessarily can not include any indirect effect that moving may have on reducing the net wealth of these farmers.

MOTIVES FOR FARM MOVING

The reasons for farm moves is one of the most important aspects of this problem. With this in view the farmers interviewed were asked to assign reasons for each move they had ever made. The results of this phase of the study are summarized in Table XIV. There is an unascertainable margin of error in the data, because it is hard for each man to remember accurately the reason for each move in the past. The margin of error in the data is also increased by the probable fact that relatively non-determining reasons for moves were sometimes raised into the most important position in order to hide

the fact that the main reason for the move did not justify a move. In other words, attempts were probably made to justify moves which were not justified, either economically or socially. The percentage that this type of answer enters into the data, is obviously impossible to calculate. Much precaution against biased answers given as reasons for moves was taken while in the field. Another means of minimizing the bias was to check questions on the reasons of tenure advance or moves when the motive was stated as that of getting a better or larger farm. On all these questions, checks were secured by getting data on the tenure status and the value and size of the farm moved onto with each move. These answers were carefully checked against the reasons given, and if conflict was found between the two sets of data, the answer was placed in the unclassified reasons for moves. This fact will account for the relatively large percentage of "unclassified reasons for moves." In fact, this classification comes very near giving nothing but moves that were made for no plausible economic or social reason. It is well to bear this in mind in interpreting the data in Table XIV.

TABLE XIV

The Reasons Given by Operators for 2075 Farm Moves They had Made in Their Previous Years of Earning Life

Class of Reasons For Move	Percentage of All Moves Made for Various Reasons				
	All Areas	Alfalfa and Grant Counties	Jackson and Greer Counties	Bryan County	Pottowatomie County
Total Number of Moves	2075	429	404	955	287
For Economic Betterment	54%	59%	69%	49%	49%
For Social and Domestic Betterment	7	5	9	7	8
Because of Economic Reversals	18	14	8	27	11
Unclassified Reasons	20	22	14	17	32

There were 2075 moves, for which reasons were assigned by the farmers interviewed. Out of this number, 54 per cent were said to have been made for economic betterment motives. If it were possible to get this class of moves reduced to those moves that were purely economic betterment moves, the percentage would undoubtedly be lower. In answering this question human nature impels the farmer to seek hard for an economic or social justification for his move. It is rather striking that economic motives so completely overshadow social betterment moves. It will be noted that only 7 per cent of all moves was assigned to "social betterment," which is only 13 per cent of the number assigned to economic betterment.

A better understanding of the significance of this predominance of economic motives over social motives will be gained by a detailed examination of the sub-classes of moves that go to make up the two main classes. Moves into Oklahoma from another state were classified as economic betterment moves and constituted 13 per cent of all moves for economic motives; moves to advance tenure status constituted exactly one-third; moves to get better land, 21

per cent; moves to get a larger farm, 10 per cent; the remainder of the moves, 23 per cent, were for miscellaneous reasons, such as, "to do better as a farmer," "dissatisfied with landlord," all of which are of doubtful value when classified as moves for economic betterment.

All moves for social betterment were composed of 10 per cent of moves for better housing facilities or other home improvements; one-third because of health or death; 27 per cent for better church or schools; and 21 per cent to get near kinfolk.

It is in the remaining 38 per cent of all reasons given for moves, that one finds the especially gloomy and undesirable side of moving. Economic reverses, pressure from landlord, foreclosure, drought, low farm prices, "quit farming," and similar reasons for moves constituted nearly a half of the 38 per cent. This group of moves was classed as moves because of economic reverses or failures, and amounted to 18.5 per cent of the 2075 moves made by all farmers. It is very probable that this class would be considerably increased if all moves could have been accurately classified.

Approximately 20 per cent, or one-fifth of all reasons for moves were given as "no good reason," "just to move," or "no reason" at all. Probably this is a class of moves that in large part springs out of the character of the mover himself. In the main, this class of moves characterizes the "Gypsy" of our farmers, the shiftless, roaming, more or less hopeless riff raff of the farm people. This class is likely to continue to be a liability, regardless of effort to improve its status. In fact, the people in this class would be more or less a charge on society, whether they are Oklahoma farmers or are in the Bowery of New York City. Fortunately, the per cent of all moves falling in this class is probably higher than the actual per cent of all farmers of which this type of move is characteristic. This type of farmer is an incessant mover, who has little or no property to move, who cares little for economic advance or the results of moving on his social or family life. Fortunately for agriculture and the state, this type of farmer either moves from one worn out marginal farm to another, or else operates a purely one crop type, where he is under the rigid supervision of a nearby landlord, who in most cases, is a superior farmer, thus saving society from some of the loss inherent in much useless moving.

The 20 per cent of unclassified moves probably constitutes moves that will be the most difficult to eliminate and will yield a minimum benefit, if eliminated. The one-fifth of all moves caused by economic reverses, and probably a high percentage of the so-called moves for economic and social betterment, probably constitute the most promising fields for farm moving improvement.

A comparison of the motives for moving in the different areas for which these data were secured is interesting. Jackson and Greer counties in the southwest part of the state, registered the highest per cent of moves for economic betterment, or 69 per cent. The wheat belt farmers ranked next with 59 per cent of all moves for these motives; while Bryan county farmers, in the southeastern part of the state, and those of Pottowatomie county in the central part, reported 49 per cent of all moves for economic betterment motives. Social or family betterment moves are noticeably more characteristic of the cotton belt if the data are indicative, the largest proportion, 9 per cent, being in the southwest cotton counties and the lowest, 5 per cent, in the wheat belt counties.

Economic reverses as a reason for moving has the widest variation of any class of reasons between the different areas. Of all reasons given for moving, economic reverses were listed as causing 27 per cent of all moves in Bryan county, while only 8 per cent were thus listed in Jackson and Greer counties.

Motives for moving naturally vary as age and earning life of farmers advance. The data on this aspect of moving are summarized in Table XV for ten year periods of earning life. It will be noted that during the first ten years of earning life, 58 per cent of all moves were said to have been made for the economic advantages to be gained by the moves; during the next ten years of earning life, (which in reality, is somewhere about the ages of 31 to 41), the proportion of moves for economic betterment drops to 53 per cent, but again rises to 56 per cent during the period of 21 to 30 years of earning life. This latter period of rise in the importance of motives for economic betterment probably is due to the fact that usually the bulk of purchases of farms by former tenants is made in this period. In the first ten years of earning life, the percentage of moves for economic betterment is high, because these are the years when young tenants demand relatively frequent moves in order to make needed tenure, size, type, and quality of farm adjustments that fit their managerial development. The earning life period above 31 years is characterized by the least proportion of moves, 50 per cent, for economic betterment. Nevertheless when the approximate age of the men involved is considered (50 and above) it is unusual that moves for economic betterment constitute such a large part of all moves in this class. It emphasizes the dominance of economic motives in moving, even to the end of earning life.

TABLE XV

The Proportion of 2075 Moves Made for Different Classes of Reasons by Farmers in Selected Oklahoma Districts at Different Periods of Their Earning Life

Period of Earning Life	Per Cent of All Moves That Were Stated to Have Been Made			
	For Economic Betterment	On Account of Economic Reversals	For Social Betterment	For Unclassified Reasons
First 10 years	58	17	7	18
11 to 20 years	53	18	8	20
21 to 30 years	56	22	5	17
31 years and above	50	15	13	22
All ages	54	18	7	20

The percentage of moves said to have been caused by economic reversals, gradually increases during earning life until the third decade is passed, when there is a fall in the proportion of moves caused by economic reversal.

It is somewhat risky to speculate on the causes of this increase during early life in moves which resulted in reversals, and on the causes of the decrease following later in life, but the most probable explanation is as follows: much credit probably must be given to these farmers for progressively launching out into a higher and higher proportion of moves that are risky, and which end in reversals until 30 years of earning life have passed. This is probably the reverse side of the story of a far larger number of efforts to advance, which efforts probably required as much courage as these reversal efforts, but which had a happier ending—economic advance. Above 30 years of earning life (or above approximately 50 years of age) the noticeable decline in moves made as a result of reversals, is probably a reflection of the conservatism of age. At this age men are far more cautious, as a rule, in launching out on risky undertakings, consequently, this caution probably is reflected in the number of moves that result in reversals.

Moves as a result of economic reversals are not unmitigated evils, in all probability. "Those who risk little have small chances for gain," is an oft re-

peated statement in the business world, which is probably worth serious thought here, for in all likelihood, had there been a greater proportion of moves involving risky undertakings, among these farmers, there would have been greater net economic progress accomplished by the men interviewed. Quite likely there would have also been a large proportion of moves resulting in economic reversals, but the probability is that this evil would have been overbalanced by the net excess of economic advance made, as a result of the greater number of efforts to advance, and the natural resulting stimulus to hold tenaciously any ground gained thereby.

With the exception of one decade, moves made to improve social, educational, and home life, and for the purpose of bettering health, increase in proportion to all moves as earning life advances. The period of 21 to 30 years of earning life is the one that shows a decline in the percentage. However, since a relatively small number of moves are represented in these data, it is doubtful if special significance can be attached to the data in this decade.

Advocates of the theory that the purposeful raising of the standard of farm living is a powerful force toward permanent improvement in the standards of living on the farm, would probably like to see the proportion of moves that are for social betterment increased, and especially in early earning life. The assertion that this would tend to encourage greater effort toward gaining the economic needs for maintenance of the raised standard, is worthy of the most careful respect. The present status of investigational work on this highly important phase of the fields of Agricultural Economics and Sociology, however, does no furnish facts to prove or disprove the assertion that raising the standard of living tends to raise earning power.

Some very interesting facts concerning the changes in tenure status and the changes in value of farms, as a result of moving at different stages of earning life, are shown in Table XVI. Twenty-nine per cent of all moves, on an average, resulted in tenure advance during the first ten years of earning life. This figure is more significant if it is recalled that these first ten years are also clearly the period of the greatest amounts of moving in a man's earning life (Table V). Moves for tenure advance dropped to 20 per cent of all moves during the second decade of earning life, and to 19 per cent beyond the 31st year of earning life. In other words, there is practically no change in the relative importance of moves to advance the tenure status, after the first ten years of earning life have passed. On an average, one out of each four moves, out of the total of 2210, had resulted in advancing the tenure of the operators. In a high percentage of the cases where operators advance their tenure status, moves are very probably justified. If advance in tenure status does not lessen seriously the size of the farm operated, the advance usually brings about greater economic efforts. The reason for this is that tenure advance usually means that the operator owns rather than rents, a greater proportion of the capital he uses. The greater the proportion of capital that is owned by the operator, the more zealous he should be in the full use of the capital, and especially in its conservation.

For the first ten years of earning life, 56 per cent of the moves by the farmers interviewed for this study resulted in no change in their tenure, or else reversed their tenure status. Beyond the 21st year of earning life, over two-thirds of all moves either reversed, or made no change in the tenure status of the men.

