

Baker, Ray Stannard (1870-1946)

Encyclopedia Article

Baker, Ray Stannard (1870-1946)

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Ray Stannard Baker became both a leading muckraking journalist of the Progressive era and an acclaimed writer of nonfiction books and pastoral prose. A native of Michigan, he worked as a reporter for the *Chicago Record* from 1892 to 1897 and joined the staff of the innovative and popular *McClure's* magazine in 1898. His influential articles, including "The Right to Work" (1903) and "The Railroads on Trial" (1905-1906), helped make the magazine the nation's foremost muckraking journal. Known for his fair-mindedness, Baker exposed both union and corporate malfeasance. In 1906 he helped form the *American Magazine*, also devoted to progressive causes, and co-edited it until 1916. From 1906 to 1942, under the pseudonym of David Grayson, Baker wrote an extremely popular series of novels celebrating the rural life. He was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1940 for his eight-volume biography of Woodrow Wilson.

Further Reading:

Baker, Ray Stannard. *Native American: The Book of My Youth*. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1941.

———. *American Chronicle: The Autobiography of Ray Stannard Baker*. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1945.

Bannister, Robert C., Jr. *Ray Stannard Baker: The Mind and Thought of a Progressive*. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1966.

Semonche, John E. *Ray Stannard Baker: A Quest for Democracy in Modern America, 1870-1918*. Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1969.