

## RURAL SANITATION

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Rural communities comprise the farm, the hamlet and the village, or the unincorporated, in contradistinction to the incorporated community. Sanitation is the practical application of measures for the preservation and promotion of public health.

Concerning the value of sanitation, employers find it profitable to maintain and safeguard the health of their employees, and to provide good working conditions for them in order to obtain maximum efficiency. Sanitation, therefore, is a valuable aid in money making and money saving. It is this important feature of the value of Sanitation which it is desirable to advertise, so that business men will use it in their business. **Every experienced and wide-awake business manager realizes** that if he provides sanitary work room, with good air and light and space, and free from noxious and harmful gases, dust, noises, etc., he can more readily retain his skillful employees, and that it is to his financial benefit to keep his employees healthy and fit in order to get their best efforts. The more perfect the sanitary conditions of a home, a factory, a mine or a store, the more comfortable and attractive the occupants find their environments, and the greater are their disposition, desire and ability to do good work. Environment is a potent factor in human success, and sanitation improves environment.

While it is clearly the right and function of the State to make and enforce its own police regulations, it is lamentable that this function is not more uniformly and adequately performed. There are several reasons for this failure, but the principal one is that the populace do not appreciate the practical value of sanitation, and therefore neglect to provide sufficiently for its enforcement.

The Federal Government, having legitimate interest in the economic development and general welfare of the nation, and appreciating the urgent necessity of developing more fully the agricultural industries, has undertaken to make the rural communities more attractive and more profitable. This educational activity in no wise whatsoever interferes with the

jurisdiction of the State, but it materially aids the State authorities in extending, developing and maintaining sanitary conditions. In the furtherance of the "Back to the Farm" movement, the Federal and State authorities are co-operating, and those of us who are engaged in public health work realize that as the rural communities become more densely populated and the lines of communication become more numerous, the occurrence and prevalence of disease will seriously menace the success of the movement, unless adequate sanitation is provided and actively maintained. The more frequent and easy the communication between rural communities, the greater the likelihood of the introduction and spread of disease, not only of man, but of domestic animals.

But the purpose of Rural Sanitation is not only to establish and maintain conditions conducive to health, but to eradicate diseases which prevent the safe residence in certain sections. Many fertile acres cannot be cultivated profitably because such diseases as Malaria, Typhoid Fever, Hookworm Disease and Rocky Mountain Fever too seriously interfere with those who undertake the work.

It is a matter of common observation that the sources of infection in many cases of typhoid fever and malaria which actually develop in our large cities, are traceable to rural communities such as summer resorts, roadhouses, picnic grounds, and the small towns and villages which the city residents have visited. Insanitation in rural communities is a constant and growing menace to the public health and to business prosperity. The touring car, automobile truck and interurban cars are bringing the communities into more frequent communication, and it behooves the people to take out sanitary insurance as well as fire insurance, for they are both business propositions. Sanitation is a business matter, and not a sentimental fad.

Insanitation in certain rural communities is closely related to and dependent upon insanitation in the incorporated towns whose taxpayers support inactive mayors, councils and health officers. Too often do farmers go into town to purchase supplies and carry back to their homes typhoid fever and other preventable infections. Such misfortune may happen during the busy season when the farmer needs all the help he can get to till the soil and carry on his other activities. It is bad enough

if he loses the service of but one of his helpers, but such is not, as a rule, the only misfortune, for if his premises are insanitary, the chances are that a depot of infection will be established on his farm from which other members of his household or employees obtain the disease. And if he happens to be a dairy farmer, how easily does he distribute these infections in his dairy products, which are often sold as pure, rich milk, and delicious ice cream, to the sons and daughters of the progressive taxpayer. But the taxpayer gets what he pays for, and the people are the taxpayers.

We have, however, undertaken to bring about the establishment and the maintenance of sanitation, and we shall succeed.