Seven per cent of all the moves made were those in which the farmers were quitting farming to try out another calling, only to return later, since all the men interviewed were farm operators. The first decade and the period after the 31st year of earning life show the greatest number of moves away from the farm. In all likelihood, most of the seven per cent of all moves

classed as, "those quitting farming," can be branded as useless moving. Also, their counterpart in seven per cent of all moves due to the return of these men to farming, can be classed as useless moving. In other words, the farmer's quitting and re-entering farming has, in nearly all cases, done himself no good. The fact that he returns to agriculture is almost sure evidence of his own acknowledgement of this. Most certainly, practically none of the shifts found in this class have benefitted the community or farming in general, since in any case the farmer, good or poor, was found back in the calling when the data were taken.

The class of moves under the caption, "entering farming," does not include the first entrance into farming, if the man began earning life as a farmer. It does, however, include all moves that involved entering farming after some other occupation had been tried out first. For this reason, the proportion entering farming is larger than the percentage quitting farming.

One very important phase of moving is brought out by the continued importance of moves to increase the size of the farm, even after the period of 31 years or more of farming has been reached. American agriculture has increased its physical production per man in the last 40 years, by approximately an average of 2 per cent annually. Adjustment of the size of the farm business to the capacity and ability of the farm operator, is one important factor in high national agricultural production per man. Our tenure and moving system makes it easily possible for a farmer to make this adjustment of size of farm to his increasing capacity as a manager. This is one result of moving that is desirable, and moving for adjustment of size of business to the farmer's capacity should be retained if possible.

The results of moves on the size of the farm business are given in the last three columns of Table XVI. The first decade of earning life stands out as the one in which greatest use is made of moves to increase the size of the farm. About two-thirds of all moves during this period increased the value of the farm. The use of moves for this purpose falls to 59 per cent of all moves during the next decade of earning life, and only slightly less than this throughout the rest of earning life. It is striking to note that increase in size of business remains one of the results of moving, until late in the average farmer's earning life.

TABLE XVI

The Proportion of All Moves Made at Different Periods of Earning Life That Resulted in Given Tenure and Value Changes for 2210 Moves Made by Farmers in Selected Areas of Oklahoma

Period of Earning Life	Total Number of Moves	Percentage of Moves Made During Different Periods of Earning Life Resulting In						
		Tenure Advance*	Tenure Reverse or No Tenure Change	Quitting Farming for Other Occupations	Entering Farming*	Increase of Value of Farm Operated**	Decrease of Value of Farm Operated**	No Change in Value of Farm Operated
First 10 years	1198	29.2	55.6	7.8	7.4	63.8	22.1	14.1
11 to 20 years	667	20.0	61.6	7.0	11.4	59.3	17.3	23.4
21 to 30 years	250	19.6	67.6	2.8	10.0	56.8	31.4	11.8
31 years and over	95	19.0	67.4	8.4	5.2	56.7	34.9	8.4
All years combined	2210	24.8	59.3	7.0	8.8	61.4	26.3	12.3

*Does not include first entrance to farming unless some other occupation was followed before taking up farming first.
**Based on all moves exclusive of entering farming or some other occupation.

PART III

THE RELATION OF MOVING TO THE KIND OF FARM AND THE KIND OF FARM LIFE

NO SUITABLE INDEX OF MOVING IS AVAILABLE

In the remainder of this study, an effort will be made to show some of the conditions associated with the quantity of moving. Since both good and bad elements are found in farm moving, it is evident that the mere amount of moving can not be a faultless basis for showing up the good and bad associated with moving. In other words, a large amount of moving is not necessarily good, nor is the amount of moving an index to the kind of moving, or the "why" of moving. These phases of the problem which are so difficult of analysis, are as important as the "how much" of moving.

Some of the difficulties of using the length of farm stays as a basis for measuring the stability, or its converse, the mobility of farmers, are brought out in Table XVII. In previous discussions, it has been shown that the average farm stay increases rapidly as earning life advances (See Table VI). It follows logically from this also, that the average of present stays increases rapidly with the advance of earning life. Thus, it is evident in measuring the quantity of moving, that the average of present stay or of past stays, varies greatly with individuals in various stages of earning life. From a glance at Table XVII, it will be noted that if the present stay is excluded from the average of stays, there is very little change in the average years of stays or, to express it in other language, the average of stays previous to the present stay, varies very little with different groups of farmers classified on the basis of increased present stay. An analysis of Table XVII will reveal in more detail, the relationship that exists between the various averages of stays, that is, the average of present stays, of all stays previous to the present stay, and of all stays. Since the basis for classification of operators in the table is the present stay, the average of present stays necessarily increases with the different classes given in the table, and the averages of present stays are given here only for comparative purposes. For the four classes shown in the table, the average increase is from one to approximately 20 years for owners, and from one to 17 years for tenants. Accompanying this change of the average stay, it will be noted that the average of stays prior to the present stay varies only slightly from the one-year-and-less-present-stay group, to the 10-year-and-over group. In other words, owners whose present stay was 2 to 4 years, had an average of stays, prior to the present stay, of 3.1 years. The other two groups, whose average of present stays was higher, had practically the same average of all stays prior to the present stay. Thus, it will be seen that the change in the average of all stays, as shown in the last column of the table, is caused mainly from the increase in the average of present stays. In general, these conditions prevail for the data, on tenants, and on all operators, regardless of tenure. In short, it is evident that statistics on the quantity of moving, based on average length of stays, are greatly influenced by the stage of earning life of the individual operators involved in the calculation.

Thus, whether the average stay or the present stay is taken as a measure for the amount of moving, either measure will increase greatly with age of operators, and consequently, the normal amount of moving for older men is not the normal amount for younger men. In other words, a person who moves an abnormal amount in old age, may move less frequently than a man who moves an abnormally small amount in his younger farming years.

TABLE XVII

Relation Between Present Stay on Farms, The Average of All Past Stays And the Average of All Stays Previous to the Present Stay

Tenure and Farmers Grouped on Basis of Present Stay on Farms	Number of Farms	Average Years of Present Stay	Average Years of All Stays	Average Years of all Stays Prior to Present Stay
Owners				
1 year and less	18	1.0	3.9	4.5
2 to 4 years	67	2.0	2.9	3.1
5 to 9 years	97	6.8	3.8	3.1
10 years and over	127	19.8	6.9	3.2
All year groups	309	10.8	4.8	3.3
Tenants				
1 year and less	85	1.0	2.1	2.3
2 to 4 years	167	2.8	2.5	2.5
5 to 9 years	95	6.2	3.1	2.4
10 years and over	41	16.6	5.0	2.6
All year groups	388	4.7	2.9	2.4
All Operators				
1 year and less	103	1.0	2.4	2.7
2 to 4 years	234	2.6	2.6	2.7
5 to 9 years	192	6.5	3.4	2.7
10 years and over	168	19.0	6.3	3.0
All year groups	697	7.4	3.6	2.8

It follows that there is not sufficiently close relation between the average of past and present stays, to assume that their influence on the present standing of farmers is the same. In fact, reason tells us this is likely not to be the case with the two, and that, in showing the relation between moving and certain economic and social aspects of farming, one would be used for one comparison, and the other for another comparison.

Since the normal amount of moving decreases markedly with increase in earning life, it was thought best in many calculations, not to use the figure for the average stay on the farm, but the per cent that the average stay of the man, was, of the normal length of stay for all farmers at his stage of earning life. This per cent of the normal length of stay is called the **index of stability***.

It is evident that the average stay on all farms should have a more remote influence on economic status in some cases, than should the present stay. For example, one would assume that certain problems of management that require long time plans could be accomplished only when a farmer has a present stay that is long enough to permit the reorganization of his farm along the

*The "normal" stay as here used, is not the arithmetic average, but was determined by considering the arithmetic average, the median and the mode of the stays of farmers in the various year groups of earning life, and then by drawing a free hand curve of the the normal stay of operators in the different stages of earning life, using the three types of averages as guides. The ordinate values of this free hand curve were considered the normal amount of moving at various stages, and the actual average stay of each man was expressed as a per cent of this normal stay. The reason for this index is that it makes the amounts of moving of different men in the various stages of earning life comparable. In other words, it is designed to eliminate the influence of age on the amount of moving.

improved line. Furthermore, the economic consequences of this organization can materialize only after it has been established for a number of years. In the data dealing with such cases, the length of the present stay ought to have more significance than the average of all stays. Where there is a possibility of this difference being worth while in some of the calculations, present stay has been used along with the index of stability and the average of all stays; and in some cases, all three ways of measuring the stability of farmers were used as a basis for tabulations.

THE SIZE OF THE FARM AND MOVING

Most farm analyses on the size of the farm business, indicate a close relationship between large farms and large incomes and vice versa. Careless and frequent moving very probably stamps a man as a farmer not worthy to be entrusted with a large farm, in which case small farm should be associated with excessive moving. On the other hand, frequent moving may conceivably advance a rapidly developing young manager in the size of the farm he handles. Evidently, however, this does not hold true for the average farmer, since, seemingly, there is a well defined tendency for excessive moving to be associated with a small size of farm, as is shown in Table XVIII. The relation between moving and the size of the farm is shown in three different ways, namely: on the basis of the stability index, of average of all stays; and of average of present stay. Available data for this table on the stability index are much more extensive than are data on present stay.

It will be seen that there is a distinct positive relation between stability of farmers and the total capital used in the farm business. Especially it will be noticed that where the stability is 201 or over, the size of the farm as shown by capital investment, shows a marked increase over that of the 101 to 200 stability class. This increase for all operators was 30 per cent; for owners, 15 per cent; and for tenants, 38 per cent.

Data on the average of all past stays as previously stated, are not based on all operators included in the calculations based on stability index. Nevertheless, it is believed that the final averages on past stays, and those calculated on the basis of the stability index are sufficiently representative to make them comparable. The same is true for tabulations based on the average of present stays and included in Table XVIII.

It will be noted that in connection with both the average of all stays, and in the average of present stays, there is a distinct relationship between the frequent movers and small farms, and between the infrequent movers and large farms. Farmers who have moved, on an average, every two years or less, operate an average farm capital of $6252, while those who have moved on an average each 6 years, or less often, have an average farm capital of about $15,000. This situation of increased capital with greater stability is much more pronounced with tenants than with owners. Tenants, whose average stay was 6 years or more, had capital averaging two and one-half times that of tenants who moved on an average of each two years or less. Similarly, farmers whose present stay was three years or less operated an average capital of $8076, while those whose present stay averaged 7 years or longer operated an average of $13,919, a farm with invested capital 79 per cent larger than that of the former group.

The association of the more stable farmer with the larger size of farm business can be accounted for, in part, by the fact that size of business is often a motive for moving. If the farmer has a farm the size of which is satisfactory, naturally the tendency to move is thereby reduced. A more probable explanation of the association, however, is that the most successful men in farming are able to obtain the larger farms, and have used moving in nearly all cases for

sound economic motives only, which doubtless means a greatly reduced amount of moving. Large size farms, high income, greater progress in wealth accumulation, and reduced moving, probably, are closely associated. Obviously, the extent to which one of these factors causes the other or results from another, cannot be ascertained because of the complexity of the relationship.

