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# Rural, Social and Economic Problems of the United States

BY

CHARLES J. GALPIN

ALONZO B. COX

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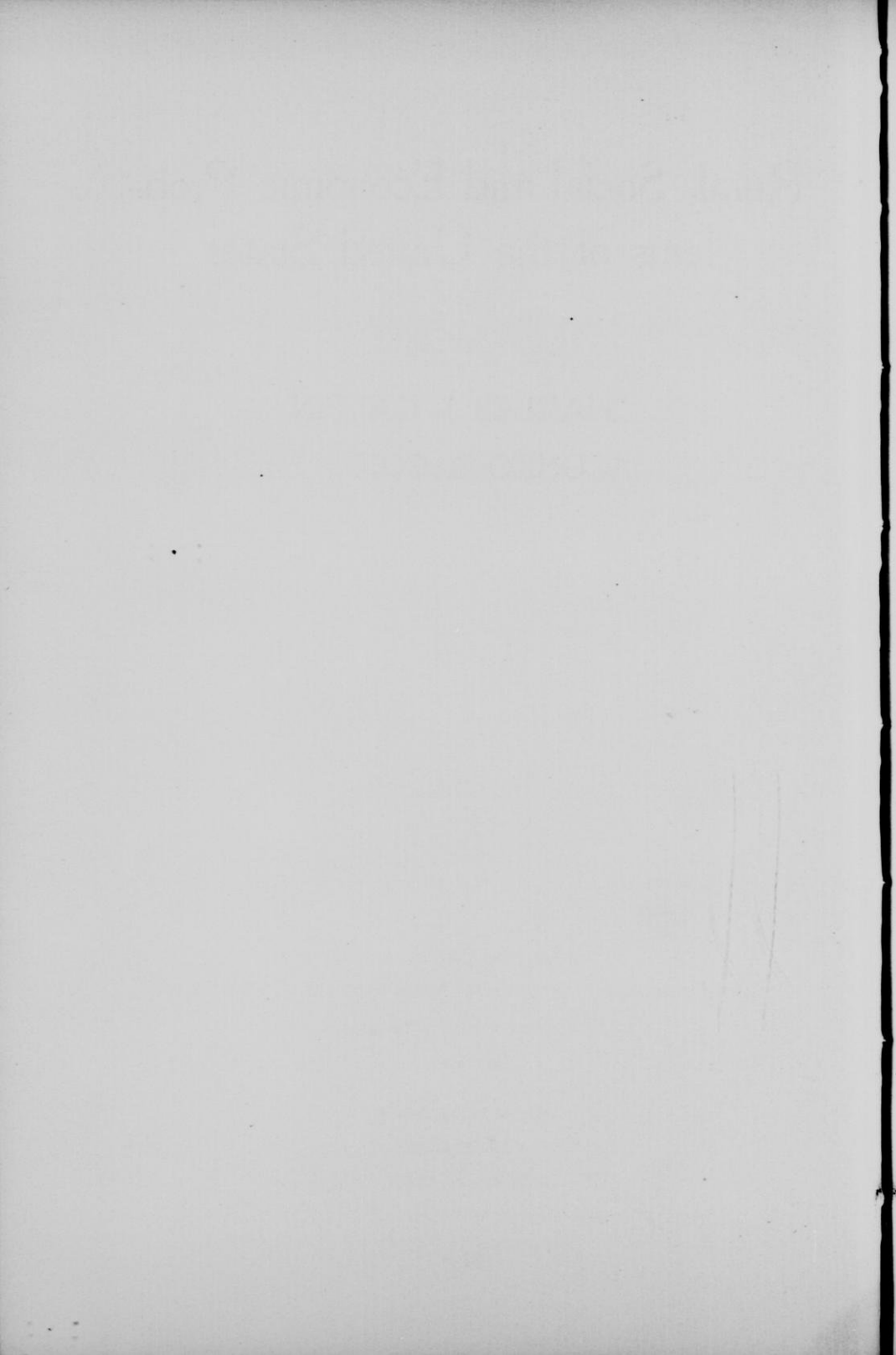
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## RURAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE UNITED STATES

A Catalogue of Problems Suggested by Rural Leaders in the Various Sections of the United States.

### INTRODUCTION

The rural problem of the United States is both economic and broadly social in character, with aspects so closely connected in real life that any sound treatment of the one phase will require a corresponding study of the other.

