

News Notes and Announcements

THE RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Of interest to rural sociologists everywhere is the organization of the Rural Sociological Society of America which took place at the Claridge Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey, on December —, 1937. Approximately 75 rural sociologists in attendance at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Society were called into special session by Dr. George von Tungen, Chairman of the Section on Rural Sociology, to hear the report of a special committee appointed in December, 1936, to consider ways and means of better organization for rural sociologists. This committee, consisting of Dwight Sanderson (Chairman), O. D. Duncan, John H. Kolb, Carl C. Taylor, and B. O. Williams, presented the following report to the meeting.

To the Rural Section of the American Sociological Society:

Your committee, appointed to suggest a plan for the organization of a society of rural sociologists, preferably as an affiliated unit of the American Sociological Society, has given careful consideration to the problems involved and has corresponded with the officers of the American Sociological Society and through them with its executive committee. As a result, we recommend:

1. That the rural section formally propose the two following amendments to the constitution of the American Sociological Society.

"ARTICLE VIII. Section 2. A section of the society shall be composed of members of the society interested in a common field of sociological specialization, *or may consist of an independent society or association devoted to a special field of sociology, a majority of whose members are members of the American Sociological Society. The constitution or by-laws of such an independent association must specify that it is a section of the American Sociological Society.* Sections shall meet annually during the time of, and in the same city as the annual meeting of the Society."

The amendment to this section is italicized.

Article VII, Section 5, by inserting after the word "sections," "except as provided in Section 2 above."

These amendments should be presented at the present meeting and cannot be acted upon until the following year as they must be transmitted by the secretary to all members two months before the annual meeting. The presentation at the present time would permit full discussion and enable the members of the rural section to obtain a reaction of the members of the parent society.

2. Your committee also proposes the adoption of the attached suggested con-

stitution and by-laws for the creation of a separate organization affiliated with the American Sociological Society. We suggest that this constitution be circulated among the members of the rural section and that its adoption be made a special order of business at the meeting of 1938, after the American Society has voted upon the proposed amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. KOLB

CARL C. TAYLOR

B. O. WILLIAMS

DWIGHT SANDERSON, *Chairman*

Dr. O. D. Duncan submits the following as a minority report. (The constitution which he appends is practically identical with that submitted by the majority report, except that it deletes Article 3.):

(1) that this group here and now declare itself to be an independent society and that as an organization its allegiance to the American Sociological Society in all matters of jurisdiction shall be regarded by this action as having come to an end,

(2) that for the year 1938 the Rural Sociological Society operate under a provisional constitution for which purpose a draft of a suggested constitution is attached hereto,

(3) that a committee be designated to draw up proposals for permanent organization, to be considered by the Society at its regular annual meeting in 1938.

The committee amended its report by deleting paragraph 2, and its report was then adopted.

After considerable discussion, the affairs of the Rural Section were brought to an end, and the group proceeded to organize the Rural Sociological Society of America, and unanimously elected the following officers for the year 1938.

President: Dwight Sanderson, Cornell University

Vice-President: John H. Kolb, University of Wisconsin

Secretary-Treasurer: T. Lynn Smith, Louisiana State University

The Executive Committee was completed by the election of C. E. Lively and Carl C. Taylor.

The following provisional constitution was adopted for the year with the understanding that it would be amended and finally adopted at the next annual meeting. It was agreed that all members joining this year shall be considered charter members of the Society.

PROVISIONAL CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1. *Name.* This organization shall be called the Rural Sociological Society of America.

ARTICLE 2. *Objects.* The objects of this Society shall be to promote development of rural sociology, through research, teaching, and extension work.

ARTICLE 3. *Affiliation.* This Society shall be affiliated with the American

Sociological Society and shall constitute a section on Rural Sociology of that Society.

ARTICLE 4. *Members.* Any person professionally employed in the field of rural sociology or who is interested in the objects of this Society, may become a member upon vote of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 5. *Officers.* The officers of the Society shall consist of a president, a vice-president, and a secretary-treasurer, whose duties shall be those usually appertaining to those offices.

ARTICLE 6. *Executive Committee.* The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers and two other members to be elected by the Society. The Executive Committee shall be the governing body of the Society, except insofar as the Society delegates governmental functions to officers or to other committees independent of or in co-operation with the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 7. *Elections.* The officers and elected members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by a majority of the members of the Society present at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE 8. *Annual Meeting.* The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at any annual meeting, *provided* that written notice of any proposed amendment shall be sent to the secretary by five members of the Society not later than two months after the annual meeting and shall be transmitted by the secretary to the members of the Society at least one month before the annual meeting.

SUGGESTED BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1. *Membership and Dues*

Section 1. Any person interested in the objects of the Society may become a member upon application and recommendation by a member of the Society and the favorable vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The annual dues for active members shall be three dollars per annum, and shall entitle the member to the publications of the Society. Students of educational institutions may become associate members upon the payment of two dollars and fifty cents per annum.

ARTICLE 2. *Standing Committees*

Section 1. There shall be three standing committees on Research, Teaching, and Extension work. Each of these committees shall be composed of three members, one to be elected each year for a term of three years. The senior member of each committee shall act as its chairman. It shall be the duty of each of these committees to make inquiry as to the status and progress of that phase of rural sociology assigned to it, and to make such reports and recommendations to the Society as it may see fit.