The extent to which economic motives were reported as the purpose for moves, seemingly should have something to do with the size of farm operated. The motive of getting a larger farm is classified among economic motives and is an important motive for moving. Among the farmers studied, sixty-one per cent of moves, for which moving data were available, resulted in an increase in the value of the farm operated, and 39 per cent resulted in a decrease or no change in farm value. Moves frequently were made that resulted in an increase of value of farm operated, but the reasons stated for the moves were often given as something else than that of increasing the size of the farm, in which case, the increase in the size of the farm probably was not a major reason for the move. Moves for which the motive of getting a larger farm was given, were actually only 5.5 per cent of all reasons given as major reasons for moves.

Tabulations were run on the relationship between the stability of farmers and various classes of farm capital, on the areas grouped into the southwest cotton counties, the south central cotton counties and the wheat belt counties. The average amount of capital in the various items, and in total farm capital, varies widely in the three groups. Alfalfa and Grant counties rank highest in average total capital per farm, with over $20,000 average total capital for owners, and from two-thirds to three-fourths this amount for tenants. The closest relation between low amount of moving and high average capital value, and between frequent moving and low capital values was shown in the southwest group of counties. In this area, in the main, all capital and capital in land, in livestock and in machinery, was much smaller with groups of both tenants and owners who moved most frequently, than it was with groups who moved infrequently.

Some irregularity in this relation shows up in the south central cotton counties. In the main, however, in all areas a relatively large amount of moving is associated with smaller total farm capital and with a smaller average of the different classes of farm capital. This is more noticeable among tenants than among owners.

In the wheat growing counties, there is a relationship between frequent moving and lessened total capital with owners. Capital in land, however, shows an actual reversal in this relationship for owners. For tenants in the wheat area, not only in total capital but in the various items of this capital, relatively infrequent movers have the smaller amount of capital, while the most frequent moving class has the larger amount of capital. It will be recalled, however, that on the whole, relatively little moving takes place in the wheat belt.

Large amounts of machinery and livestock often prevent moves where the would-be mover has the choice of moving entirely in his own hand. It is far more difficult to move large amounts of machinery and large numbers of livestock than it is to move small quantities of these. Furthermore, the type of agriculture using large amounts of machinery and livestock is one that makes permanency of tenure more needed than is the case with the type using little machinery and livestock. Regardless of whether or not one could determine the extent to which lack of equipment causes moving, or large amounts of equipment prevent moving, there can be no doubt that there is a very close relation between the proportion of farmers moving and the quantity of machinery on the farm, as is shown in Figure 2, based on average census figures for counties in 1924.

TABLE XVIII

The Value of Total Capital and of Capital Invested in Land and Buildings of Oklahoma Farmers Classified on the Basis of Three Measures of Stability for Various Areas of State Combined*

Farmers Grouped on Three Bases of Stability	Size of Farm Business Based on All Farm Capital					Size of Farm Business Based on Land and Building Value				
	Number of Farmers			Average Value Invested in Total Farm Business		Number of Farmers			Average Value Invested in Land and Buildings	
	Owners	Tenants	All Farmers	Owners	Tenants	Owners	Tenants	All Farmers	Owners	Tenants
Stability Index										
100 and less	162	402	$8072	$11045	$6873	162	401	$7110	$9688	$6068
101-200	254	279	9134	11530	6952	254	279	7993	10012	6155
201 and over	119	71	11898	13281	9580	119	71	10397	11522	8510
Average of Past Stays										
0-2 years	8	90	6252	13219	5652	8	74	5185	11537	4498
2-4 years	51	179	8170	10510	7506	51	168	7076	9100	6462
4-6 years	77	84	9218	9054	9369	77	95	7111	7692	6635
6 and over	150	45	14977	15882	12288	149	58	12482	13688	9384
Average of Present Stays										
3 and less	41	205	8076	12925	7106	41	202	6908	10659	6146
4 to 6 years	62	96	9828	11455	8778	66	95	8060	8771	7567
7 and over	175	74	13919	15243	10789	175	74	11164	12057	9050

*These areas were in Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman and Greer in the southwest part of the state, for Carter, Stephens, Love, Jefferson and Bryan in the south central part of the state and Alfalfa and Grant in the northwest.

(Source of Data—United States Census of Agriculture, 1924)

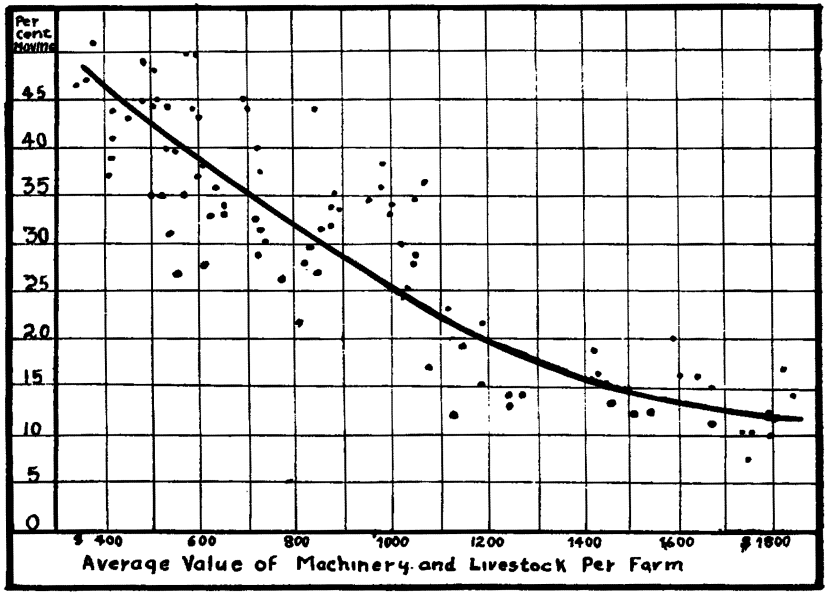

Figure 2—The Relationship Between the Percentage of All Farmers Moving in 1924 and the Average Value of Livestock and Machinery per Farm, for All Counties in Oklahoma Except Adair and Osage Counties.

A simple correlation of the percentage of moving with the average value of livestock and machinery for all of the counties in Oklahoma, except Osage county (where unusual ranching conditions prevail), gives a coefficient of −.855, with a probable error of .021. Figure 2, which is a free hand curve of the relationship between moving and the value of equipment, shows that this relationship is not a straight line, but a curvilinear relationship. Hence, the simple correlation, which assumes a straight line relation, does not show at best the relationship between the amount of moving and the average value of machinery and livestock owned. Estimating the relationship on the basis of the free hand curve in Figure 2, it appears that where livestock and machinery values average from $400 to $1200 per farm, with each additional $30 of value, the percentage of moving drops one point. In other words, roughly speaking, the addition of $30 of livestock and machinery value is accompanied by a reduction of moving by one per cent.

In those counties where the livestock and machinery value averages above $1200 per farm, the addition of over $70, roughly estimating, is required to reduce moving by one per cent.

The statements here given concerning the relationship of moving and farm equipment value, should not be construed to mean that large values in machinery and livestock are any more the cause of reduced moving than that reduced moving is the cause of more machinery and livestock. In fact, the probabilities are that reduced moving helps to increase livestock and machinery and that, on the other hand, larger amounts of livestock and machinery causes a reduction in the amount of moving.

TABLE XIX

The Average Value of Capital Invested in All Equipment (All Livestock and Machinery) and in Work Stock for Farmers Classified on Bases of Three Measures of Stability for Various Areas of the State Combined*

Farmers Grouped on Three Bases of Stability	Size of Farm Business Based on All Value of Equipment					Size of Farm Business Based on Value of Work Stock				
	Number of Farmers		Average Value of Equipment			Number of Farmers		Average Value Invested in Livestock		
	Owners	Tenants	All Farmers	Owners	Tenants	Owners	Tenants	All Farmers	Owners	Tenants
Stability Index										
100 and less	162	402	971	1344	820	162	402	292	332	275
101-200	254	279	1157	1552	798	254	279	312	364	264
201 and over	119	71	1501	1759	1070	119	71	441	498	346
Avearge Years of Past Stay										
0-2 years	7	66	812	1682	726	7	62	258	503	231
2-4 years	51	163	972	1424	839	51	156	269	311	255
4-6 years	77	90	1084	1362	846	76	81	298	311	286
6 and over	149	56	1936	2201	1247	149	54	394	428	299
Average Years of Present Stay										
3 and less	42	198	901	1595	750	41	179	286	336	275
4 to 6 years	65	96	1019	1273	840	65	86	274	310	248
7 and over	176	74	1657	1880	1125	175	69	382	413	304

*See footnote of Table XIV.

Table XIX gives for various areas, the relationship between the stability of farmers and the amount of capital invested in livestock and machinery. Throughout the table, with the exception of a few instances, there is a clear relationship between excessive moving, as measured by the stability index or the average of past or of present stays, and relatively small amounts of capital invested in livestock and machinery. Likewise, farmers moving have larger amounts of equipment.

There is little question but that both tenants and the owners of land rented are usually to blame for the deficiency of machinery and livestock frequently noticed on Oklahoma farms. Owners of rented land who are anxious to establish a greater stability of renters on their farms might do well to consider seriously the close relationship here shown between greater amounts of machinery and livestock and greater stability. Many tenants would increase their livestock and machinery, were they given the opportunity to do so by the owner of the land, and at the same time had they the assurance that they would not have to move on to another place not suited to large amounts of livestock and machinery. Furthermore, considering the existing widespread soil depletion and the well established fact that livestock are normally helpful in a soil building program, it is very probable that as a long time proposition, the encouragement of tenants to own more livestock would mean, to the land owner, a greater net return on his investment.

The conclusion, from the facts previously presented, that small amounts of livestock and machinery are in part the cause of much of the moving that takes place, is probably warranted. A farmer has few livestock other than work animals. His machinery is the minimum needed for farming. Under such conditions, a small misunderstanding occurs between the owner of the land and the tenant resulting in a move. The farm business of such a farmer is usually simply organized around a dominant money crop. As long as both parties to the contract do not sufficiently understand, or are not brought to care for the fact that this type of farming probably is both socially and economically undesirable, a move is a very easy thing to bring about.

Table XX gives information on the relation betwen stability and the emphasis placed on cotton in the organization of farms. In most cases, the incessant mover is more or less necessarily compelled to confine his efforts to the one crop system of farming. Diversification not only calls for a larger variety of farm machines, but also, frequently is accompanied by more than the average proportion of receipts from livestock. Nevertheless, it is quite evident that many other factors than moving may determine the organization of the farm.

It looks reasonable to assume that the length of the present stay should stand in closer relation to the type of farm organization than the average of all past stays. On the other hand, establishing the bad habit of excessive mobility, in many cases compels a farmer to accept the simple one crop type of farm organization; and, the general reputation of being an incessant mover may have more to do with a landlord's demand that the tenant grow only cotton than the fact that the tenant has been on the present place for more than the usual length of time. Undoubtedly the relation of farm organization to farm stability is a very complicated relationship and cannot be adequately dealt with in this study.