That the general sections of the nation vary as to type of agriculture and as to stage of social and economic development, and hence present problems widely different in character is evident and significant. If it is true that in some sections farms are too small, and farmers too plentiful, it may be true in other sections that farms are too large, and farm families too few. While, moreover, it is generally felt that the country as a whole needs a larger number of people engaged in agriculture, it will not of course be lost sight of that a disproportionately large number of farmers would render farming unremunerative. All good farms seem to have their farmers, in spite of the widespread alarm at farm people's leaving the land; and in the human attempt to provide the poor people of cities a place in agriculture, it will be noted that the general complaint among farmers is that farming frequently does not pay, and that altogether too many farmers are poor. It is not simply farmers that are needed, but good farmers—farmers with ample capital to make farming pay.

The agricultural economist has already come to problems needing the point of view of the rural sociologist. The economic philosophy of getting the most out of the land and winning the largest labor income needs to be supplemented and modified by the doctrine of doing the best by each farm family in any system of working of the land. As the philosophy of largest industrial output has been modified by the labor philosophy of a minimum wage and an eight-hour day in order to protect the human worker and his family, so the rising generation in country life requires the protection of public opinion in a theory of agricultural production and living which will not exploit the farmer, soul and body.

Farm labor furnishes an acute problem in some sections of the United States; but no treatment of this problem on purely economic grounds is sufficient. Proper housing is a distinct and important element in the question for married laborers and doubtless some form of continuation school is imperative for the unmarried work-



ers. Unquestionably the farm labor problem as a whole is put in the shade somewhat on the social side by the fact that as yet the families of farm owners and operators in the United States are themselves in need of better housing facilities and better vocational training.

America is on the point of socializing its thought in regard to rural life and land policies. The farmer is taking a step or two in this direction. Statesmen are thinking of farming in relation to national policy and human welfare. The strategic thing just now and in the years immediately ahead of us is a wise leadership in rural economic and social thought. Disaster may easily come through a narrow, sectional, partisan, or exploitative leadership. Casual thinking must be replaced by painstaking investigation.

The economic issues of the time may be classified as follows: first, those which require little if any group attention, such as the question of farm efficiency, or the choice of crops. Second, matters requiring the attention of substantially all farmers, or possibly of all citizens. The solution of these questions is to be looked for in legislation such as the passage of a tariff on sugar, or corn. Third, the question arising in connection with problems which pertain to specific business undertakings. These as a rule center about marketing, credit, tenancy, or farm labor.

We have made a start toward solving these problems, but it is only a start. Even the best method of solution is by no means determined upon in every case, if indeed it is in any case. The first thing needed is a clear comprehension of the situation. When that is gained a long step will have been taken toward a remedy. They will have to be taken up one at a time, some by states, some by the national government, more by the interested parties independently of politics or government.

The country life movement, as a whole, it should further be recalled, has reached the point where it seems desirable, for research purposes, to select from the mass of rural issues in any particular section of the United States, a few problems that are fundamental to the main line of rural progress. These few issues, once selected, might well be standardized in detail by some central cooperative research bureau. Following this, certain uniform methods of study might be formulated. A wide employment of such standard problems and methods would eventually lead to a public policy of large rural improvement.

As a stimulating influence upon such selection, the following catalogue of rural issues in the United States seems calculated to be highly suggestive. There will, it is hoped, come to the minds of investigators, as they read these lists, other issues not stated therein, and it is probable that question marks will be placed by them after



some of the statements included. A decision will also doubtless be reached in regard to the relative importance and immediate urgency of the various issues.

Matters which require legislative enactment should engage the attention of thinkers in every state. The very definite requirements of legislative statement should be boldly faced, and the making of proposed statutes should be undertaken. When rural social thinking shall have as its goal practical legislation rather than vague discussion, achievement is certain to follow. In like manner, matters in the field of voluntary association should be subjected to definite plans of organization and practical working programs.

#### THE METHOD OF GATHERING AND ORGANIZING THE STATEMENTS OF THE PROBLEMS

The following statements of the rural social and economic problems in the United States are based on significant quotations from about one hundred and fifty letters from teachers, farmers, county agents, preachers, editors, and others interested in and acquainted with agricultural problems. The informants were carefully selected from Dr. Bailey's "Rus", the "Who's Who" in Agriculture. Generally, the persons selected were born and reared in the country, educated and spent most of their lives in the state or section they were asked to speak for.

The object was to get statements from those who have made a study of the problems, those who have active contact with country life, those who are actively interested in the rural social and economic problems at present.

Some mistakes were probably made in the selection of so many names, but on the whole the replies were remarkable. It is probable, furthermore, that some letters have been misinterpreted by taking important statements out of their proper setting, but no other way seemed so feasible for putting such a mass of material into such narrow compass, and still leave a large part of the personality of the different writers. It will be noticed that the letter called for a statement of state problems rather than sectional problems. That was done to avoid a confusion of the issue and a too general statement of the problems. They are grouped in geographical divisions for the sake of brevity and convenience, and because of a general similarity of state problems within a given section.

