

CIRCULAR NO. 188

A System for Scoring Kentucky Rural Communities.

By W. D. Nicholls*

One of the greatest needs of rural people to-day is to bring together and make use of their various potential forces for the improvement of community life. When the farmer's problem first began to receive systematic study, the phase of the problem studied was that of gaining and applying scientific knowledge for the improvement of crops and live stock. Later, stress was placed on the economic phase of the problem and the application of business methods and practices by which farm products might be produced and sold most economically and profitably. More recently a third phase of the problem has come to be studied, the social or community phase. Farming people have come to realize that there are certain phases of their problem which cannot be solved by individual action but call for collective or group action, and if they are to have contented and satisfying lives they must learn to organize their forces for united effort.

Numerous examples of successful community organization demonstrate the fact that marked improvement in rural com-

*ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Special acknowledgment is due Professor T. R. Bryant, assistant director of agricultural extension, and Mr. C. A. Mahan, state leader of county agents of the College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, for suggestions and constructive criticisms of this circular. For the preparation of the section on agriculture acknowledgment is due Professors E. S. Good, J. J. Hooper, L. J. Horlacher, J. H. Martin, Wayland Rhoads, E. J. Wilford, George Roberts, E. J. Kinney and C. W. Mathews, of the College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, and to Mr. L. C. Brewer, Fayette County agricultural agent; and for the section on homes to Miss Myrtle Weldon, state leader of home demonstration agents. The section on health and sanitation was prepared by Dr. J. S. Chambers and Miss Nancy P. Meyers, of the Fayette County public health unit. The section on education was prepared by the staff of the College of Education of the University of Kentucky. In the preparation of the entire circular the community score card of the University of West Virginia has been drawn upon freely, for which special acknowledgment is due Professor Nat T. Frame, Director of Agricultural Extension of the University of West Virginia.