

**COMMUNITY DRAMA:  
ITS MOTIVE AND METHOD  
OF NEIGHBORLINESS**

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Community Drama: Its Motive and Method of Neighborliness by Percy Mackaye

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**PERCY MACKAYE**

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# COMMUNITY DRAMA

Its Motive and Method of  
NEIGHBORLINESS

An Interpretation  
by  
PERCY MACKAYE

*Brown*



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## PREFACE

THE present essay is the substance of an address delivered by me before the American Civic Association at its annual meeting, at the Hotel Willard, Washington, D.C., December 13, 1916, Miss Margaret Woodrow Wilson presiding. At that conference of workers in the fields of public education, recreation, and community organizing, the experts there gathered expressed their very real enthusiasm for the practicability and progressiveness of the ideas which I sought to suggest for their earnest consideration.

## PREFACE

Those ideas — for a new method of community building, for a dynamic, coöperative means of education in community aims, for a loyalty to those aims at once spontaneous and disciplined, for a purposeful efficiency of neighborliness — apply not less, but more, since our entrance into the World War with the exalted purpose expressed by President Wilson of helping to make the world permanently “safe for democracy.”

Especially, I think, at this time they might be applied with excellent results to the inspiring task, immense in its scope and meaning, which the newly appointed Federal Commission on

## PREFACE

Training Camp Activities is undertaking for America. That task is to establish "a great affirmative system, instead of a merely sterile negative one," for the healthful development of our nation's young men under military conscription, as an offset to the scourging menaces of drink and sexual immorality.

Here is the opportunity for America to create a new kind of army — a new kind of community in arms for the attainment of democratic world-freedom: an army in which "the moral equivalent of war" shall be quickened and organized within the very fabric of the fighting machine itself: a fighting