

**THE RURAL MIND
AND
SOCIAL WELFARE**

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The rural mind and social welfare by Ernest R. Groves

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ERNEST R. GROVES

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THE RURAL MIND AND SOCIAL WELFARE

By ERNEST R. GROVES

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Church, Rural Problems of Today, etc.*

With Foreword

By KENYON L. BUTTERFIELD

President of Massachusetts Agricultural College



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TO
CATHERINE, ERNESTINE, AND RUTH



PREFACE

The supreme need of our time is social sanity. Civilization has been shaken until at every point there are evidences of our social insecurity. Herd-suggestion was never more powerful nor more menacing. The ever-increasing drift of people to the cities provides, as the social psychologists, McDougall and Trotter, have pointed out, the ideal breeding-conditions for that crowd-suggestibility which more than anything else may endanger our convalescing civilization.

Those who call attention to the social risk involved in this movement of population to the cities assume that people who live in the country contribute to our national life influences of substantial social worth. The character of urban experience has been well analyzed and its social value is generally recognized. This book attempts to analyze in detail the rural social mind for the purpose of emphasizing its significance in our national life. Rural people have a greater social function than merely to grow food for city dwellers. They also contribute to modern society attitudes of mind of indispensable value. Not that country people are inherently different from city people. Living in a different environment they naturally