Judging from data given in Table XX, there is a fairly well defined relationship between the length of stay (both the average of all stays and the average of present stays), and the present farm organization. For example, it will be noticed that owners who averaged a stay of 2 years or less for their entire earning life, had secured 74 per cent of all receipts from one main cash crop; while owners whose average stay was 6 years or over, had only 64 per

cent of receipts from the cash crop. Likewise, corresponding comparison for tenants gives 77 per cent for the less stable, and 71 per cent for the more stable class. Although this relationship holds where farmers are classified on the basis of average of present stay, it does not seem to be as marked as the relationship based on the average of all earning life stays.

TABLE XX

Percentage that Main Cash Crop Receipts Were of All Farm Receipts for Farmers Classified by Tenure Average Years of All Farm Stays and of Present Stays*

Operators Grouped by Average of All Stays and Present Stay	Number of Farmers	Percentage That Main Cash Crop Receipts Were of All Farm Receipts		
		All Operators	Owners	Tenants
Average of All Farm Stays				
2 years and less	85	76	74	77
2 to 4 years	224	75	69	77
4 to 6 years	171	65	59	71
6 years and over	201	65	64	71
Present Stays				
3 years and less	250	75	67	78
4 to 6 years	162	67	64	69
7 years and over	251	67	63	76

*Based on areas in Jackson, Greer, Bryan, Pottowatomie, Alfalfa and Grant Counties.

Similar tabulation, with operators classified on the basis of stability index, did not indicate a well defined relationship between greater stability and reduced dependence on a cash crop. This suggests, since the length of stay normally increases with age, that possibly dependence on cash crop normally decreases with age. Tabulations for farmers surveyed in Kiowa, Greer, Tillman, and Jackson counties, indicated that farmers who had been farming less than 10 years, had average cash crop receipts of about 70 per cent of all receipts; farmers who had farmed 10 to 20 years, had receipts of about 66 per cent; those farming 20 to 30 years, 64 per cent, and those farming longer than 30 years, about 62 per cent. On the other hand, the change in the per cent of receipts from garden, fruit, and livestock with increasing earning life, revealed that the 10 year and under group received about 15 per cent from these sources; the 10 to 20 year group, 20 per cent; and farmers farming 20 years or longer, about 27 or 28 per cent. Similar results were secured for data from other areas included in Table XX. Thus, it is evident that at least a portion of the relation between moving and cash crop receipts is the change in moving and percentage of receipts that go along with increased age.

The relation between moving and reliance on the main cash crop is shown further in Table XXI, which gives the proportion of farmers whose receipts from cash crops were above or below a certain percentage. In the southwest group of counties, 19 per cent of the farmers who moved most frequently had 55 per cent or less of all receipts from the cash crop; in the medium moving group, 28 per cent of farmers had 55 per cent or less of their receipts from the cash crop; while 35 per cent of the most infrequent movers were also in this class. This relationship is especially noticeable for tenants. Cotton constituted 55 per cent or less, of all receipts for only 9 per cent of tenants, who moved on an average each four years or less; the same was true for 21 per cent of the medium movers, and for 38 per cent of the infrequent movers.

TABLE XXI

Percentage of All Farmers Whose Receipts from Cash Crops were Above, and the Per Cent of All Farmers Whose Receipts from Cash Crops Were Below a Given Per Cent, for Farmers Classified by Average Stay on Farms and by Tenure

Tenure and Average Stay	South West Counties: Tillman, Greer, Kiowa and Jackson				South Central Counties: Carter, Love, Stephens and Jefferson				Southeast County: McIntosh County by Tenure			
	55 Per Cent or Less		56 Per Cent and More		60 Per Cent or Less		61 Per Cent or More		60 Per Cent or Less		61 Per Cent and Over	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
All Operators												
4 years and less	33	19	139	81	37	65	20	45	67	43	89	56
4 to 8 years	25	28	63	72	44	65	24	45	32	48	35	52
8 years and over	23	35	42	65	16	67	8	33	16	67	8	33
Owners												
4 years and less	21	50	21	50	8	53	7	47	16	59	11	41
4 to 8 years	16	36	29	64	24	63	14	37	17	59	12	41
8 years and over	17	35	32	65	12	63	7	37	14	88	2	12
Renters												
4 years and less	12	9	118	91	29	69	13	31	51	40	78	60
4 to 8 years	9	21	34	79	20	67	10	33	15	40	23	60
8 years and over	6	38	10	62	4	80	1	20	2	25	6	75

The data on the south central group of counties and on McIntosh county indicate, in a less pronounced and a more erratic way, that frequent movers in larger proportions rely more heavily on cotton, than do infrequent movers. The data for both of these areas are based on smaller numbers of farmers than is the case with the data for the southwest group of counties, which fact may, in part, account for erratic results in the former surveys.

Taken as a whole, the various tabulations on the relationship between moving and percentage of receipts from the cash crops, do not indicate that there is a fairly well defined relation between excessive moving and a relatively high percentage of dependence on cotton in the different areas. Without doubt, there are two opposite acting economic factors involved in this relationship, or lack of relationship, as the case may be, one being that specialization in cotton, under certain conditions, doubtless is the most profitable farm system for certain men, combined with certain types of soil and sizes of farms. On the other hand, in the case of many farmers and farm areas, doubtless less dependence on cash crops is highly desirable. These are assumptions on which no sound extensive data for the state are now available. Proof must await more extensive study and research.

If these assumptions are true, it naturally follows that a sound economic policy for the individual farmers in regard to moving, might be associated wisely with a high degree of specialization under one set of conditions and associated wisely with small emphasis on a one crop system under another set of conditions. Very likely, this is true in connection with moving and dependence on a cash crop in the areas studied. In the main, however, it is believed that the facts presented here indicate that there is a relationship between excessive moving and an unusually great dependence on a cash crop in most of the areas studied.

RELATION BETWEEN FINANCIAL PROGRESS AND FREQUENCY OF FARM MOVING

Financial progress undoubtedly is affected by the kind and amount of moving farmers do. Useless moving is not only expensive in direct costs, but also often interferes with profitable farm organization. On the other hand, some moves make financial progress easier and surer. In view of the previously stated probability that the proportion of moves made for economic motives constitutes not much over 50 per cent of all moves, it seems reasonable to assume that frequent moving often is detrimental to financial progress, and should therefore show a relationship with low accumulative accomplishment.

Table XXII gives the relation between the adjusted average annual rate of accumulation of wealth* and the stability of farmers. Farmers were grouped for each area, according to their average annual accumulation of wealth, so as to divide them into four approximately equal groups, ranging from the group of poorest acccumulators to the group who accumulated the most wealth per year.

*The average annual accumulation of wealth varies considerably with the stage of earning life of farmers, that is, the very young man, with little accumulated capital, naturally accumulates more slowly than he normally does in middle age, when he has considerable capital to help him. Also old age cuts seriously into the rate at which farmers accumulate; often accumulation actually is reduced to a negative amount, or a net loss. Thus, rate of accumulation during the first two-thirds or three-fourths of earning life describes a slowing ascending curve, which curve normally begins to decline abruptly after the first thirty to forty years of earning life. This curve of life's rate of accumulation may well be called the earning span of life for farmers. This rise and decline in annual rate of accumulation prevents grouping of various ages of farmers for comparison of them on the relation of rate of wealth accumulation and other factors. In tabulations used in this bulletin, this difficulty was attacked by weighting each man's average annual accumulation figure by the normal rate of accumulation of all farmers corresponding to the year of earning life, the given farmer was in. In this way, it is believed that the influence of stage of earning life, in the main, is eliminated in arriving at the rate of adjusted annual accumulation of each individual.

TABLE XXII

The Stability of Farmers Classified by Tenure and Adjusted Average Annual Accumulation of Wealth for Selected Areas in Oklahoma

Survey Areas and Average Annual Adjusted Accumulation Classes That Divide All Operators into Four Appoximately Equal Groups	ALL OPERATORS		OWNERS		TENANTS	
	Number of Operators	Average of Indices of Stability	Number of Operators	Average of Indices of Stability	Number of Operators	Average of Indices of Stability
Southwest Counties*						
—$151 to $85	97	107	3	139	94	106
86 to 200	99	128	23	145	76	123
201 to 400	87	163	54	180	33	135
401 and over	88	165	74	177	14	99
Carter, Love, Stephens and Jefferson						
—$280 to $27	47	117	6	142	41	113
28 to 66	48	123	15	108	33	130
68 to 185	50	144	27	173	23	110
187 and over	49	174	40	195	9	83
Bryan County						
—$354 to $34	51	108	2	109	49	108
35 to 55	51	116	2	115	49	116
58 to 106	50	132	7	130	43	132
108 and over	54	178	31	177	23	181
Alfalfa and Grant Counties						
—$444 to $193	46	113	12	141	34	103
198 to 378	53	120	27	135	26	104
383 to 621	57	136	35	135	22	111
634 and over	49	172	38	182	11	136

*Areas in Greer, Jackson, Kiowa and Tillman Counties.

In the southwest cotton counties, the poorest accumulator group had an average stability index of 107, and the best, an index of 165, with the two indices of the intermediate group falling between. The relationship of low accumulative power and frequent moving, and vice versa, holds true in this area for both tenants and owners. In both tenure classes, however, the relationship between excessive moving and low accumulation of wealth, and vice versa, seems to be less pronounced in the fourth group, namely, farmers who had an average annual accumulation of wealth of $401 or over.

In the south central group of counties, the data indicate that frequent moving possibly is not so closely associated with low accumulative accomplishments as is the case in the southwest group of counties. Nevertheless, relation is clearly shown, if erratic results, possibly due to small numbers involved, are taken into account.

TABLE XXIII

Total Capital Landlords Invested in Land and Equipment of Rented Farms, Gross Rent Received From These Farms and the Percentage Rent Was of Capital for Farms Classified by Per Cent of Receipts From Cotton and Stability Index of the Farmers for Four Cotton Areas of Oklahoma

Area, Percentage of Receipts From Cotton and Stability Index Groups	Number of Farmers	Total Receipts	Total Landlord Share of Operated Capital	Ratio of Total Receipts to Landlord's Total Operated Capital
Bryan County Area				
Cotton Receipts 60% or Less Stability Index				
100 or less	20	11,250	118,330	9.5
101 or more	18	9,187	76,840	12.0
Cotton Receipts 61% or More				
100 or less	48	26,224	247,942	8.5
101 or more	43	20,681	173,100	11.9
Jackson and Greer Areas				
Cotton Receipts 85% or Less Stability Index				
100 or less	25	25,062	204,350	12.3
101 or more	20	27,305	154,815	17.6
Cotton Receipts 86% or More				
100 or Less	16	21,692	112,575	19.3
101 or more	17	20,707	90,515	22.9
Pottowatomie County				
Cotton Receipts 60% or Less Stability Index				
100 or less	19	5,186	44,900	11.6
101 or more	8	2,000	15,400	13.0
Cotton Receipts 61% or more				
100 or Less	25	5,843	38,300	15.3
101 or more	19	4,911	23,400	21.0
McIntosh Area				
Cotton Receipts 60% or Less Stability Index				
100 or less	22	5,375	80,750	6.7
101 or more	19	5,818	86,210	6.7
Cotton Receipts 61 Plus				
100 or Less	17	8,782	88,460	9.9
101 or more	24	20,751	196,460	10.7

(Continued on page 53)

All Areas				
Smaller Cotton Receipts				
100 or less	86	46,873	448,330	10.5
101 or more	65	44,310	333,265	13.3
Larger Cotton Receipts				
100 or less	106	62,541	487,277	12.8
101 or more	103	67,050	483,475	13.9

In no area is the relationship between much moving and low accumulation shown more consistently (in spite of small numbers involved), than is the case with Bryan county, this consistent relationship holding true for both tenants and owners. In the two wheat belt counties, Alfalfa and Grant, the poorest group of accumulators had an average of stability indices of 117, while the best group had an average of 172. The relationship between much moving and small accumulation, and vice versa, which holds for all operators in the two wheat belt counties, is true for both tenure classes.

