

Julian Edward Butterworth

October 2, 1884 — April 3, 1961

Julian E. Butterworth, Professor Emeritus of Rural Education, was born in Dow City, Iowa, the son of Charles Edward and Ida May Butterworth. He received the A.B., A.M., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Iowa. His distinguished professional career began as a teacher of English in Iowa from 1907 to 1911) followed in succession by college and university appointments as Processor of Psychology at Duluth State Normal School; Professor of Secondary Education and Dean of the College of Education at the University of Wyoming; Professor of Rural Education at Cornell University from 1919 to 1952, director of the Graduate School of Education, 1931-1944, and Professor Emeritus since 1952.

Early in his professional career Julian Butterworth contributed significantly to the studies of the famous Committee of Twenty-One, of which he was a Member, in the development of programs for the improvement of rural education in New York State. He also helped to advance the scope and quality of education in rural areas through his research as chief consultant in the comprehensive study of the intermediate school district for the New York State Department of Education. His studies were supported by financial grants from the legislature and they resulted in the adoption of permissive legislation for the merger and enlargement of school districts for the purpose of providing special educational services, which small school districts could not afford to provide. As an interim step, this law provided for the establishment of Boards of Cooperative Educational Services. Many such boards have been established with resulting increases and improvements in the character and quality of educational services provided for thousands of boys and girls in rural and suburban areas of New York State.

Julian Butterworth also served as a consultant in state surveys in Virginia and New Jersey, and as director of the New Haven, Connecticut, School Survey in 1947. Following his retirement in 1952, he served as consultant to the United States Office of Education.

Many professional organizations benefited from his research and active support, including the New York State Council on Rural Education, the National Commission on School District Reorganization, and the National Commission on the Intermediate School District. He was a founder of the Cornell Parent-Teacher Institute, an organization that has served the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers for thirty-five years. The thirty-fifth program of this organization included special recognition of the services and leadership of Dr. Butterworth.

The American Association of School Administrators presented its distinguished service award to him in 1958, in the following words:

To Julian E. Butterworth

America has been blessed with many leaders who helped build our great system of public schools. Possibly no one has contributed so much to the development of the sound structure and efficient administration of the rural and small town areas as has Julian Butterworth. For his foresight in anticipating kaleidoscopic social and economic change and for his assiduous guidance to thousands of students of school administration headed for sparsely populated areas, we take pride in bestowing upon him this award of excellence and distinction.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Julian Butterworth was a member of the National Society of College Teachers of Education, the National Society for the Study of Education, Phi Beta Kappa, and Phi Delta Kappa. He was the author of several professional books, the last of which was entitled *The Modern Rural School*. That book is a standard reference text in its field.

Following his retirement, he and Mrs. Butterworth established the Julian E. and Veta S. Butterworth Award Endowment, from which awards are made to outstanding Cornell graduates in school administration.

Julian Butterworth was an extraordinary and inspiring teacher. He expected much of his students, and they responded appreciatively to his leadership. He knew where they could use their individual talents best and helped them to reach their objectives. Today they occupy administrative and leadership positions in school systems, in state departments of education, in colleges and universities, in state and national associations of teachers, and in foreign service.

He had great faith in the common sense and good judgment of rural people and in the democratic processes. Though a modest man, he also was realistic and uncompromising. One evidence of the sincerity of this faith and these traits was the development at Cornell of an effective University-Public School plan of cooperation in providing student-teaching experiences in the preparation of teachers and other school personnel. In the process of this development, he was instrumental in attracting to Cornell both eminent faculty and able students from many parts of the United States.

Julian Butterworth is survived by his wife, the former Veta Laura Scott, whom he married in 1909; by his son, Dr. Julian Scott Butterworth; and by two grandchildren.

William A. Smith, Donald J. McCarty, Claude L. Kulp