

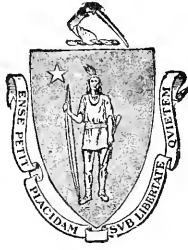
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PAMPHLETS

ON

THE COUNTRY CHURCH

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Federal council of the churches of Christ in
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General Association of Congregational Churches
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Taylor, G. Basis for social evangelism with rural
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Wells, G. F. What our country churches need

Wilson, W. H. The church and the transient

Wilson, W. H. Conservation of boys

Wilson, W. H. The country church

Wilson, W. H. The country church program

Wilson, W. H. Don't breathe on the thermometer

Wilson, W. H. The farmers' church and the farmers'
college


Wilson, W. H. Getting the worker to church



- Wilson, W. H. The girl on the farm
- Wilson, W. H. How to manage a country life
institute
- Wilson, W. H. "Marrying the land."
- Wilson, W. H. No need to be poor in the country
- Wilson, W. H. Synod's opportunity
- Wilson, W. H. What limits the rural Evangel

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The church and country life. Pamphlet issued
by the Board of Home Missions of the Presby-
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The Farmers' Church and the Farmers' College

By WARREN H. WILSON, Ph.D.

THREE laymen of national reputation have publicly favored the education of ministers in part in agricultural colleges. Ministers themselves, however, realize that their work calls for an education in Sociology. While this problem is being adjusted by the theological seminaries, the present generation of country ministers are called on to produce results now. The best expedient for meeting this situation is the mutual service of ministers and agricultural experts. The annual meeting of every Presbytery and Synod for some years to come should hear an address by a representative of scientific agriculture.

The State and National governments maintain schools and colleges of agriculture and experiment stations, which are well manned. Out from these an extensive system of farmers' institutes keeps a multitude of selected lecturers in the field, who are students of rural life and generally men of high character. Among them are many Christian men of vision and leadership. The value of these men and the service they can render to country and town churches has not been fully appreciated.

These experts are ready to serve under given conditions without cost to the community, as lecturers and advocates of various phases of rural prosperity. Some of them are now rendering valuable service through churches and religious assemblies. But generally this corps of leaders in rural prosperity do not themselves realize how greatly the country church

can help them in their approach to the rural community. The farmer has scoffed at the farmers' institute. An alliance between the institute lecturer and the country minister should more than double the value of the institutes. The time is at hand for the co-operation of these prophets of rural prosperity with the country churches, whose prophetic function has the attention of the country population.

Country life is one. The industrial, social, moral and religious life of farmers constitute not several different interests, but a single problem of rural revival. In the country each man is a laborer, and each man is a merchant, and each man practices in some degree a profession. There is no police force nor fire department. Each man is a policeman and each man a fireman. Similarly, all the problems of the country fall upon every member of the population. The financial prosperity of the country is bound up with its moral well-being, and the ethical movements of country life have their home in the church. Says a leading agricultural editor: "There will never be a revival of agricultural prosperity without a revival of religion." And the other side of this truth was expressed by a church official of national prominence, who declares: "The country church will never prosper till ministers learn how to till the soil."

Among the leaders in the revival of rural life are L. H. Bailey, of Cornell University; Kenyon L. Butterfield, of Amherst Agricultural College; Gifford Pinchot, ex-Forester of the United States; Harry Hayward, director in Delaware College; "Joe" Wing, of Mechanicsburg, Ohio, and other men in the various states, who have recognized that country life cannot be improved by increasing crops alone, but by the co-operation of every institution of the rural community in the interest of the betterment of the people of the farm and village.