Low earning and saving is not proved by these figures to be the result of excessive moving. Nevertheless, reason tells us that much moving, especially much useless moving, is bound to diminish accumulative ability of farmers. It is not at all surprising therefore, to find the relationship shown in Table XXII. Notwithstanding, the fact that men who move much, taken as a class, are by nature inefficient farmers, and thus are poor accumulators, moving in unusual amounts will ultimately reflect itself in a reduced accumulative accomplishment by the farmer who falls into the bad habit of frequent, and especially of useless moving.

TENANT MOVING AS RELATED TO RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS OF LANDLORDS

There is the possibility that certain landowners "team up" with tenants who move excessively, and that certain other owners nearly always rent to tenants who move little. In other words, excessive tenant moving, and its opposite, tenant stability, are probably the result, not of the tenant attitudes alone, but of both the tenants' and the landowners' attitudes. No data on this phase of the subject were secured for the present study. It was thought, however, that data available might throw some light on whether or not it paid landlords to encourage greater stability of their tenants.

There are no figures available from studies, on the costs to the landowners, of farms which have tenants that move frequently. These owners may have less out-of-pocket expense than those owners who are encouraging a high type of tenancy and a more permanent type of farm organization. The probabilities are that the excessively mobile tenant is robbing the soil of its fertility to a greater extent than is the more stable tenant. This cost of transitory tenant and owner relationship, of course, is one that ultimately must be reckoned by the owner, notwithstanding his failure to see it at present.

When farmers are grouped, first on the basis of percentage of total receipts from cotton, and tabulation then run on the basis of stability of the tenants, the results indicate clearly that the landlords of the more transitory tenants get a smaller return on their investment than do the landlords whose

tenants are more stable. (See Table XXIII). In only one out of the eight comparisons of more frequent with less frequent movers, do the landlords of the stable group fail to receive a larger net return on their invested capital than do the landlords of the more transitory group. In the cases of Jackson and Greer counties and of Pottowatomie county, comparisons show that the landlords of the more stable tenants received a return that was more than 5% in excess of the return received by landlords with more mobile tenants. For all the areas combined, on the rented farms with the smaller emphasis on cotton, the net return was 3.5 per cent in excess of that of farms run by the more transitory tenants, while a similar comparison on farms where heavier dependence is placed on cotton, shows a difference of 1.1 per cent. In other words, stability shows up at its best, on farms where the least emphasis is placed on cotton.

It is believed that these data on returns to owners of rented farms clearly indicate that it actually pays owners of rented farms to seek less transitory tenants. Especially would this seem to be the case where long time situations are taken into consideration, for without doubt the more stable tenant does not have the incentive to rob the soil of its fertility that the constantly moving tenant has. Landlords not taking this cost into account will ultimately awake to the entire cost of transitory tenantry after they have paid dearly for it by a depleted soil fertility.

MOVING AS RELATED TO AMOUNT AND COST OF CREDIT

Frequent moving introduces a factor into credit that complicates the problems of both the lender and the borrower of credit. Credit risks are reduced with thorough personal acquaintance of lender and borrower, and risk involved tends to rise proportionately to the lack of acquaintance between the two. This statement holds true even where the borrower is asked to put up collateral, the total risk being reduced, but the change in risk with change in personal acquaintance remains. One would expect length of stay on a farm, therefore, to have a fairly close relationship with interest paid for loans, and possibly with the amount of loans secured when loans are wanted.

The available data for this study on cost of credit as related to the amount of moving are not very extensive. The facts herein given are confined to studies of credit that were made in Jackson, Pittsburg and Garvin counties for the cotton belt, and in Grant and Texas counties for the wheat belt. In all of these areas the number of interviews made is comparatively small. For this reason, the data are not satisfactory. The cost of credit, as given in Table XXIV, includes commissions, fees, advanced interest, and deductions, as well as interest charged. In fact, the cost as calculated in the Table, is intended to include all costs of credit to the borrower.

For all farmers taken together in the three cotton counties, Jackson, Pittsburg and Garvin, those who had an average stay of eight years or over, used a larger amount of credit than those who had had an average stay of seven years or less. With the exception of Jackson county, this holds true for both owners and tenants in all three areas. In Grant and Texas counties, the reverse seemingly prevails. Farmers who had an average stay of seven years or less used more credit than those who had an average stay of eight years or over, this holding true for owners in both counties, and for tenants in Texas county, but not for tenants in Grant county.

The results of the study here made on the relation of cost of credit to the average stay on farm, is erratic and inconclusive of any relationship existing between the two. For example, in Jackson county, the more stable group of owner farmers paid a smaller interest rate than did the less stable group; similarly this is true with the Pittsburg and Grant county owners. However, the reverse holds with owners in Garvin and Texas counties. In all of these areas, except the Garvin county area, the more stable group of tenants paid more for their credit than did the unstable group.

TABLE XXIV

The Average Stay on Farms, The Average Amount Borrowed and the Cost of Credit for Farmers in Jackson, Pittsburg, Garvin, Grant and Texas Counties, Oklahoma

County, Year of Study, and Average Stay on Farm	ALL FARMERS			OWNERS			TENANTS		
	Number of Loans	Average Amount of Loans	Average Rate of Interest Equivalent of all Credit Costs	Number of Loans	Average Amount of Loans	Average Rate of Interest Equivalent of all Credit Costs	Number of Loans	Average Amount of Loans	Average Rate of Interest Equivalent of all Credit Costs
Jackson County, 1925									
7 years and less	48	388	13.0	8	880	14.8	40	290	12.1
8 years and over	62	560	15.1	31	653	13.1	31	466	17.4
Pittsburg County, 1925									
7 years and less	100	373	17.3	10	495	26.3	90	360	16.6
8 years and over	63	428	15.0	24	575	11.9	62	371	17.9
Garvin County, 1926									
7 years and less	53	390	10.6	16	534	9.6	37	328	11.5
8 years and over	11	1254	12.1	6	1933	13.3	5	440	9.2
Grant County, 1926									
7 years and less	36	899	9.7	9	1190	13.2	27	802	8.9
8 years and over	22	861	9.4	14	832	9.3	8	912	9.6
Texas County, 1926									
7 years and less	42	229	9.9	20	3238	9.8	22	1429	10.1
8 years and over	21	205	11.3	17	2295	10.8	4	1008	22.0

It would seem, therefore, that the credit cost of farmers is not determined by the stability which they have demonstrated in the past. This appears to be contrary to the general statements concerning credit risks and acquaintance, given in the first paragraph of this discussion. Possibly credit conditions are such that other conditions than mere mobility of farmers are far greater factors in costs of credit. In fact, credit conditions in many sections of the state are such that a uniform credit cost is charged to all patrons—good, bad and indifferent. Also the results here given might possibly have been altered with tabulation based on average of present stay, which figure was not available.

Regardless of results obtained in this study and of the defects in the data, possibly one conclusion is justified from the facts presented. These data probably indicate a credit condition in Oklahoma that penalizes good risks. General observation of credit costs indicates that for a given bank, all borrowers are charged the same interest rate, regardless of variation in individual cases. The variable costs as between individuals at the same bank, come in the main, from differences in commissions, interest in advance, and from similar arrangements. Also costs for customers of different banks vary little, so far as rates are concerned, the variation coming mainly in the specific provisions of commissions, interest in advance, and such. All general observations made in gathering the credit data in the field led to the general conclusion that interest rates tended to be blanketed over all patrons, irrespective of the individual risks involved. Poor risks were in the main benefited by a blanket interest rate, but were subjected to more rigid security requirements, larger commissions, and similar arrangements. These conditions probably explain the absence of relationship between excessive moving and high interest cost.

RELATIONSHIP OF MOVING TO THE EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND FAMILY LIFE OF FARMERS

It is evident that all farm moves do not result in a change of church, school, and trading center, since many moves are made within a community. The effect of moving on these institutions depends in part on the extent to which mobility of farmers breaks off their relationship with church, school, and trading center. Facts on this subject are given for four areas in Table XXV. In general, it can be said that the change of membership in, or contact with, these three agencies, as a result of moving, is about the same. Churches suffer slightly more than do schools and trading centers, 42% of all farm moves resulting in a change of church membership of the moving family, 41% in a change of school, and 40% in a change of trading center. For all four areas combined, except for church contacts, tenant moves result in slightly less breaking of contact with church, school, and trading center, than is the case with owner moves; however, this does not hold true for all of the areas taken separately, since tenants break proportionally more church, school, and trading center contacts in Jackson, Greer and Pottowatomie counties than do owners. Of the four areas included in Table XXV, the least proportion of all moves, for both owners and tenants, resulting in changes of church, school, and trading center, is found in Bryan county, and the greatest proportionate change in Pottowatomie county.

The economic consequences of tenant moving are difficult to appraise, as has been seen in previous discussions. The efforts made in these discussions are crude appraisals at best, because the condition is (as are many of our economic and social conditions), one which defies accurate appraisal. The social consequences of moving, doubtless are more difficult to arrive at than the economic consequences. For example, the influence that the moving of parents has on the education of children probably comes to light only after several years. Also frequent movers and their children are doubtless on an average less competent

by nature than are the more stable, progressive, and wealthier farmers. Thus, in the association of excessive moving and low school accomplishment, one cannot say that moving is the cause of all the low grades. Regardless of this weakness of the data, it is important to note the relation that exists between educational accomplishments of children of excessive movers, as compared with that of children of the less frequent movers.

