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*Rural Cuba.* By LOWRY NELSON. The University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis. 185 pages. c1950.

R. NELSON planned to make a sociological study of the Caribbean area, but upon surveying the field he believed it better to concentrate his year of study and limit it to Cuba. Sponsored by the State Department, he made the study in 1945-46.

The limiting of the work to Cuba allowed Dr. Nelson to review the Island's history in regard to land ownership and use, to analyze the available data on population, and to do fairly extensive first-hand field work. In fact, he traveled 1,800 miles by motortruck, railway, and horseback or horse-drawn vehicle in his visits to and over the areas he selected for study.

Eleven areas were selected for their representativeness of the Island as a whole. Two areas each were characterized by tobacco farming, coffee-production, sugar-cane growing; three areas were devoted largely to dairying in its different phases; and two were characterized by diversified farming under varying circumstances. At least two huge plantations, one owned by a wealthy Cuban family firm and one by an American firm, were included as well as a great many small or family-

sized farms, both owned and tenant-occupied. Both white and colored people were among the operators of the farms.

The Cuban Ministry of Agriculture and the American Embassy gave full cooperation. Detailed schedules for 742 families were obtained through interviews by Cuban agriculturist inspectors, or by young Cuban women employees of the Ministry who had been trained in the School of Social Service, University of Havana. The lengthy schedule covered such matters as family composition, housing, farming, land tenure, diet, family expenditure, and recreation.

As an end product, this report gives a comprehensive view of rural Cuba through over-all descriptions of the people, the uses of the land, major crops grown, class structure, levels of living, and organization and education of rural Cuban families. The historical and census materials have been effectively integrated into the report along with human interest observations and the data compiled from the field schedule. Readers will wish, however, for photographs of the many picturesque rural situations here described so vividly.

*Arthur F. Raper*