EDUCATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL LIFE

C. J. Galpin, Washington, D. C., Chairman
E. C. Branson, North Carolina  H. L. Butterfield, Massachusetts

The Committee on Education and Improvement of Rural Life presents the following plan of study for the year:
1. The five members will each head a sub-committee.
2. Each sub-committee will aim to prepare a bulletin elaborating a special rural social problem,—ending with a legislative bill applicable to the case.
3. (a) President Foght will prepare a bulletin on "Rural School Grounds."
   (b) President Butterfield on "Steps in Rural Organization."
   (c) Professor Galpin, "Rural Community Houses, through Taxation."
   (d) Dean Mann, "The County Nurse Movement."
   (e) President Branson, "Some Suggestions on County Government."

MARKETING STUDY PROGRAM

E. G. Nourse, Iowa State College, Chairman.
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Within the last few years a considerable amount of legislation dealing with marketing problems has found a place on the statute books of the various states. Some of this has been carefully thought out and has proved successful in operation, whereas other acts have been quite otherwise. It would seem distinctly worth while before further experiments in this field are made that we should make a careful critical study of present laws with the idea that the best methods of the various states should be copied with suitable adaptation in other states which as yet have not inaugurated such legislation or whose laws have proved less successful under the test of experience and, likewise, that the errors of the pioneer states may be made a warning and source of guidance to others.

It seems particularly fitting that the Association for Agricultural Legislation, through its Committee on Markets, should become a clearing-house for such information and a means of bringing together fairly comparable statements of the market legislation system as it now exists in the various states. To this end a brief outline is, herewith, presented in the hope that educational institutions in different parts of the country may find it a convenient means of aligning the efforts of their students or research workers.
with one another so as to get a fairly comprehensive view of the present situation throughout the country.

Not all of our states, to be sure, have any formal market agency at the present time and in such states studies under the first heading would be out of the question except in those cases where agitation for such a bureau or department has occurred in the past, in which instances a historical sketch of the movement might yield helpful results. In almost every state, however, probably in all, there are some pieces of legislation which would form the basis for studies under the second or third headings; or the need of market legislation, where it does not exist, might profitably be studied and set forth for later legislative efforts.

The following outline is merely suggestive, and any additions or modifications which seem desirable to those who decide to co-operate in the work would be welcomed by the committee. It is especially requested that all who do undertake studies under this plan of co-operation advise the chairman of the committee as soon as their plans have taken sufficiently definite shape. Probably this information could, in all cases, be furnished by December 1 in the form of a progress report which may be incorporated in a report of the committee to the general meeting of the Association which will be held at the end of December.

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR CO-OPERATIVE LOCAL STUDIES OF STATE MARKET LEGISLATION

I. State Market Bureaus or Marketing Division of Agricultural Department.
   (a) Historical sketch
       First perception of the need of market legislation
       Interests identified with the movement
       Evolution of a concrete plan and framing of bill:
       Local influences
       Imitation of other states
       Influence of Bureau of Markets or other outside agencies
       Legislative discussion, amendment, etc.
   (b) Critical analysis
       The nature of the need
       Suitability of the law and market machinery set up.
       Adequacy of funds provided
       Quality of the personnel entrusted with its operation
       (political or professional qualifications)
   (c) Scope of the act
       Limited to dairy, horticultural or other special products, or including all farm products.
       Functions undertaken
       Regulatory—
       Sanitary inspection
       Cold storage regulation

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Commercial practices  
Public markets  
Pure food, seed, and fertilizer laws  
Investigational—Statistics of—  
Production  
Market distribution  
Prices  
Market news  
Marketing studies  
Transportation studies

Power of the Bureau to secure compliance

(d) Organization of Bureau or Department (details dependent upon local condition)

(e) Results obtained  
Data of economies effected, abuses remedied, or market facilities improved  
Opinions held by—  
Producers  
Consumers  
Dealers  
Cost of the system as a test of its worth

(f) Merits and defects of the system  
Specific suggestions for modifications or additions in the light of experience  
Exposition of the effectiveness of certain provisions of the law, which might profitably be copied elsewhere.

II. Standardization and grading laws.  
(a) Peculiar problems of given state or region  
(b) History of legislation

(c) Outline of laws—  
Those dealing with commodities  
Those dealing with containers

(d) Relation of State to Federal laws.

(e) Provisions for enforcement

(f) Results accomplished and probable trend of future efforts.

III. Detailed studies of special market problems.

(a) Cold storage legislation

(b) Regulation of transportation and terminal agencies

(c) Public markets

(d) Licensing and bonding measures

(e) Lessons of the Food Administration

(f) Laws governing co-operative organizations of producers or consumers

(g) Collective bargaining and laws against combinations in restraint of trade

IV. Methods of work and sources of material.

In view of the fact that the main purpose is to secure first-hand studies of local conditions, it is obvious that no detailed
suggestions can be given as to sources of material. Facts must be gathered by patient work in the field in contact with the agencies and conditions to be discussed. It is assumed that the instructors in the various co-operating institutions will be best able to put the actual field worker in touch with such materials as are available for his assistance. In the main these will consist of statute books, regulatory announcements, the journals of the legislative sessions in which the respective laws were enacted, current newspaper files, and the publications of various departments of the respective state governments, or occasionally of municipal officials.

Those who direct this work will readily appreciate the fact that its chief value will lie in the accuracy and completeness of the information collected and of the care with which local peculiarities governing the success or failure of the respective local enterprises are analyzed. If all the parts of the work are done in this spirit, we shall secure eventually an historical and comparative study, both statistical and critical in character, which will prove of inestimable value in the guidance of further market legislation.

V. Federal market legislation.

While the Markets Committee deems it advisable at the present time to put the chief stress upon state marketing laws, there is also ample opportunity for valuable work to be done in studying the operation and effects of Federal legislation as seen in different parts of the country. Roughly, such studies would probably fall under one of the following heads.

(a) Market news service
(b) Federal grades and inspection service
(c) The Interstate Commerce Commission and its regulation of shipping and terminal services and charges.
(d) Federal Trade Commission and its effect upon organized exchanges, the packers, and other market organizations.
(e) Extension activities in connection with marketing.

TAXATION AS IT RELATES TO AGRICULTURE

J. D. Black, Minnesota, Chairman.


A. A. Young, New York. John R. Commons, Wisconsin.

I. Classification of existing taxes which fall upon agriculture.

II. Public expenditures in the United States for agriculture—proportion of various revenues which revert to agriculture and to the agricultural classes.

A. Federal
B. State
C. Local

III. Existing tax legislation in the United States affecting agriculture.