TABLE XXV

The Proportion of All Moves That Farmers Made Which Resulted in a Change in School, Church, and Trading Center, for Selected Areas in Oklahoma

County and Tenure of Farmers	Total Number of Moves	Percentage of All Moves Resulting in Change of		
		Church	School	Trading Center
Jackson and Greer				
Owners	237	41	41	39
Tenants	335	51	51	47
Bryan				
Owners	255	38	38	38
Tenants	1048	35	36	33
Pottowatomie				
Owners	232	47	48	45
Tenants	243	55	56	54
Alfalfa and Grant				
Owners	430	42	42	42
Tenants	280	49	26	38
All Counties				
Owners	1154	42	42	41
Tenants	1906	43	40	39
All Operators	3060	42	41	40

The data on this phase of farm moving are shown in Table XXVI. It will be seen that, in the main, the frequent mover's child is lagging behind the educational accomplishments of the infrequent mover's child. For example, children 6 to 10 years of age of the more stable farmers (those whose average stay was 8 years or over) made an average of 1.26 per cent of a grade for each school life year, while children in the same age group, whose parents had an average farm stay of 2 years or less, made an average grade of 1.06. In short, children of the infrequent movers averaged 19% greater educational accomplishment than did the children of frequent movers. Similar comparison for children 11 to 15 years of age, shows 84% of a grade made per school life year for the frequent moving children, and 1.03 for the least frequent moving children, or 23% greater progress for the children who belong to the least frequent moving class. The same comparisons made for owners and tenants show similar results in the main, although they are somewhat more erratic. As possibly would be expected, tenant children show a wider divergence of educational accomplishment between the frequent and infrequent moving children, than do owner children. Furthermore, the educational accomplishment of owner children, taken as a whole, is somewhat higher than that of tenant children.

TABLE XXVI

Percentage of a School Grade Made Per Year of School Age Life, by Children Classified on the Basis of the Average of Past Farm Stays of Parents, in Cotton Belt Counties of Oklahoma, (Areas of Surveys Were in Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman, Carter, Stephens, Love, Jefferson, and McIntosh Counties.)

Tenure Class and Average of Past Farm Stay of Parents of Children	Percentage of Grade Made Per School Age Life Classified on Basis of Age of Children					
	6 to 10 Years		11 to 15 Years		16 and Over	
	Aggregate School Life Years	Percentage of Grade Made Per Year	Aggregate School Life Years	Percentage of Grade Made Per Year	Aggregate School Life Years	Percentage of Grade Made Per Year
All Farmers						
2 yrs. or less	162	1.06	550	.84	1814	.54
2 to 4 years	522	1.12	1595	.90	6093	.60
4 to 6 years	219	1.16	842	.93	3537	.60
6 to 8 years	74	1.23	342	.93	2378	.59
8 yrs. or over	141	1.26	504	1.03	3423	.60
Owners						
2 yrs. or less	17	1.1	119	.97	430	.58
2 to 4 years	122	1.3	432	1.00	1802	.59
4 to 6 years	91	1.3	353	.98	2068	.59
6 to 8 years	34	1.3	175	1.02	1643	.63
8 yrs. or over	104	1.2	397	1.03	234	.65
Tenants						
2 yrs. or less	145	1.06	431	.81	1384	.52
2 to 4 years	460	1.07	1163	.87	4291	.60
4 to 6 years	128	1.07	489	.89	1469	.61
6 to 8 years	40	1.20	167	.84	735	.51
8 yrs. or over	37	1.30	107	1.04	1076	.49

Reason tells one that the relationship between excessive moving and low educational accomplishment is, in part, caused by the effect of moving, on the educational progress of children. Much effort is required of the moving child to get acquainted with his new school environment. While the child is putting forth this effort, he is using time that otherwise would have been put on his lessons. Likewise, a move requires the child to adjust himself to the teacher's methods; again, the child may be compelled to fit into a class that has not progressed as much in the texts as had the school from which he moved. Even when the moving child must go into a class that has advanced in texts more than has the child, he finds himself seriously handicapped in his new school environment. Thus from any angle the problem is viewed, there seems to be the plausibility of handicap to the moving child.

But the fact that others besides the moving child are hampered in educational progress should not be overlooked in casting up the educational damage of farmer mobility. It has been shown that about four moves of farmers out of each ten, resulted in a change of school. If this figure may be taken as representative of the state, and if about one-third of all farmers move annually, then approximately 13.2% of all school children in the rural districts of the State enter a new school environment each year. Furthermore, to add to the significance of this figure, one should remember that it is estimated that 67.3% of this moving takes place in January and December—right in the middle of the school year. (See Table VIII).

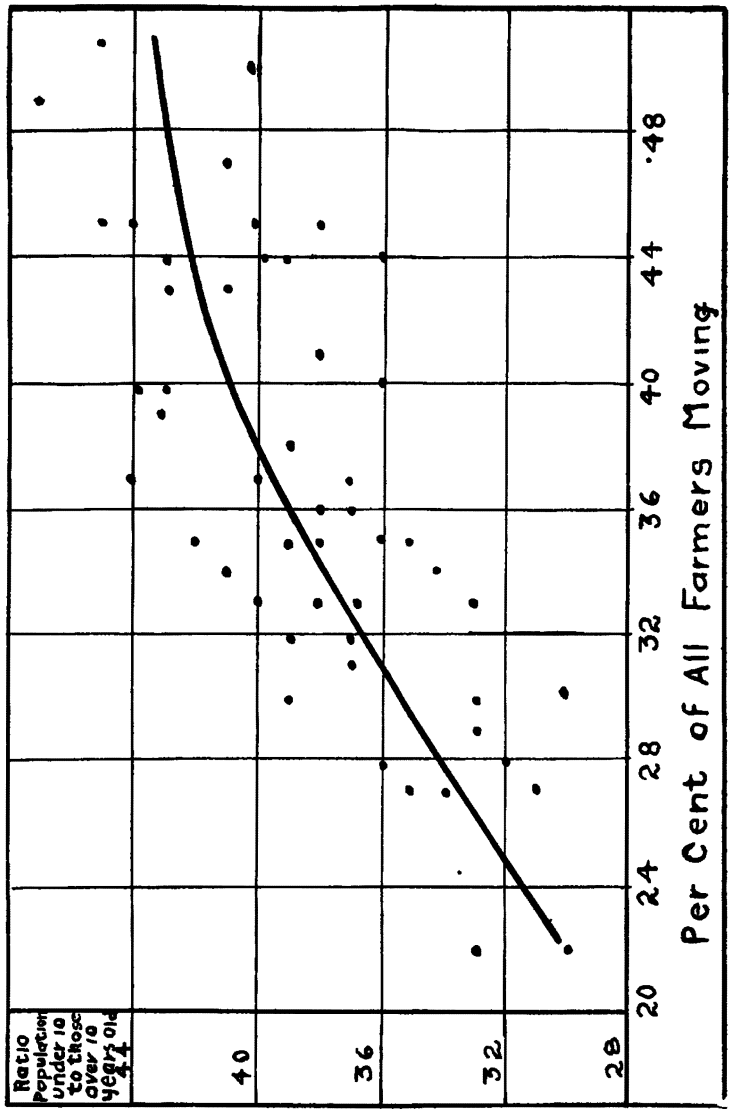

Figure 3

The large movement of school children into and out of the community throws a tremendous burden on the teacher. New acquaintances and also new individual student analyses must be made by the teacher; and problems of new individual pupils must be solved. These are not only time consuming, but are energy consuming for the teacher and for the child. As a result, the non-moving child must also suffer retardation in his school progress. In short, the whole educational machine, without doubt, is slowed down, its efficiency is

greatly impaired, and loss is suffered as a result of excessive mid-term change of pupils.

To make the unsatisfactory condition worse, the influence of moving is augmented in the areas of greatest moving, by the fact that these areas are also those in which younger children constitute the higher proportion of the total farm population. Attention has already been called to this fact, but it is worth while to elaborate on the subject more at this point. Figure 3 (based on 57 counties in the state outside of the wheat belt, and excluding Adair, Okfuskee and Okmulgee counties* in the cotton belt), shows the relationship between moving and the ratio of population under 10 years to the population over 10 years of age. In those counties where the per cent of moving was 40 or less, with each increase of one per cent of farmers moving, there was an increase of about one per cent in the ratio of young children to the older people. In those counties where 40 per cent or more of farmers moved, the increase of the ratio of the young children to the older people was not so great as that mentioned for counties with less than 40 per cent of moving.

TABLE XXVII

The Mobility of Rural School Teachers in Oklahoma as Shown by the Proportion of All Teachers in Different Classes of Rural Schools That Were New Teachers in Their Districts for the First Time in 1926, 1927, and 1928 for 19 Counties*

Class of Rural School	1928**		1927		1926	
	Total Number of Teachers	Percentage Teaching in District First Time in 1928	Total Number of Teachers	Percentage Teaching in District First Time in 1927	Total Number of Teachers	Percentage Teaching in District First Time in 1926
Consolidated Country or Village Schools in Towns of Less than 2500 Population	774	47	544	54	518	48
One Room Country Schools	702	54	683	58	675	54
All Other Country Schools	468	52	389	53	382	53
All Schools in County Not Classed as Independent Schools	2,193	49	2,056	49	2,001	46

*Data for this table are based on information from Beckham, Major, Carter, Murray, Osage, Grant, Kiowa, Beaver, Caddo, Noble, Woodward, Dewey, Oklahoma, McIntosh, Tillman, Craig, Canadian, Harper, and Okfuskee counties. County Superintendents in these counties kindly furnished these data, for which favor acknowledgement with thanks is here made.

**The data are not as complete for all counties in the earlier years as for 1928, hence the number of teachers involved are less.

*In the three cotton counties excluded the data were unusual: in Adair, because it is a mountainous county, and in Okfuskee and Okmulgee because there is an unusually high per cent of negro farm population.

If moving is detrimental to the moving child's educational progress, we have here indication that the problem is made doubly acute by the increased proportion of children who are affected with increased percentages of the farm population that move. Regardless of what one may think of the general character of the incessant mover, we have here some extremely important social aspects of farm moblity. Educators should recognize, in this problem, the seat of many of their acute problems. So important is its social consequence, that it seems that both the state and educators as a class, should unite to seriously study the problem and find means of alleviating undesirable results where possible.

But the burden of transitory children is not the worst of the situation. When the highly unstable tenure of rural teachers is combined with that of the children, the lack of desirable permanent contact between the child and his teacher, or the child and a consistent school program, is appalling. Table XXVII, based on data from nineteen counties, indicates that more than one-half of all teachers in the various classes of rural schools move annually. It will be recalled that in some of the counties in the southeastern part of the state, from a half to two-thirds of all farmers move. Alongside of this disheartening fact, and combined with it, we now see the fact that more than half of the teachers move each year.

Between the two we are face to face with the undesirable acknowledgement that we have each year, very close to a 100 per cent net turnover in teacher and pupil relations in a large portion of the state. Doubtless some of our most baffling rural school problems are traceable directly to this situation. Certainly, its importance justifies far more interest than we have heretofore given to it.

MOVING AS RELATED TO FAMILY EXPENDITURES

Excessive migratory habits, without doubt, make many of the comforts of life hard to obtain, while permanent attachment to a farm should develop an environment that encourages interest in the comforts of life. These conditions do not necessarily follow, however, because it is quite evident that a farmer with no ambition for a higher standard of living may live under conditions of the lowest of standards without ever moving. Nevertheless, in general, excessive mobility of farmers should develop comparatively low standards of living.

