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**NEWS LETTER**

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## BUILDING RURAL COMMUNITIES

### TEXTS ON RURAL SOCIOLOGY

Various enquiries are coming to us of late for a brief list of text-books on country-life problems, or rural sociology, for high-school pupils in our farm-life and country high schools.

Country boys and girls and country homes everywhere can afford to thumb thoroughly the books we name in the next paragraph. They are arranged in the order of difficulty. As for Rural Manhood, we should like to see it in a hundred thousand homes in North Carolina.

Our Neighborhood: Good Citizenship in Rural Communities, by John F. Smith, pp 262.—John C. Winston Co., Chicago.

The Challenge of the Country, by Walter G. Fiske, pp 282.—Association Press, 124 E. 28th St., New York.

Rural Life, by Charles J. Galpin, pp 386.—Century Company, New York.

Evolution of the Country Community, by Warren H. Wilson, pp 221.—Pilgrim Press, Boston.

Rural Manhood. 347 Madison Ave., New York. An indispensable magazine. Ten issues \$1.50

### A COMMUNITY KINGDOM

The most complete democracy will exist where practically all of the people living together in a given area recognize common interests, and common needs, and acquire a thoroughgoing union because of common participation in these mutual interests; where the people meet together, and in general act together for mutual protection and advancement.

Suppose we say that community ideals are, for example, making one's daily work primarily a service to mankind, because the laborer in any field of work is a worker together with God in carrying out God's plan. Suppose we assume that the development of the individual personality to its fullest scope is the principal thing to keep in mind in the community and must be applied to every individual. Suppose we recognize that friendliness or neighborliness of spirit, which is perhaps the highest test of the religious life, is the foundation stone upon which to build any permanent human activities. Suppose we believe that in all these activities we are led by God, the Invisible King, and are seeking to learn His will, to conform to His methods, desiring that all people shall recognize His leadership.

We have then, it seems to me, a pretty full complement of ideals with reference both to community building and Kingdom building, and we may then interchange our phraseology with perfect impunity according to our mode of thinking. Those who seek community building may grasp hands warmly with those who seek the Kingdom of God, both recognizing that this common end is not attainable at all unless it is attained in those primary associations involving the most frequent contacts of men with one another, namely, the local group.—Kenyon C. Butterfield.

### RURAL COMMUNITY BUILDING

Rural community building means making rural surroundings more healthy, comfortable, convenient, and agreeable. It means counteracting the drift from the farm to the town by making farm work and farm life more attractive on the one hand, and on the other by so improving farming methods that the same results can be secured with less labor, or a much better result with the same labor.

From the standpoint of health it means the careful consideration of water supply and sewage disposal, also of the problems of bringing adequate air and light into the home and the farm building. It means sanitary surface closets, adequate protection against flies and mosquitoes, and the proper care of milk, meats, etc.

From the standpoint of comfort, agreeableness, and convenience, appropriate community building means farm buildings planned for simplified and economical housekeeping, including the making of butter, cheese, etc.; more comfortable and agreeable rooms and outlook, more attractive farm surroundings in general, better opportunities for education and recreation, the creation of community centers to provide attractions to take the place of degrading distractions.

From a general community planning

standpoint, it means the provision of well surfaced roads of easy grade; it means creating open spaces for common use and recreation in community centers; it means a consideration of the desirability and practicability of a water supply and a sewage disposal system; it means an appropriate design and setting for homes, public and semi-public buildings, including the town hall, schools, and churches.—The Survey.

### SCOTLAND LEADS

The Scotland County Community Life Association is the name of the new organization which has received definite character and which embarks upon a high enterprise with the purpose of promoting all things high and holy in the life of the county. A meeting at the court house Tuesday afternoon, which was attended by a number of influential citizens, formally passed upon and adopted a report of the committee on bylaws and constitution, which creates not only an organized body with authority to act in all matters pertaining to the actual business side of the proposition, but also an executive committee and board of control in which shall be vested property rights and authority to direct the activities of the organization.

This board of control is to be made up of members of the white protestant churches of Scotland county, each church electing its representatives on this board on a basis of one representative per hundred members or fraction thereof. For the purposes of this organization the status of every resident minister in the county of a white protestant church shall be the same as that of a church member, and the sovereign authority and court of final resort in all matters shall be the membership of these several churches.

A committee to be selected for this purpose will carry the proposition before every white protestant congregation in the county and each church will be expected to act upon the articles of incorporation, either ratifying or rejecting them, as it sees fit.

### A Community House

The object of this movement, which is in its very conception too great for one to comprehend its full meaning without diligent study, is primarily to build at some central point in the county—the location to be determined by vote of the church members—a great community house, including an auditorium, library and reading rooms, and possibly other parts, which shall be used as a public gathering place for the people of the county. To make sure that nothing but the highest class of entertainment shall ever be offered at this place its destinies are placed in the hands of the protestant churches of the county.

The whole idea is so novel, so broad and far-reaching, that in the end it will probably evolve into an institution of tremendous importance, affecting the lives and happiness of all the people of the county. Those who are promoting it are striving after an ideal and desire to bring great good to all the people.