The authors take this opportunity to thank the informants for their very generous replies, and to beg indulgence for the liberal use of their expressions.

For the benefit of the general public, the letter eliciting the following statements is printed below.

Dear Sir: I am at present interested in making a study of special rural social and economic problems in the United States. In making this study, I am asking the help of several people in each state, who are experienced in rural life, in the hope of getting a better idea of the national problem as well as of the sectional problems.

Will you kindly let me know what you consider to be the chief problems of your state, at the present time? I shall welcome all the fullness of statement you feel inclined to make.

I should like, if possible, to have you reply by February 20th. I am hoping to make a summary of the replies, and should be glad to send you one.

## STATEMENTS OF THE RURAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEW ENGLAND AND THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES

*Co-operation and Marketing Problems.* "Decreasing the cost of marketing and increasing the efficiency of our marketing methods." "Very little has been done in the way of developing the best methods of marketing by organizing farmers to get their products direct to the consumer." "Improvements of farming conditions including marketing, etc., so that the farm will produce a larger income to provide better schools." "The difficulty in this section to co-operate. . . . Tradition and worn out individualism are the chief obstacles." "The problem of adequate return to farmers for cost of production, due especially to organized middle men." "How to soften bristling individualism so as to render rural co-operation possible." "Every farmer is afraid his neighbor will win a point, so there is nothing but competition and no co-operation." "The attraction of ambitious, competent men into the business of farming." "The most serious economic problem is the inability to buy feeding stuffs at a reasonable figure and lack of competent farm help." "The stimulation and development of a satisfactory understanding and whole heartedness between the producer and consumer." "Eastern farmers are the only class of manufacturers who buy all their raw material (feeds) at retail prices and all too frequently sell their products at wholesale." "In some states one branch of the government has been preaching co-operation and has been organizing co-operative societies while another branch of the government has been doing the follow-up work by putting the officers of the co-operative associations in jail because they co-operated."

*Reorganization of Agriculture.* "The average farm is too small for a farmer and his family, considering the topography of the land." "The problem of maintaining soil fertility owing to the high cost of fertilizer." "The chief problem in Mass. is that of utilizing the vast amount of good grass that goes to waste. This presents the problem of winter forage." "The chief rural social

and economic problems are due to the overbalanced industry opposing profitable agricultural development." "How to revise the sheep industry so as to enable it to win against Montana pasturage and the local dogs. How to make dairying profitable in the face of high price grain and hay. How to make the poultry industry pay in the face of California cold storage shipments and shipments from other sections and in the face of high priced grain." "The reclamation of large areas of uncultivated land now in the state." "The problem of getting farmers organized into a compact body which can express itself on public questions and can also take measures to simplify distribution is essential."

*Farm Labor.* "The question of farm labor is a serious one." "The problem of securing adequate labor on the farm, due to competition with a continually growing demand for industrial labor, organized and well paid." "The excessive high wage paid by munition factories has a demoralizing effect on farm labor." "Every farm community should do all in its power to prevent the introduction of any kind of laborers who do not promise to be assimilated." "The difficulty of getting competent help." "Making better use of our labor and labor saving devices." "Need of some adjustment between agricultural and industrial labor needs."

*Legislative Problems.* "We need some legislation with reference to markets in order to make farming more profitable." "The care of feeble-minded in country districts." "Repeal of the so-called Daylight Savings Bill." "The greatest problem confronting agriculture at present is educating the city people and their representatives in the legislature to realize the fact that it costs money to live in the country and grow crops so that they will pay a fair price and not investigate and legislate the farmer out of business." "The farmer's point of view does not receive adequate expression in legislative halls or in many bureaucratic commissions to which we are delegating the power of government." "Legislation is needed that will do for agriculture what the federal reserve system has done for industry in furnishing short-time credit."

*Roads.* "Better roads." "We need better roads than we have to touch the farm sections." "The problem of building and maintaining good roads owing to the heavy truck traffic between cities." "The roads are almost impassable in winter so the farmer can market his crops only in certain seasons."

*Credit.* "It would be desirable to have the credit system so perfected that the average age at which ownership is acquired could be reduced to thirty years. . . . Positive legislation that will bring together the persons who have money to lend and the young farmer who wishes to establish a farm home."

