COMMITTEE REPORTS

I. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND RURAL LIFE

The Organization of the Committee.

The theory of organization of the committee is based on the idea that each member of the committee will become responsible for a piece of legislative study. Each member, moreover, will have a sub-committee, of his own choosing, especially perhaps a secretary who will give some time to the selected subject.

The committee has had one meeting during the year, viz, at Chicago in November. The topics or subjects for study, and proposed legislative treatment have been quite definitely settled upon. In the nature of the case, a considerable stretch of time must elapse before these studies can be brought to completion, as the materials must all be assembled anew.

II. Subjects of Study.

A.

In the field of education, it is deemed timely to collect information on the legislative steps which states have taken relating to country "teacherages." It is well-known that country schools in most sections of the United States suffer because no adequate home, or attractive abode, is provided for the teacher. The teacherage solves the home question for the country teacher, and has become an accepted idea in rural educational policy as an adjunct to the consolidated country school.

It is expected that a legislative bill will be drafted covering the subject of "teacherages" for introduction into various state legislatures.

B.

A basic deficiency in country life is the lack of municipal machinery for groups of country people who have the characteristics of a community. Community-ness requires governmental powers in order to make the community capacity effective in action. Study into the sort of territorial group which has municipal possibilities is deemed by the committee well worth while. For example, the very popular consolidated school district may prove to have municipal capacity for enlarged powers. This subject will receive the attention of the committee.

C.

Country life needs a place, a building with ample facilities for socialization, in order to develop its community consciousness and life. The subject of rural community houses, clubs, or buildings built and operated through local government agencies, is a timely subject of inquiry. The committee will assemble the laws on this subject and endeavor to promote by appropriate legislation, the building of such community centers.
D.

Rural health is a subject of grave economic as well as of humanitarian concern. The committee wishes, therefore, to speed the introduction of the most approved agencies which minister to the health of rural populations. The county nurse probably has been so approved. The extension of hospital service to country people is a pressing need. The committee will make the country public nurse and the country hospital a legislative topic.

III.

Legislative Propaganda

As soon as a legislative subject shall have been studied, a bill been framed, and a bulletin published, the question of pushing for legislation in the states will arise. It is anticipated that at this point it will be necessary to have a promoting committee in each state. Possibly the association should instruct each of its committees in regard to promotion policies.

(Signed) C. J. GALPIN, Chairman.
   E. C. BRANSON,
   K. L. BUTTERFIELD,
   H. W. FOGHT,
   A. R. MANN.

STATEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ROADS

By J. CLYDE MARQUIS, Chairman

The following members are recommended for the Committee:
J. Clyde Marquis, Chairman.
Dr. Hess, Economist, University of Wisconsin.
H. S. Shirley, National Highway Council, Washington, D. C.
Pike Johnson, American Automobile Association, Washington, D. C.

The scope of work proposed by the Committee includes the following:
2. A review of national and state highway policies and methods of administration.
3. The economic factors determining the proper development of highways.

The Committee proposes to work in close co-operation with the Office of Public Roads and the Roads' Committees of all other organizations in the development of a national highway policy for the purpose of aiding in the direction of public interest and sentiment on highway matters. We propose to immediately prepare a statement concerning the impending legislation providing for a national highway system, now before Congress, by securing an expression of sentiment from the members of the Association of Agricultural Legislation.

Washington, D. C., December 26, 1919.