Table XXVIII gives some facts relative to standard of living on Oklahoma farms, in relation to the amount of moving these farmers have done. It will be seen that there is a fairly well defined relationship between the larger amounts of moving and the lower amount of net wealth which tenants have—those with an index of stability of 100 or less, having an average net wealth of $1,710, while those with an index of 201 or more have an average net wealth of $4,235. This does not hold true with owners, however. In the matter of food, it is evident that the data here given indicate no relationship between amount of moving and value of food used. The figures on amounts spent for advancement (education, reading, recreation, and insurance), indicate that to a certain extent, somewhat larger amounts are spent for advancement by those who move relatively infrequently than are spent by those moving frequently. This is especially true of tenants.

TABLE XXVIII

Average Net Wealth of Farmers and the Average Amount Spent for Food and for Advancement in 1924, Classified on the Basis of the Stability Index of Farmers for Selected Areas in Oklahoma*

Farmers Classified on Basis of Stability Index and Tenure	Number of Families	Average Amount of Net Wealth Per Family	Average Amount Per Family Spent for Food 1924**	Average Amount Spent Per Family for Advancement 1924	Ratio of Expenses for Advancement to Average Expenses for Food
All Farmers					
100 or less	286	$6292	$427	56	.13
101 to 200	265	9331	401	68	.17
201 or over	77	10554	444	77	.17
Owners					
100 or less	91	16109	466	101	.23
101 to 200	141	15829	433	96	.22
201 or over	46	14812	457	102	.22
Tenants					
100 or less	195	1710	402	32	.08
101 to 200	124	1943	345	30	.09
201 or over	31	4235	396	41	.10

*Areas—Jackson, Greer, Kiowa, Tillman, Carter, Love, Stephens, Jefferson, Bryan and McIntosh counties.

**Includes purchases of food and value of food furnished by farm.

More details of the relation between moving and the standard of living in various areas are shown in Table XXIX. It will be noticed that in most cases, tenant families are slightly smaller than owner families, and that there is no well defined relationship between the stability and the size of families. In the southwest and south central group of counties, the more stable owner farmers have a larger total family living expenditure per person, than do the families with the least stability. The reverse is true of the farmers in the three counties of the eastern cotton belt and in the two wheat county areas. The situation is different with tenants. In all the cotton areas, there is a fairly well defined increase in the total expenditure for family living, with an increase in the stability of the group. This does not hold true for tenants in Alfalfa and Grant Counties. The same relationship that holds true for total living expenditures and moving holds true for family living obtained from the farm.

In the case of average amount per person contributed to church and to charity by owners, there is a varied relationship, in different surveys, to moving. Tenants in the cotton growing areas who move a relatively large amount, contribute less than do those who move a relatively small amount; on the other hand this does not hold true for the wheat growing counties. The same relationship that exists betwen stability and contribution to church and charity, also holds for tenant expenditures for health. In the main, it can be said that there is a relationship between standard of living and the amount of moving done for tenants, but not for owners.

TABLE XXIX

The Number of Families, Average Number of Persons Per Family and the Average Amounts Spent Per Person for Different Family Living Items, for Farmers Classified by Tenure and Stability

Area and Groups of Farmers Based on Stability Index	OWNERS						TENANTS					
	Number of Families	Average Number of People Per Family	Average Spent Per Person For: All Family Living	Family Living From Farm	Church and Charity	Health	Number of Families	Average Number of People Per Family	Average Spent Per Person For: All Family Living	Family Living From Farm	Church and Charity	Health
Southwest Group of Counties*												
100 and less	60	4.8	$230	$56	$10.08	$16.83	132	5.1	$179	$37	$3.54	$15.05
101-200	65	4.8	210	45	9.70	12.77	79	4.5	181	59	2.31	18.18
201 and over	39	5.0	275	65	11.21	12.58	27	3.7	217	41	4.79	25.27
South Central Group of Counties**												
100 and less	27	5.3	158	63	4.90	7.79	64	5.1	124	44	1.48	9.44
101-200	41	4.4	193	74	5.29	16.44	35	5.1	127	50	1.74	12.15
201 and over	21	4.9	250	78	10.10	31.12	8	4.1	137	64	3.20	15.90
Bryan and McIntosh County Areas												
100 and less	58	4.7	184	67	6.32	36.23	221	5.4	126	46	1.71	8.75
101-200	99	5.0	185	70	7.19	13.63	165	5.0	137	49	2.29	5.06
201 and over	45	5.0	158	62	3.21	11.76	35	4.5	175	61	2.58	15.90
Alfalfa and Grant County Areas												
100 and less	18	4.7	407	46	9.03	9.95	33	4.5	594	34	4.43	19.45
101-200	55	4.9	253	43	13.79	11.99	17	3.4	263	44	3.77	9.01
201 and over	14	5.1	334	43	9.08	17.11	2	4.5	203	34	7.78	19.44

*Includes areas in Greer, Jackson, Kiowa and Tillman counties.
**Includes areas in Carter, Jefferson, Love and Stephens counties.

THE PERIODICAL READING MATERIAL OF DIFFERENT CLASSES OF FARM MOVERS

Publishers of daily newspapers and farm journals should find in Table XXX some facts that will serve to stimulate their interest in the subject of farm moving. The extensive reading of dailies and Farm Journals is, in itself, normally an indication of the extent of education either formal or informal, of farmers, and it is believed that normally higher education associates itself with better farming and farm life. The tabulations of Table XXX were made under the assumption that there was a relationship between stability and the amount of periodical reading material taken by farmers, since stability, in the main, has been shown to associate itself with many of the commonly recognized manifestations of high grade farming and farm life. This table includes data in three different sections of the cotton belt—a group of southwestern counties, a group of south central counties, and an area in McIntosh county of eastern Oklahoma.

In all of these areas the percentage of owners not taking daily papers is much lower among the more stable farmers than it is among the farmers who have moved excessively. For all the areas combined, 46 per cent of the group of owners who had moved most frequently, did not take dailies, while only 32 per cent of the more stable group of owners did not take dailies. This relationship is well defined among owners in all three areas.

Data for tenants do not show as consistent and marked relationship between excessive moving and low patronage of dailies, as do those of owners, or vice versa. In the southwest group of counties, in fact, the reverse is true, that is, a smaller proportion of tenants in the most stable group take dailies than in the excessively moving groups. In the other two areas, however, there is doubtless, an association of instability and low patronage of dailies.

The extent to which patronage of dailies by farmers is associated with farm moving can be shown also by the total number of dailies taken by the different classes of movers. The more stable owners subscribe for a much larger number of dailies than do the groups who move excessively. This is not only distinctly true, but is true to a marked extent. For example, the ratio of dailies taken to the number of owners is 43 per cent for the most frequent moving owners in all areas combined, while a comparative figure for the most stable group is 104 per cent. Thus, if these data are typical, dailies can expect twice as much patronage among the more stable owners as among those owners who move most. For tenants, this is not so clearly and markedly the case, although in two areas the excessive moving tenant clearly does not give as much patronage to dailies as does the more stable tenant. For all areas combined there were 45 daily paper subscriptions for each hundred tenants among the more frequent movers as compared with 56 among the more stable tenants.

To the farmers, the farm journal undoubtedly is more of a trade journal than is the daily, although many of the more progressive dailies are recognizing the great importance of catering to farm readers by specialized agricultural news and features. Farmers, therefore, would be expected to be more extensive subscribers to farm journals than to dailies, which is shown to be the case by data in Table XXX. These data also indicate quite clearly (except in two or three groups which are based on so few cases that they probably give inconclusive results, that greater patronage of farm journals is clearly found among the more stable farmers than among the frequent moving groups. The groups of tenants who have moved most, for all areas combined, carried 115 subscriptions to farm journals for each 100 men, whereas those of the group moving least frequently, had 153 subscriptions for each 100 men.

TABLE XXX

The Relation Between Farm Stability and Periodical Reading Material Taken by Farmers in Three Cotton Belt Areas

Area, Tenure, and Stability Index	DAILY NEWSPAPERS			FARM JOURNALS		
	Number Reporting	Percentage of Farmers Not Taking Dailies	Ratio of Total Number of Dailies Taken to Number Farmers Reporting	Number Reporting	Percentage of Farmers Not Taking Farm Journals	Ratio of Total Number Farm Journals Taken to Number Farmers Reporting
Kiowa, Tillman, and Greer Counties						
Owners						
100 and less	42	40.5	73.8	42	11.9	88.1
101-200	46	42.2	75.6	45	15.6	84.4
201 and over	34	35.3	79.4	34	8.8	91.2
Tenants						
100 and less	88	56.8	47.7	88	33.0	67.0
101-200	49	67.3	40.8	49	24.5	75.5
201 and over	22	72.7	40.9	22	27.3	72.7
Carter, Love, Stephens, and Jefferson County Areas						
Owners						
100 and less	34	47.1	55.9	34	23.5	144.1
101-200	38	31.6	94.7	38	13.2	173.7
201 and over	23	29.6	95.7	23	10.4	178.3
Tenants						
100 and less	64	59.4	57.8	64	25.0	134.4
101-200	35	65.7	42.9	35	18.9	114.3
200 and over	9	44.4	77.8	9	44.4	88.9
McIntosh Area						
Owners						
100 and less	14	57.1	42.9	14	0	178.6
101-200	38	39.5	65.8	38	23.7	110.5
200 and over	23	26.1	104.3	23	17.4	139.1
Tenants						
100 and less	94	68.1	33.0	94	35.1	87.2
101-200	72	59.7	40.3	72	20.8	113.9
200 and over	14	50.0	64.3	14	21.4	135.7
All Areas						
Owners						
100 and less	90	45.6	63.3	90	14.4	176.7
101-200	121	38.0	78.5	121	17.4	154.5
200 and over	80	32.5	91.3	80	12.5	182.5
Tenants						
100 and less	246	61.9	44.7	246	31.7	114.6
101-200	156	63.5	41.0	156	21.8	122.4
201 and over	45	60.0	55.5	45	28.9	153.3

It is recognized that extensive reading and higher education may be associated with greater stability and greater earning power, because these may be characteristics of farmers who are naturally among the more capable. Nevertheless, since dailies and farm journals, especially, are more and more attempting to carry information that has economic value, it is reasonable to assume that this reading material, to a certain extent, is responsible for the better farm business and farm life associated with it.

MOVING AND MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS

Farm mobility doubtless vitally affects nearly all institutions that function for rural uplift. For instance, there is evidence, in Table XXXI, that cooperative associations stand in peculiar relationship to the subject of moving. In an investigation of the Oklahoma Cotton Growers Association, the question was asked members whether or not they would like to see the Association discontinued. In each comparative two groups shown in the table, except that of non-members in the southwestern area, there was a smaller percentage of farmers wishing to see the Association discontinued among the more stable farmers than there was among the less stable farmers. For all areas 6.6 per cent of members with a stability index of less than 100, while 3.7 per cent of those with an index of more than 100, wished for its discontinuance. A similar comparison for non-members reveals a percentage estimate of 6.9 for the frequent movers and 5.8 for the stable farmers.