*Rural Schools.* "Conservatism of the people and topography

make the consolidation of schools a very serious problem." "The improvement of our district schools and the development of our country high schools to meet the needs of rural people." "The problem of securing adequate rural schools owing to demand for the best teachers in the city." "How to redirect the energies of the common school so as to make it a means of interpreting to the rural folks their own environment." "Free education in every subject from the primary grades through the university. . . . The farm problem will not be solved as long as the accident of being born on a farm denies so many children the privilege of attending a high school." "Better schools and schools better adapted to county methods." "We need better school houses, better education in agricultural subjects and problems." "The present type of education leads the most competent and ambitious to commercial centers." "Schools are backward, morals low, and community spirit feeble."

*Rural Church.* "The church is very greatly hampered by tradition, the loss of leaders, by unfortunate training on the part of the ministers, and by sectarian division. The idealism of the community largely centers in the churches, but it is more or less wasted on trivial things, and seemingly there is no program worked out to settle the problem." "The need of ministers trained for work in rural churches. Many of the rural ministers have had no training at all and those who have had seminary training have no understanding of rural social problems." "How to undenominationalize the rural religious organizations." "The lack of a strong virile church is very apparent." "Weak churches manned by poorly gifted and poorly educated ministers, on salaries so small that it is impossible to make a respectable living." "Need of stronger community consciousness among members of rural churches."

*Rural Social Life.* "The problem of intemperance and social vice due to the legalized liquor traffic and high percentage of foreign born." "We need more community spirit and co-operation." "The social problem is that of an agreeable social life with companionship and comradeship among young farmers who have to start at the bottom and work up. For a young farmer to start in an old community among well established farmers, some of whom have inherited their farms, who have a fund of capital, good houses and automobiles, while he, the young farmer, must deprive himself of all these things for a considerable period, is very discouraging. It is a real social hardship to be a "poor white" among well-to-do farm owners." "How to rejuvenate for the purpose of recreation the serious attitude of mind toward life on the part of the grown ups." "The isolation of the rural home from social advantages is marked, hence the need of more effective organization."

*Race Problems.* "In some communities we have the problem of foreigners who take up the land and by living with low standards and working harder, or both, prosper. In some communities they do not assimilate with the people there." "Influx of unsocial races into rural communities do not leave enough for social and other community activities."

*Rural Police.* "Every state should have police protection in the country. The common practice in small towns of avoiding expense by allowing petty criminals and hoboes to go free if they will leave town often results in sending them to the country."

*Rural Housing and Sanitation.* "The problem of rural health due to isolation and lack of medical supervision." "The desire to be able to obtain medical service is a powerful factor leading middle-aged farmers to take their families to town." "The problems of better rural homes." The improvement of home grounds on the farm and in the village."

*Better Business and Leadership.* "Increase the farmers' profits by better business methods and improved social conditions, houses, schools, etc. will follow." "The greatest need is competent leadership that will intelligently direct these growing movements. . . . Such leadership must come from among the farmers themselves." "The fundamental problem in agriculture is to make and keep conditions of farm life such that a fair proportion of the intelligent and able citizens of the nation will continue to live on farms."

## THE SOUTH

*Tenancy and Other Land Problems.* "No man should be permitted to own more land than he and his family could put to actual use for home and productive purposes." "Farm Tenantry." "The problem of farm tenantry." "A constructive plan instituted by the government of the state to enable the tenant to buy a farm." "The tenants in this section are mostly colored and their condition is far from ideal." "The rural social and economic problems are: poor tenant farmers, poor farm management, lack of organization, lack of marketing facilities, lack of leadership, poor roads, poor school houses, schools, and churches." "One of our chief problems and one that is growing is the tenant problem. It is not only influencing our educational conditions but our agriculture. It is practically impossible to get a program of crop production that will involve the tenant occupying the land more than one year." "The maintenance of soil fertility is one of our difficult problems."

*Credit.* "Money issued by the Federal Government to the people at cost of administration, and in sufficient volume to supply the legitimate need of every citizen." "Farm credit especially through



the Federal Farm Loan Bank." "We can hardly hope for any radical change in our agriculture without a tremendous increase in intelligence in organized production and purchase, in salesmanship, and in credit in the rural regions." "The banker knows what business men in town are worthy of credit, but he does not know the enterprising farmers of the community." "The question of short-time credit is most acute in the cotton territory." "A crying need that agriculture shall become and remain sufficiently remunerative to provide for reasonable comforts, conveniences, and luxuries."

*Co-operation and Marketing.* "The need of better marketing facilities for handling farm products." "The system of marketing farm crops, and especially those of a perishable nature and semiperishable nature, is one of supreme importance. A better utilization by farmers of all kinds of crops like fruits and vegetables, either by feeding or canning." "There is great need for co-operation in marketing farm products and co-operative farm finance." "Poor progress in farm co-operation, poor rural schools, and multiplicity of rural churches."

