

had been included in an appendix. Some more background on the evolution of the idea of military service obligation would also have been helpful; the Civil War draft was not as much of a "new departure" as Murdock emphasizes. The author chose to present the bulk of his material in a series of examples within topical chapters. By eliminating several examples, particularly in the chapters dealing with brokers and bounty jumpers, he could have avoided giving a redundant effect to what is a good, solid monograph—a real contribution to Civil War historiography.

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The Reluctant Farmer: The Rise of Agricultural Extension to 1914.
By Roy V. Scott. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1970.
Pp. xi, 362. Notes, bibliography, index. \$8.95.)

Several years ago Professor Scott staked out the history of farm institutes as his particular area of research. He has published several articles on their development and related activities in particular states. Now the entire story has been brought together in what probably will be regarded as the definitive work on the subject.

Agricultural education has been a complex development over America's entire history as a nation. The problem has been, at least in part, that leaders have developed various institutions to conduct research and encourage farmers to adopt new methods. At the same time farmers have been reluctant to adopt changes until they have been proven successful. Very simply, an ordinary farmer cannot afford to risk an entire year's crop on a chance he might gain.

In tracing the rise of agricultural education, Scott goes back to the gentlemen farmers and agricultural societies of the nation's first years. He follows with a brief review of the early agricultural press and the passage of the agrarian legislation of 1862. While important, these activities did not reach the ordinary farmer, at least in their early years. Instead, according to Scott, the farmers' institute movement, often related to the agricultural colleges and experiment stations, was the first educational activity to reach large numbers of farmers. The movement, stemming from diverse sources, began to succeed after at least a few farmers in a given state became interested. Actually, many of the first attempts failed, but, after successful efforts in New England, the movement spread.

Institute work in Ohio and Michigan stimulated developments in Indiana. However, after a beginning in 1882, no further effort was made in Indiana until 1889. In that year the legislature appropriated

\$5,000 and assigned the leadership to Purdue University. The trustees created a committee consisting of the president of the university, the director of the experiment station, and the professor of agriculture, William C. Latta. They named Latta the superintendent of institutes. Under his supervision the program grew until it was reaching farmers in every county. Purdue University maintained overall supervision and furnished many of the speakers and material for demonstrations at the various institutes.

As a result of the success of the institutes and of similar work by a number of railroads, it became apparent that the land grant colleges needed to develop new approaches. After attempts to reach farmers by such devices as demonstration farms, the county agent system developed. While the author gives Seaman A. Knapp credit for the system, he points out that it was not entirely original with Knapp, and that it was surrounded by major controversy. Subsequently, the county agent system became a joint project of the state colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture as spelled out in the Smith-Lever Act of 1914.

Scott bases his account upon source materials and lists most of the important secondary materials in his bibliography. He has done well the difficult task of summarizing the experiences of most states with institutes without getting trapped in monotonous detail. The book is well indexed—something this reviewer counts on in University of Illinois Press volumes.

The importance of the book lies in the fact that the diffusion of technology and the spread of knowledge among farmers is a key to increased agricultural productivity. The problem, as Scott points out, is not limited to the United States. Indeed, it is of even greater interest to those charged with agricultural improvement in the less developed nations. This volume should be read by economists and others concerned with problems of overseas development.

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The Legitimacy of the Business Corporation in the Law of the United States, 1780-1970. By James Willard Hurst. (Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1970. Pp. xiii, 191. Notes, bibliography, index. \$6.50.)

James Willard Hurst, Vilas Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin, is the leader of a group of historians whose subject is the social history of law. Hurst believes that law grows out of man's