Machinery has been created for giving the idea publicity and clearly setting it before the people so that they may comprehend its meaning and lend it their support and co-operation.

Dr. F. O. Hellier was made chairman of the meeting Tuesday afternoon, and Mr. E. F. Murray was its secretary. W. H. Weatherspoon and Rev. Carl B. Craig presented the report of the committee on constitution and bylaws—Laurinburg Exchange.

### NEIGHBORING

In these days when women are feeling responsibilities in citizenship, the old art of "neighboring" is important.

The word comes from Anglo Saxon, the near-neighbor or farmer nigh you, so it is a true rural term. City people are comparatively independent but the country is the place where neighboring is needed.

An old woman was asked, "Have you planted your garden?" She replied, "Nobody's ploughed it yet: no one takes any interest in us lately." "Taking an interest"—there is the key to neighborliness. The community is critical of that wretched woman and fails to put themselves in her hard place. The Golden

### YOUR COMMUNITY

Josiah Royce.

What is practically necessary, therefore, is this: Let your Christology be the practical acknowledgment of the Spirit of the universal and beloved community. This is the sufficient and practical faith. Love this faith, teach this faith, preach this faith, in whatever words, through whatever symbol, by means of whatever forms of creeds, in accordance with whatever practices you find best to enable you with sincere intent and a whole heart to symbolize and to realize the Spirit in the community.

Judge every social device, every proposed reform and every local enterprise by the one test: Does this help towards the coming of the universal community? If you have a church, judge your own church by this standard; and if your own church does not yet fully meet this standard, aid in reforming your church accordingly. If you hold the true church to be invisible, require all whom you can influence to help render it visible.

Rule is the measure to be used in neighboring.

The same woman from her poverty brought me a gift of carefully picked huckleberries, which suggests that in the country there is much to give and to share at comparatively little cost—fruit, flowers, seeds, vegetables, honey, nuts, meat at butchering time, rides in your automobile or carriage, books, papers, and magazines. Thoughtfulness and generosity are country virtues. The prosperous must feel responsibility for the less fortunate. The experienced should be ready to guide the ignorant, especially in matters of health. The best neighbor I ever had died because a family near her failed to exercise precaution in contagious diseases.

The happy should desire to see the whole community united in simple pleasures, such as picnics, field days or exhibitions.

Every night a busy farmer calls up two old ladies living alone a mile from him to see that all is well with them. The telephone is a real help in neighboring.

In some communities "neighborhood insurance" is practical. When a poor man loses a horse or cow, every one gives a small amount to express sympathy and replace the loss.

Times of illness and trouble, and also of joy, are real opportunities for serving our neighbors, which leads me to a real country text. "But to do good and to communicate (share with) forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."—Mrs. Warren H. Wilson, in Rural Life.

### TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Attacking the problems of transportation and communication raised in the State by war-time conditions, a committee of the North Carolina Club of the University of North Carolina with Phillip Hettleman, of Goldsboro, as chairman, in its report here tonight on the campus plan of state reconstruction in which the club is following the lead of Governor Bickett's state reconstruction commission, recommended many changes in state policy on railroads, highways, rural telephone and motorized parcel post system. Associated with Mr. Hettleman on the committee were B. E. Weathers, of Shelby, S. O. Worthington, of Pitt County, and I. M. Abelkop, of Durham.

To improve railway transportation the chairman strongly recommended that cities have their own traffic managers and that manufacturing concerns pool their interests wherever possible and hire their own rate experts. Freight yard congestion ought to be handled by local trade bodies, the chairman urged, and he pointed out the important progress made by the Durham Chamber of Commerce in that work.

In advocating a motorized parcel post system, I. M. Abelkop quoted at length the experience of other states, showing greater cheapness and quicker delivery by trucks. County school houses should be the parcel post stations in country

districts and the school teachers should handle the business where other facilities are not available.

Municipal or governmental ownership of the electric railways was the only way out of the desperate condition into which traction companies have fallen all over the United States, Mr. Abelkop said. He quoted figures showing the loss in valuation of properties and loss in operation all over the country.

On the subject of rural telephones the committee, through B. E. Weathers, recommended an extension of the work now being done by the State Highway Commission in this direction and urged further appropriations for the auditing and inspecting of rural systems.—Lenoir Chambers.

### MOVING THE UNIVERSITY

It might be a trifle difficult for a woman's club, or a Y. M. C. A., or a chamber of commerce, to go to the University of North Carolina to be instructed, so the university has arranged to pick up and come to them. It has been the dream of the university for years to serve, not merely the students at Chapel Hill, but all the people who desire its services; and every year it is elaborating its arrangements to do that.

The program for this year has just been published, and may be had from the bureau of extension for the asking. The university stands ready to send the best man it has in any given subject to deliver a lecture at any place in the state if the people who wish to hear the lecture will pay the speaker's expenses. No charge whatever is made for his services.

The leaflet just out gives a long list of subjects and lecturers that are at the people's disposal. Any community can secure one man for one lecture, if it likes; or it can arrange for one man to deliver several lectures; or it can secure a series of lectures covering the same general subject, delivered by two or three men who are experts in that line.