*Roads.* "We need a system of public roads which will put each community in touch with neighboring communities and the outside world." "Improvement of lateral highways." "The problem of road improvement." "Need for a great deal more work on roads in order to tie up the rural communities with the towns." "The problem of obtaining good roads."

*Labor.* "The solution of the farm labor problem for 1919 is a most pressing matter. The soldiers being demobilized are looking for employment in the cities." "Better wages for cotton farmers." "Our wage scale is too low, due to congestion of negro labor after the Civil War." "The most serious rural problem we have is that of the small remuneration received by the rural population for the labor expended."

*Rural Organization.* "The establishment of a higher standard of community life and activity. May be brought about through more effective community organization." "The problem of rural economic and social organization." "A study of better county government. The whole system of local government needs to be remodeled in such a way as not to curtail the rights and activities of rural communities." "The great problem is one of rural organization." "Reorganization of social, political, and school units to coincide with the economic units." "The country community is the only social unit known to our civilization that is without definite boundaries and without machinery for self-expression and development. We have Nation, State, County, and town, each with machinery for self-expression and development; and only the country community is voiceless—formless indeed, powerless to be born. . . .

The people never have a stated time for getting together in mass meeting. We need local self-government for the rural districts just as we already have for the towns." "We need the people of each community organized into a unit having for its purpose the betterment, uplift, and education of the community."

*Better Business.* "The essential and fundamental need of making provision for securing to the farmer an adequate return upon his expenditure of labor and capital in the conduct of his business." "The economic causes for lack of leadership in the country community." "The lack of business leadership in the rural communities part negro and part white, sparse settlement and poor roads." "The great economic need is applied scientific agriculture." "The use of better business methods in farming is very badly needed. It is necessary that the farmer study his business carefully in order that he may keep it adjusted to economic conditions." "Diversified farming where people will produce food and clothing for their own use."

*The Race Problem.* "A better understanding between all classes in the interest of all concerned." "The great social problem of the South is and has been all these years the race problem."

*The School Problem.* "Our rural sections have not had as good schools as they ought to have had." "More money and better training facilities for the training of rural elementary and secondary teachers and such rural leaders as county agents, and home demonstrators." "Better education and a wider diffusion of the benefits of education, particularly among the rural classes." "We consider education of the right kind the greatest of all problems." "The school is a place to teach and drill children in the methods of organization and the organization point of view." "The problem of getting the colleges and universities to develop competent, consecrated leaders for the rural community." "Consolidation of the rural schools." "The school system of the state is away behind." "We need an efficient rural school system with terms twice as long as at present, compulsory attendance, better school buildings." "The fundamental problem of all is the proper education of the rural population, both white and black."

*Church Problem and Other Social Problems.* "Church federation in some sections." "Problem of better rural social institutions." "Are pastors of the country churches refusing to assume leadership in any economic questions of applied Christianity?" "The destruction of excessive ruralism." "The spiritualization of religion." "The great social need is rural cultural organization and leadership." "Our rural churches need rejuvenation in some way." "The rural churches are having great difficulty in adjust-



ing themselves to modern conditions and some are extremely ineffective."

*Rural Sanitation and Health.* "In some sections the sanitation in the rural community is such as to have a considerable effect on social and economic conditions." "Improvement of living conditions on the farm." "The problem of rural sanitation and rural health." "The effect of the diet of country children as compared to that of city children upon their comparative mental development. The effect of the greater time given to work by country children upon their comparative ability to play and do mental work." "There is a great need for making conditions conducive to better rural health."

*Rural Housing.* "The establishment of better rural homes, especially for the farm workmen and tenant farmers is a matter that bears directly upon the economic welfare of the community as well as upon the social and moral conditions of rural life." "A system of scientific country planning." "The problem of rural housing." "Better home conveniences."

#### THE CORN BELT

*Co-operation and Marketing.* "The most important problem facing the farmers at the present is a marketing problem. The need of convincing the public of the necessity of paying the cost of production plus reasonable profit on farm produce." "Better marketing conditions." "The more effective organization of farmers, with special reference to the selling of their products and in the purchase of supplies." "The thing the farmers most need now is an understanding of marketing conditions and of the price system, so that they may learn how to market their products at prices which will cover (1) a fair wage for the time spent, (2) a fair interest on the money invested, (3) enough in addition to enable the farmer to maintain the fertility of the soil." "The most urgent problems are marketing, tenancy and rural credits."

