

Mr. Sumida, accompanied by two other members of the Rohwer Relocation Planning Commission, made a trip to Lower Rio Grande Valley about three weeks ago and he has recently returned. He is convinced that it is by far the best section of the U. S. for Japanese relocation. The soil and climate are excellent for vegetables and fruit growing, even better, he says, than any part of California. He found that little or no land could be obtained in the more settled parts of the valley, but that in Willacy County, which is north of the older cultivated area, there is enough available land still not cultivated to provide for hundreds of families. The water system in this county, as in all other counties of the region, is owned by the community, and is designed to irrigate as much as 130,000 acres. Fortunately however, the system is irrigating only about one-half of this amount at present, which should then make 60,000 or 70,000 acres of irrigable land available for Japanese resettlement. This is fine land and it is said that it will grow anything. The Chamber of Commerce in Raymondville claims that only one other area in the world, in India, is more suitable for citrus growing, and that no other part of the world is superior for vegetables and melons.

The one unanswered question in Mr. Sumida's mind is that of community acceptance in this area; he looked into this question as well as he had time for on his trip, and he believes it may be favorable. A number of local people stated that they thought it would be better if Japanese resettlers did not come until after the war, although Mr. Sumida felt that this was no more than standardized statement of caution, and that very likely the same people who made

the statement would have no real objection if resettlers came even now. This question requires a great deal of looking into, of course, and no doubt Mr. Sumida expects to follow it up. The Relocation Planning Commission has been interested in the Rio Grande Area for a long time, but not until this year has the area seemed really favorable for resettlement.