### Teaching Citizenship

For example, there is a course in Citizenship that has been arranged with an eye to the interests of women who may be considering the question of suffrage, and perhaps wondering just what is going to be demanded of them if they find themselves suddenly endowed with full political privileges. It comprises eight lectures, on such subjects as Suffrage: Its Opportunities and Obligations; The Origin and General Nature of Our Government; The Origin and Development of Government in North Carolina; Contemporary Reforms in Government and Politics; International Government or the League of Nations; Women in Industry: Their Achievements and Problems, and the like. As stated above, the course was designed with an eye to the needs of women, but nine-tenths of our present voters could follow it with profit.

There is another series on Americanization, and a tremendous one on Problems of Democracy and Reconstruction, besides a long list of miscellaneous lectures. In fact, a lecture may be had on almost any subject from Lord Dunsany's Plays or Life and Works of Composers of Music, to a Study of the Cause and the Prevention of the Toxic Effect of the General Anesthetics in Acute and Chronic Kidney Disease.

No one in North Carolina who has in charge the arrangement of a program of study for the winter can afford to act without giving this bulletin at least a glance. It may contain the very thing you were looking for.—Greensboro News.

### THE WAY AT YALE

The Yale Corporation has recently jacked up the level of university salaries. Full-time professors are now paid from \$5,000 to \$8,000, and in exceptional cases \$10,000. The salaries of deans range from \$6,000 to \$8,000; while associate and assistant professors receive from \$2,500 to \$4,500. Teachers of all grades have received salary increases of 25 percent or so, but what is worth noting is the fact that the new salaries are graded upon (1) the teacher's usefulness as a teacher, (2) his productivity and standing in the world of letters, science, or art, (3) his service to the public, including the university, and (4) his executive responsibility and efficiency.

This sort of thing must be discouraging to college teachers who lack instructional skill or inspirational force; to dawdlers who lack productive vitality and

virility in scholarship, research, or engineering fields, physical or social; to teachers who can think neither in terms of the university as a whole nor of the public the university is set up to serve; and to deans who lack initiative and vision, and constructive, directive skill in developing their schools or in commanding their fields of responsibility.

Yale has faculty members of this sort. Every school has them in numbers large or small, and nowhere is it easy to get rid of them. But Yale is trying to do it. And the plan is to shake them down to the bottom of the salary list, with the hope that they will choose to fall out and drop into other jobs. And the time is opportune, because wages are now high in the trades and occupations.

### PLIGHT OF THE COLLEGES

More than 100 colleges and universities are conducting campaigns for endowment funds to increase the pay of professors, according to a report made public yesterday by the Harvard Endowment Fund. The Harvard Committee is seeking \$15,250,000 to increase salaries and expand facilities. It is estimated that the total number of students in these colleges is 250,000, and that every state university is demanding increased budgets from the state funds.

"The list of the needy colleges, which runs from Harvard, with 38,000 living alumni, to Reed College, Portland, Ore., with 138, includes institutions in all parts of the country," said the report. "The amounts they seek vary from \$400,000 to \$15,250,000, but their plights are all alike. The high cost of living, with the increased cost of operating, has obliged all endowed colleges, in fairness to their faculties and to their standards of instruction, to go out for more money.

### THE NEW QUARTER

The fall quarter of the University of North Carolina ended December 20, and the Christmas holiday began on that day. Examinations started Tuesday, December 16. They lasted therefore only four days. This is much shorter than in former years, partly due to the change in the curriculum this year whereby the collegiate year was divided into three terms instead of two. The fall term was shorter than it had ever been before.

The great majority of the thirteen hundred students left for their homes immediately after completing their examinations. Many members of the faculty also departed to attend scientific meetings, scholarly and educational associations, and other professional engagements. Chapel Hill during the Christmas holidays is a quieter village than at any other time of the year.

The new quarter began again on January 5. Many new students entered the University at that time. It is pointed out by university authorities that under the new quarter system, it is much easier and more convenient for students to begin work after Christmas than in former years. Many courses are repeated each quarter, and students entering at the beginning of the third quarter can adjust their courses so that utilizing the fourth quarter of the year, which comes in the summer school, they can make up easily for not being able to enter the university at the beginning of the collegiate year.

### High School Debates

More than two hundred high schools have already joined the high school debating union for 1920, according to E. R. Rankin, secretary of the committee on arrangements. This is more than the total number of schools in the union last year. During the seven years in which the state-wide debates have been held the average number of schools participating has been 231, with the high-water mark of 331 schools in 1917. Unsettled conditions cut into the list last year.

Restricted immigration is the debate subject for 1920. A hundred-page bulletin has been prepared by the university committee and is being distributed to all schools in the union. It contains outlines and arguments on both sides of the query and references to sources from which further material can be obtained. The committee estimates that an average of 80,000 persons in the state has listened to the debates each year.

The triangular debates throughout the state will be held in March, and the final contest at the university will be held in April, the exact dates to be announced later.—Lenoir Chambers.