Section 2. The Executive Committee and the chairmen of the three Standing Committees shall constitute a Program Committee for arranging the program of the annual meeting.

ARTICLE 3. *Publications*

Section 1. The quarterly journal, *Rural Sociology*, shall be the official pub-

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<i>Rural Life in Modern American Poetry</i>	Lewis H. Chrisman
<i>Regional Characteristics and Population Growth</i>	Leland B. Tate
<i>The Movement to Southern Towns and Cities</i>	Conrad Taeuber
<i>Notes</i>	Hugh B. Wood, Charles P. Loomis, and Others
<i>Current Bulletins</i>	Edited by Charles P. Loomis
<i>Book Reviews</i>	Edited by Carle C. Zimmerman
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CONTENTS

<i>Rural Youth and the Government.</i> By Aubrey Williams	3
<i>Social Security as a Function of Society.</i> By J. H. Kolb	11
<i>The Present Social Status of American Farm Tenants.</i> By Edgar A. Schuler ..	20
<i>Trends in Extension Sociology.</i> By Howard W. Beers	34
<i>Some Problems of the Extension Rural Sociologist.</i> By D. E. Lindstrom ..	42
<i>Rural Life in Modern American Poetry.</i> By Lewis H. Chrisman	48
<i>The Influence of Intra-State Regional Characteristics upon Population</i> <i>Growth.</i> By Leland B. Tate	57
<i>The Movement to Southern Farms 1930-35.</i> By Conrad Taeuber	69
<i>Notes</i>	
<i>The Formation of Rural Public Opinion.</i> By Hugh B. Wood	79
<i>What the Farmer Is Thinking About.</i> By Charles P. Loomis, E. deS. Brunner, Jr., and D. M. Davidson, Jr.	84
<i>Current Bulletins.</i> Edited by Charles P. Loomis	89
<i>Book Reviews.</i> Edited by Carle C. Zimmerman	102
Simpson, <i>The Ejido: Mexico's Way Out</i> , by N. L. Whetten	102
Lancaster, <i>Government in Rural America</i> , by T. B. Manny	104
Rawson, <i>Of the Earth Earthy: How Our Fathers Dwelt Upon and Wooed the</i> <i>Earth and Lord, Voices from the Fields: A Book of Country Songs by</i> <i>Farming People</i> , by Read Bain	105
Sorokin, <i>Social and Cultural Dynamics, Volume One: Fluctuations of Forms</i> <i>of Art</i> , by C. McCormick	107
Parsons, <i>A Puritan Outpost</i> and Lynd and Lynd, <i>Middletown in Transition</i> , by Robert K. Merton	110
Sarkar, <i>Creative India</i> ; Majumdar, <i>Ancient Indian Colonies in the Far East</i> , Vol. I, <i>Champa</i> ; Gupta, <i>The Land-System in South India</i> ; Saletore, <i>The</i> <i>Wild Tribes in Indian History</i> ; Bose, <i>The Indian Colony of Siam</i> ; and Zimmerman, <i>The Stature and Weight of the Siamese</i> , by Carle C. Zimmerman	111
Cole and Crowe, <i>Recent Trends in Rural Planning</i> , by John H. Useem	113
Reuter, <i>Population Problems, Second Edition, Revised</i> , by Irene Barnes Taeuber ..	115
Gardner, <i>Folklore from the Schoharie Hills</i> , by Richard L. Schanck	115
Cowdry, <i>The Checkered Years</i> , by C. E. Lively	116
Malinowski, <i>Coral Gardens and Their Magic: A Study of the Methods of Till-</i> <i>ing the Soil and of Agricultural Rites in the Trobriand Islands</i> , by C. Arnold Anderson	116
Gulick, <i>Mixing the Races in Hawaii</i> , by Vernon J. Parenton	117
Kenan, <i>History of Randleigh Farm</i> , by C. E. Lively	118
Ford and Ford, <i>The Abolition of Poverty</i> , by J. M. Gillette	118
Committee on Government Credit of the Twentieth Century Fund, <i>The Na-</i> <i>tional Debt and Government Credit</i> , by Roland R. Renne	119
Eaton, <i>Handicrafts of the Southern Highlands. With an Account of the Rural</i> <i>Handicraft Movement in the United States and Suggestions for the Wider</i> <i>Use of Handicrafts in Adult Education and in Recreation</i> , by Caroline B. Sherman	120
Steyer, <i>Die Wanderungsbewegung in Ostpreussen</i> and Deissman, <i>Die Verände-</i> <i>rung der Bevölkerungsverteilung in Berlin-Brandenburg 1875-1925</i> , by C. Arnold Anderson	120
Harley, <i>Surveys of Youth-Finding the Facts</i> , by E. L. Kirkpatrick	121
Griffeths, <i>The Bible and Rural Life</i> , by Carl F. Kraenzel	121
Schmid, <i>Mortality Trends in the State of Minnesota</i> , by Edgar A. Schuler	122
Hodgson, <i>The Official Publications of American Counties: A Union List</i> , by Edgar A. Schuler	122
<i>News Notes and Announcements.</i>	123
<i>Books Received.</i>	129