TABLE XXXI

Relationship Between Stability of Farm Operators and the Desire to See the Oklahoma Cotton Growers Association Discontinue Operation, on the Part of Members and Non-Members of the Association for Three Areas of Oklahoma

Area and Stability Index	Members of the Oklahoma Cotton Growers Association		Farmers Who Were Not Members of the Oklahoma Cotton Growers Association	
	Number	Percentage Wishing Association Discontinued	Number	Percentage Wishing Association Discontinued
Kiowa, Greer and Tillman				
100 or less	69	7.2	47	6.4
101 or over	103	3.9	37	8.1
Carter, Love, Stephens and Jefferson				
100 or less	34	8.9	44	6.8
101 or over	45	2.8	59	5.1
McIntosh				
100 or less	53	5.6	59	6.7
101 or over	79	2.5	49	6.1
All Areas				
100 or less	166	6.6	145	6.9
101 or over	241	3.7	121	5.8

Although this is a simple case of opinion that was registered by these farmers, still it is believed to be significant in showing that adverse problems frequently face associations because of mobility and its attendant problems. Without doubt, marketing associations can well take an interest in the problems that arise out of useless and excessive moving of farmers.

Evidence was presented in Table XXIX that church members in the more stable groups were somewhat more liberal in their contribution to the church than were farmers in the more mobile groups. This bit of information, showing that churches could well be interested in the subject of farm moving, is reenforced by facts given in Table XXXII.

It is shown in this table that there is a marked difference in the proportion of church membership between farmer groups of different stability. For all farmers in the three areas combined, only 44.5 per cent of the most mobile group were church members, while 52.7 per cent of the more stable group were church members—11.8 points in favor of the more stable group. The greatest difference in this regard, between excessive movers and the less frequent moving group, was found in the McIntosh area, where only 39.2 per cent of the group of frequent movers were church members, as compared with 51.7 per cent for the other group. Whether or not this relationship of low percentage of church members to frequent moving, in a large part can be assigned as a result of much moving (that is, moving assigned as cause of low percentage of membership), does not matter so much. Doubtless excessive mobility creates an atmosphere in which it is difficult to enlist the interest of the mover. It is important, however, for those interested in the greatest success of the church to recognize this relationship, and frankly to take hold of the problem, after the best means of coping with it are ascertained. Evidently the effects of mobility penetrate practically all phases of our social structure.

TABLE XXXII

Relationship Between Stability of Farmers and Church Membership for Three Areas in Oklahoma

AREA	FARMERS WITH A STABILITY INDEX OF:			
	100 or Less		101 or More	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Kiowa, Greer and Jackson areas	139	46.2	347	53.3
Carter, Love, Stephens and Jefferson Areas	82	46.3	102	52.0
McIntosh Area	125	39.2	145	51.7
All Areas	346	44.5	594	52.7

APPENDIX TABLE I

The Total Number of All Farmers and the Number Who Began Operating Their Farms First in 1924, by Tenures and Counties 1924. (From Special Tabulations of U. S. Agricultural Census for 1924).

Crop Reporting Districts and Counties	Total Farmers			Number of Farmers on New Farms in 1924			Percentage of Farmers on New Farms in 1924		
	Owners	Tenants	Owners and Tenants	Owners	Tenants	Owners and Tenants	Owners	Tenants	Owners and Tenants
District I									
Cimarron	551	206	757	31	99	130	5.6	48.1	17.2
Texas	1427	844	2271	66	267	333	4.6	31.6	14.7
Beaver	1633	734	2367	85	289	374	5.2	39.4	15.8
Ellis	1128	702	1830	49	211	260	4.3	30.1	14.2
Harper	837	399	1236	17	74	91	2.0	18.5	7.4
Total	5576	2885	8461	248	940	1188	4.4	32.6	14.3
District II									
Alfalfa	1285	1060	2345	57	235	292	4.4	22.2	12.4
Garfield	1684	1344	3028	65	325	390	3.9	24.2	12.9
Grant	1424	1137	2561	39	231	270	2.7	20.3	10.5
Kay	1227	1424	2651	96	441	537	7.8	31.0	20.2
Noble	878	814	1692	34	283	317	3.9	34.8	18.7
Woods	1276	794	2070	60	196	256	4.7	24.7	12.4
Woodward	1175	532	1707	54	170	224	4.6	32.0	13.1
Major	1136	763	1899	42	209	251	3.7	27.4	13.2
Total	10085	7868	17953	447	2090	2537	4.4	26.6	14.1
District III									
Craig	1089	864	1953	94	440	534	8.6	50.9	27.3
Delaware	1414	982	2396	150	501	651	10.6	51.0	27.2
Mayes	1149	1267	2416	163	797	960	14.2	62.9	39.7
Nowata	657	653	1310	39	252	291	5.9	38.6	22.2
Osage	403	1656	2059	85	850	935	21.1	51.3	45.4
Ottowa	781	759	1540	81	388	469	10.4	51.1	30.4

APPENDIX TABLE I—(Continued)

Crop Reporting Districts and Counties	Total Farmers			Number of Farmers on New Farms in 1924			Percentage of Farmers on New Farms in 1924		
	Owners	Tenants	Owners and Tenants	Owners	Tenants	Owners and Tenants	Owners	Tenants	Owners and Tenants
Pawnee	848	1062	1910	70	445	515	8.3	41.9	27.0
Rogers	803	1010	1813	150	640	790	18.7	63.4	43.6
Tulsa	744	1372	2116	100	720	820	13.4	52.5	38.0
Wagoner	865	2066	2931	73	952	1025	8.4	46.1	35.0
Washington	418	419	837	52	182	234	12.4	43.4	28.0
Total	9171	12110	21281	1057	6167	7224	11.5	50.9	33.9
District IV									
Beckham	1270	1548	2818	75	728	803	5.9	47.0	28.5
Blaine	1067	833	1900	41	244	285	3.8	29.3	15.0
Custer	1349	1220	2569	94	552	646	7.0	45.2	25.1
Dewey	1157	737	1894	51	279	330	4.4	37.9	17.4
Roger Mills	956	617	1573	77	278	355	8.0	45.1	22.6
Washita	1691	1949	3640	187	1072	1259	11.1	55.0	34.6
Total	7490	6904	14394	525	3153	3678	7.0	45.7	25.6
District V									
Canadian	1237	1021	2258	77	431	508	6.2	42.2	22.5
Cleveland	979	1170	2149	87	618	705	8.9	52.8	32.8
Creek	650	2120	2770	48	995	1043	7.4	46.9	37.7
Grady	1382	2427	3809	189	1469	1658	13.7	60.5	43.5
Kingfisher	1358	1163	2521	53	242	295	3.9	20.8	11.7
Lincoln	1950	2740	4690	179	1469	1648	9.2	53.6	35.1
Logan	1259	1507	2766	114	680	799	9.1	45.1	28.7
McClain	856	1535	2391	119	846	965	13.9	55.1	40.4
Okfuskee	1688	2476	4164	151	995	1146	8.9	40.2	27.5
Oklahoma	1749	1684	3433	216	926	1142	12.3	55.0	33.3
Pottowatomie	1669	2256	3925	110	1248	1358	6.6	55.3	34.6

APPENDIX TABLE I—(Continued)

Crop Reporting Districts and Counties	Total Farmers			Number of Farmers on New Farms in 1924			Percentage of Farmers on New Farms in 1924		
	Owners	Tenants	Owners and Tenants	Owner	Tenants	Owners and Tenants	Owners	Tenants	Owners and Tenants
Seminole	958	2054	3012	95	1248	1343	9.9	60.8	44.6
Payne	1160	1649	2809	87	746	833	7.5	45.2	29.7
Total	16895	23802	40697	1525	11913	13438	9.0	50.0	29.6
District VI									
Adair	885	577	1462	43	187	230	4.9	32.4	15.7
Cherokee	1170	1497	2667	156	888	1044	13.3	59.3	39.1
Haskell	747	1930	3677	80	1073	1153	10.7	55.6	43.0
Hughes	851	1971	2822	92	1256	1348	10.8	63.7	47.8
McIntosh	888	2532	3420	124	1554	1678	14.0	61.4	49.0
Muskogee	1320	2631	3951	210	1557	1767	15.9	59.2	44.7
Okmulgee	682	1858	2540	60	775	835	8.8	41.7	32.8
Pittsburg	1319	2381	3700	148	1344	1492	11.2	56.4	40.3
Sequoyah	1135	2291	3426	252	1480	1732	22.2	64.6	50.6
Total	8997	17668	26665	1165	10114	11279	12.9	57.2	42.3
District VII									
Caddo	1953	3114	5067	192	1595	1787	9.8	51.2	35.3
Comanche	1130	1880	3010	126	906	1032	11.2	48.2	34.3
Cotton	678	1207	1885	60	570	630	8.8	47.2	33.4
Greer	680	1232	1912	81	614	695	11.9	49.8	36.3
Harmon	698	988	1686	71	498	569	10.2	50.4	33.7
Jackson	945	1804	2749	90	844	934	9.5	46.8	34.0
Kiowa	1190	1991	3181	130	1057	1187	10.9	53.1	37.3
Tillman	1033	1622	2655	92	706	798	8.9	43.5	30.1
Total	8307	13838	22145	842	6790	7632	10.1	49.1	34.5

APPENDIX TABLE I—(Continued)

Crop Reporting Districts and Counties	Total Farmers			Number of Farmers on New Farms in 1924			Percentage of Farmers on New Farms in 1924		
	Owners	Tenants	Owners and Tenants	Owners	Tenants	Owners and Tenants	Owners	Tenants	Owners and Tenants
District VIII									
Atoka	727	1650	2377	93	967	1060	12.8	58.6	44.6
Bryan	1242	3161	4403	173	1751	1924	13.9	55.4	43.7
Carter	859	1459	2318	89	757	846	10.4	51.9	36.5
Coal	555	1356	1911	67	892	959	12.1	65.8	50.2
Garvin	1197	2422	3619	144	1421	1565	12.0	58.7	43.2
Jefferson	637	1358	1995	54	590	644	8.5	43.4	32.3
Johnston	522	1404	1926	72	894	966	13.8	63.7	50.2
Love	557	1096	1653	57	556	613	10.2	50.7	37.1
Marshall	458	1051	1509	28	436	464	6.1	41.5	30.7
Murray	356	742	1098	27	328	355	7.6	44.2	32.3
Pontotoc	1070	2075	3145	112	1289	1401	10.5	62.1	44.5
Stephens	958	2221	3179	116	1310	1426	12.1	59.0	44.9
Total	9138	19995	29133	1032	11191	12223	11.3	56.0	42.0
District IX									
Choctaw	1028	2283	3311	165	1384	1549	16.0	60.6	46.8
Latimer	504	794	1298	75	462	537	14.9	58.2	41.4
LeFlore	1626	3073	4699	189	1560	1749	11.6	50.8	37.2
McCurtain	1403	2959	4362	203	1840	2043	14.5	62.2	46.8
Pushmataha	932	1319	2251	120	862	982	12.9	65.4	43.6
Total	5493	10428	15921	752	6108	6860	13.7	58.6	43.1