*Tenancy.* "The biggest question is the matter of better farm leases and some adequate provision to safeguard the tenant when he puts permanent improvements and fertilizer upon a farm." "There should be a much better understanding between landlords and tenants and the real co-operation that ought and must exist between all partners in a successful business." "The dominant problem is the problem of land tenure. Closely allied with it is the problem of taxation, also reform in our system of leases." "The question most prominent just at present is the protection of the renter in regard to investments actually made on short-time lease."

*Roads.* "Next to tenancy the building and maintenance of good

roads is the most important problem." "The problem of securing good roads." "If only one thing could be done, I would say without hesitation, 'Build permanent roads'" "The construction of improved country roads." "Good roads, and still better ones and more of them are crying needs." "Need of better and more thorough knowledge of road building." "Since we do not have much cold weather the dirt roads are almost impassable for a large part of the year if we have the normal amount of rain."

*Credit.* "Better credit facilities for the man who is trying to buy a farm. The present rural credit bank helps a man who is already on the road to farm ownership. It offers no aid to the man who needs it most." "The establishment of local credit unions to supplement what is being done for the farmers by the Federal Farm Loan." "The great problem the farmer is facing today is financial. A great many of our improvements do not progress because of lack of financial ability to work them." "A wholesome rural life must rest on a profitable agriculture. If prices of agricultural products are not sufficiently high to offer as high reward to the young farmer as he could obtain in the city, the movement toward the city will continue." "The average farm is too small to permit of an economic use of either capital or labor." "Many capable and intelligent young men are being lost to agriculture because they have neither the money nor the credit to enable them to acquire a farm in the old established farming regions."

*Diversification, Rotation, and Soil Fertility.* "Farmers should have much more livestock; all farms should be fenced hog-tight, so that it would be possible, and very much more probable, that livestock would be kept, with a better disposition toward systematic rotation and the use of limestone and rock phosphates to build up fertility. This would result in better earning capacity which is the basis of better social conditions." "The diversification of agriculture by the introduction of more and better live stock; the application of lime, ground rock phosphate and fertilizer, and the adoption of a system of crop rotation." "More intensive and less extensive agriculture."

*Better Business.* "The necessity of awakening the farmer to the realization of the fact that farming is a business enterprise and not merely a means of subsistence." "The need of farseeing and constructive leadership to guide business and social organizations in rural communities. The development of a more profitable agriculture for the average farmer."

*Better Housing.* "Better housing conditions for tenant farmers." "The decent housing of farm labor; the building of better and more sanitary farm residences." "Need of more stringent regulations regard sanitation." "Health, education, general care

including nursing service. There is at least one county in the state in which there is no nurse and only one physician."

*Rural Church.* "The rural social life, particularly a different kind of rural church and a different type of rural school."

*Rural Organization and Government.* "We need a law that will permit incorporated towns and rural townships to build and maintain community centers by public taxation." "The most pressing need is for organization of clubs to give the farmers an opportunity to become acquainted with each other." "Lack of organization in every line of work." "Our social problems are problems of isolation." "Consolidated schools, churches, county fairs and farmers' clubs are sorely needed." "The isolation of women in certain sections of the state which result in an unusually large proportion of woman in the insane asylum coming from the sparsely settled counties."

*Rural Schools.* "More and better educational and social centers for rural communities. Equalizing of educational advantages throughout the state by use of state funds. Appreciation of the vocational, social, and general educational value of courses in agriculture and home economics." "Need more extension work in rural sociology, and more rural social survey work." "There is great need of broader vision and better education among farmers, they should be equipped to think for themselves and express themselves." "Devising a school system that will meet local needs." "Poor rural schools—Box car type one-room building, inadequately paid and trained teachers. Wealthy districts with no children and poor districts with many,—need reorganization." "The housing of non-resident high school students. In some of the large and sparsely settled counties a considerable proportion of the high school students are living away from home."

*Class Legislation.* "Some recognition of the evils of class legislation."

*Community Spirit and Socialization.* "Fostering more local community spirit whereby the individual in a certain community may co-operate in a business way as well as develop a much higher level from a social standpoint." "Lack of right kind of social life which is evidenced by the type of 'movies' and other forms of entertainment which are prevalent."

#### THE LAKE STATES

*Co-operation and Marketing Problems.* "The marketing of farm products so as to eliminate speculation, useless transportation and excessive charges." "The pressing need of better marketing system to give the farmer a larger income. At present they have

to work so strenuously they have little time or strength for the higher things of life." "The most vital economic problem now is marketing. There is a great deal of dissatisfaction with the present system of marketing, especially so far as terminal markets are concerned." "One aspect of the organization of production is the role of associated effort, either co-operative or governmental." A method of scaling prices of products on the basis of cost of production, allowing a margin of sufficient amount, under average condition of thrift and efficiency, to enable the producer to live comfortably and lay by a store to meet emergencies and old age."

