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newspapers? It is only in Nature and by thought on the problems of Nature that our intellect grows to any real truth and draws near to the Mighty Mind which laid the foundations of the world.

Our civilizations are a nightmare, a bad dream. They have no longer the grandeur of Babylon or Nineveh. They grow meaner and meaner as they grow more urbanized. What could be more depressing than the miles of poverty-stricken streets around the heart of any modern city? The memory lies on one "heavy as frost and deep almost as life." It is terrible to think of the children playing on the pavements, the depletion of vitality, with an artificial stimulus supplied by flaring drink shops. The spirit grows heavy as if death lay on it while it moves amid such things. And outside these places the clouds are flying overhead, snowy and spiritual as of old, the sun is shining, the winds are blowing, the forests are murmuring leaf to leaf, the fields are green, but the magic that God made is unknown to these poor folk. Truly the creation of a rural civilization is the greatest need of our time. It may not come in our days, but we can lay the foundations of it, preparing the way for the true prophet when he will come.

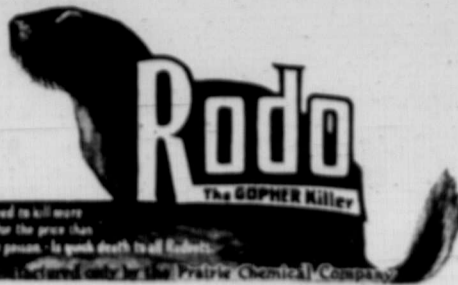
#### The Real Problem

The fight now is not to bring people back to the land, but to keep those who are on the land contented, happy and prosperous. And we must begin by organizing them to defend what is left to them, to take back, industry by industry, what was stolen from them. We must organize the country people into communities, for without some kind of communal life men hold no more together than the drifting sands by the seashore. There is a natural order in which men have instinctively grouped themselves from the dawn of time. It is as natural to them to do so as it is for bees to build their hexagonal cells. If we read the history of civilization we will find people in every land forming little clans co-operating together. Then the ambition of rulers or warriors breaks them up; the greed of powerful men puts an end to them. But, whether broken or not, the moment the rural dweller is left to himself he begins again, with nature prompting him, to form little clans, or nations rather, with his fellows, and it is there life has been happiest. We did this in ancient Ireland. The baronies whose names are on Irish land today and the counties are survivals of these old co-operative colonies, where the men owned the land together and elected their own leaders and formed their own social order and engendered passionate loyalties and affections. It was so in every land under the sun. It was so in ancient India and in ancient Peru. The European farmers and we in Ireland along with them are beginning again the eternal task of building up a civilization in nature, the task so often disturbed, the labor so often destroyed. And it is with the hope that you in America will build better than we that I have put together for you these thoughts on the Rural Community.

#### REV. DR. NEWELL DWIGHT HILLIS

Dr. Hillis is pastor of the famous Plymouth church of Brooklyn, New York, and very much in the limelight as a result of the financial difficulties in which he finds himself as a result of long years of speculation in timber and coal lands. Dr. Hillis, then a broker friend, purchased large areas of timber and mining lands in British Columbia, but lost money on his transactions and is now having his affairs investigated by the courts. Dr. Hillis was born in Iowa in 1848, and educated at Chicago. He is one of the best known preachers in the neighboring Republic but is probably better known as a writer, being the author of a score or more books such as, "A Man's Value to Society," "The Investment of Influence," etc.

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