*Roads.* "The developing of good roads is vital in solving many of the other agricultural problems."

*Social Problems.* "A system of recreational facilities as an accompaniment of a good educational system." "A definite program of recreation for the rural community, which should not only take care of the children in the schools, but which should include the social life of adults."

*Land Settlement.* "A wise development of the unoccupied area of the states, one that will put its various classes of land to their right uses, put the right sort of families on the land, and not put them there until it is the best possible place for them."

*Better Business.* "A study of the administration of the farm income with respect to spending vs. saving, with respect to distribution between budgets and within budgets." "A habit of accounting comparable to that considered vital in manufacturing and commercial enterprises and which if employed will give recognition to the farmer as a business man, and avoid the onerous distinction implied in the phrase 'farmers and business men.'"

*Tenant Problems.* "A study of the specific economic causes of tenancy."

*Rural Organization.* "The great need of rural dwellers is organization for the efficient conduct of all their activities." "A prerequisite to such organization is a greater degree of mutual confidence which can only be developed through social organization which brings people together for discussion of topics of common interests." "The problem of providing suitable social functions in rural districts is a vital one. The people have much spare time, especially in winter. The employment of that time is of vital importance. The development of community leaders with suitable meeting places and with playgrounds and entertainment equipment would be a big factor in solving much of the social unrest." "A fundamental study of the organization of productive agents in agriculture so as to give to all of them their highest field of usefulness."

*Churches.* "Adequate social, religious and recreational programs for the rural communities." "Churches in rural communi-



ties do not have proper leadership." "Consolidated rural church, made up of a number of the smaller struggling churches."

*School Problems.* "Education in economic and farm finance that will make farmers fit themselves better to their economic environment." "The development of a school system that will meet the needs of rural communities. Must learn that the greatest laboratory is the open field." "The constant problem of making the educational development practical, so that we do not educate people away from their foundation." "An improved rural school, from the standpoint of the equipment, the building and the teacher. Need more vocational training in the small towns and in the open country."

#### MOUNTAIN AND PACIFIC STATES

*Co-operation and Marketing Problems.* "The marketing problems are just beginning to present a serious situation." "The principles of true co-operation and accounting must be taught with more emphasis." "Grading, packing, and cold storage, and putting the raw material into the finished product must get more attention." "The establishment of co-operation on the Rochdale system." "The principal drawback to rural life is to find a sufficient and profitable market for the products raised on the farm. If farmers have plenty of money they are not long in taking advantage of the good things which the city people have." "Problems of marketing are difficult owing to great distance from markets and scarcity of railroads." "Developing markets and facilities for marketing including the highways, railroads, rivers and harbors."

*Rural Health and Home Conditions.* "The betterment of rural health is one of our most serious problems." "Better rural homes (the elimination of the shack). Need for well spent leisure hours on the farm." "Some method of securing the necessary household conveniences." "Credit and other financial problems." "Development of resources without exploitation, and to get the industries developed by the many instead of by the few capitalists. It is largely a problem of organization and co-operation with extension of credit to young men."

*Rural Organization.* "Organization of county welfare boards, and the substitution of the county for the school district as a unit for school administration." "Organization of farmers for economic purposes into an organization exclusively their own." "The construction of public halls for social and business meetings." "The farmer must learn to organize and work as a unit. The organizations must be democratic and controlled entirely by the farmers."

"Developing the farm home, the rural school, the country church, farmers' organizations, and all other agencies of progress."

*Tenant Problem.* "Our leases are for a short time only, and while there is a certain amount of looking forward toward ownership there is evidently an increase of a fixed tenant class with no hope of ownership." "A diminution of large land holdings and a system of enabling renters to purchase lands on long-time payments on the amortization plan, landlords should be superceded by home ownership." "The problems of land tenure, land settlement, community development and co-operative marketing."

*Labor Problems.* "The increasing tendency to carry on farm operations by a roving, homeless-man type of labor." "As farms tend somewhat to be consolidated into larger holdings the tendency is to make farming a capitalistic undertaking on a large scale and to employ labor at such times only as there are special demands."

*Roads and Other Improvement Problems.* "Good roads, which will make it possible for the people to get together more, community centers, and consolidated schools." "Two of the largest problems we have at present are good roads and some condition which will call people together in the rural districts in the form of entertainment value." "The development of a farm in such a way as to make the farm an entirely agreeable place for the farmer to carry on an industry and at the same time be contented with his life conditions." "Problem of good road construction."

*School Problems.* "The consolidation of country schools." "Scientific education for the farmer, and the dignity and importance of being a producer should be taught in all schools." "Rural education is a problem entirely different from urban education. Teachers and preachers who would accomplish much must become a part in heart and soul of rural life." "Consolidated schools." "Better rural schools to be brought about by (1) larger administrative units, (b) better trained teachers." "The need for a fuller appreciation of good reading."

*Rural Church Problems.* "Rural church work should receive more attention from competent workers." "Improvement in social and religious opportunities."

*Problems of Legislation.* "The farmers must see that more farmers are chosen to represent them in the legislature." "The farmer must get busy at elections and send men to represent his interests who are of his own class regardless of party."

*Development of Community Spirit.* "The producers life must be recognized and respected as just as honorable as that of the banker, merchant or lawyer. The farmer must stand up and assert his rights and demand a better recognition in social and economic affairs."

**SUMMARY OF THE RURAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF  
THE UNITED STATES BY GEOGRAPHICAL SECTIONS AND IN  
ORDER OF IMPORTANCE**

**NEW ENGLAND AND MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES**

*Economic Problems*

1. Marketing farm products.
2. Cooperation in buying, producing and other community work.
3. Reorganization of agriculture to make it more attractive.
4. Farm labor problems.
5. Seeing that the point of view of the farmer is represented in legislation.

*Social Problems*

1. Reorganization of rural school on efficient practical basis.
2. Reorganization of rural church to obtain more of the spirit of Christ.
3. Rejuvenation of rural social life.
4. Race problem due to immigration.
5. Rural police.

**SOUTHERN STATES**

1. Tenancy.
2. Credit to meet the needs of the poor man.
3. Cooperation in agricultural effort.
4. Roads.
5. Rural organization for self-government.
6. Marketing.
7. Better business.

1. The race problem.
2. Adaptation of rural schools to rural needs.
3. Spiritualization of the rural church.
4. Rural sanitation and health.
5. Rural housing.

**CORN BELT STATES**

1. Marketing.
2. Tenancy.
3. Roads.
4. Credit for the tenant.
5. Cooperation in production and buying.
6. Maintenance of soil fertility.
7. Diversification and rotation.
8. Better business.
9. Better housing for tenants.

1. Adapting rural school to farmers' needs.
2. Local self-government.
3. The putting of new life into the rural church.
4. Socialization of the country people.
5. Recognition of evils of class legislation.
6. Development of community spirit.

**LAKE STATES**

1. Marketing.
2. Better business.
3. Cooperation.
4. Roads.
5. Credit.
6. Land Settlement.

1. Improvement of rural schools.
2. Socialization of rural church.
3. Social organization.
4. Agricultural legislation.
5. Development of community spirit.

**MOUNTAIN AND PACIFIC STATES**

1. Marketing.
2. Roads.
3. Land Settlement.
4. Cooperation.
5. Better business.
6. Cheaper credit.

1. Reorganization and consolidation of schools.
2. Improvement in social and religious opportunities.
3. More attractive rural homes.
4. Development of community spirit.
5. Building of rural social centers.



# The American Association for Agricultural Legislation

The **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION** is a body of public spirited men and women consisting of farmers, business men, educators, investigators, and legislators in all parts of the country who are alive to the need of promoting our national interests by constructive agricultural legislation.

The work of the Association is directed along the following lines:

1. Scientific investigation of facts, careful studies of existing laws, consultation with those practically affected, followed by recommendations so carefully worked out that they will command the respect and attention of legislative bodies.

2. The organization of a central bureau to which individuals and organizations may come for assistance in the formulation and promotion of needed agricultural legislation and obtain the benefit of the broadest practical, historical, and theoretical knowledge of problems of production, and also of the larger social and economic problems involving both rural and urban people.

3. Promotion by publicity and education of such legislation as the results of the investigations indicate.

Committees are working in the following fields: food production, consumption and price; land settlement; education and improvement of rural life; marketing; taxation; rural credits; roads and transportation; agricultural extension.

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Membership is open to all men and women interested in the great local and national problems which are upon us. You are invited to take an active part in this work.

Minimum Membership Fee	-----	\$2.00
Association Membership Fee	-----	\$5.00 to \$25.00
Contributing Membership Fee	-----	\$25.00 to \$100.00
Sustaining Membership Fee	-----	\$100 or more
Founders Giving	-----	\$500 or more

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