NEW LAB AND COTTAGES SWELL BUILDING TOTAL

Fifteen Buildings Now on Campus—Students Will Do Finish Work

Building was the preferred industrial activity at Commonwealth during the last fortnight, although much other work is being carried on. The carpenters' activities will continue to be the most conspicuous feature of the industrial program during the next couple of months. Returning students have on their hands the job of making partially-finished dormitories, and cottages weather-tight before the arrival of cold and rainy November.

Prominent among recent constructive achievements is a new building devoted to class rooms and laboratories, and situated 25 yards east of the present office building, between the office and the commons. Large according to Commonwealth standards, it measures approximately 35'x42'.

A new cottage, destined for occupancy by one of the teachers, is aris­ing on the edge of the bluff bordering Mill Creek, a few hundred yards upstream from the bachelors' quarters. It is Commonwealth's fifteenth building. An addition to another teachers' cottage is being put up.

Student Jobs Plentiful.

Commonwealth custom is to sheathe the roof and put on the roofing of a building as soon as the frame is up. Then the siding is put on during rainy weather or at other times when work in the open is impracticable or disagreeable. Doors, windows, interior finish, and in many instances the finished flooring, are left until returning students relieve the summer labor shortage. Often buildings are in active use before these modern conveniences are added.

Last year windowless and doorless quarters were tenanted without damage to health but with considerable inconvenience until late in November. This year it is hoped to handle the finishing touches with more dispatch, for the incoming student body shows a respectable quota of carpenters.

S. O. S.

Commonwealth sorely needs a first-class dictionary. At present the best dictionary facilities it can offer students are represented by a 10-volume edition of the Century Dictionary, published in 1901 and belonging to a staff member. This is far from satisfactory.

A gift that would be much appreciated and long remembered is a copy of one of the late Century Dictionaries—either the single-volume or the 12-volume edition. The latter is preferred. If the Century is unavailable any modern unabridged dictionary would be useful and welcome. Commonwealth are hoping that some friend will make this gift before school opens October 4.

FOOD HOARD INCREASES

Seventeen hundred quarts of canned fruit and vegetables, piled high in the Commonwealth store­room, now await voracious students, who will attack them vigorously early in October. Conspicuous are 592 quarts of peaches—the largest single item in the collection—and 276 quarts of blackberries. Canned sweet corn, tomatoes, string beans, cabbage, and carrots are also present in respectable quantities. Significant additions will be made to the total within the next thirty days.

Completion of a fruit and vegetable cellar was delayed by the appearance of a ledge of solid rock six feet down. So the winter supply of vegetables is stowed away in unlikely places all over the campus. Nestled underneath the bachelors' quarters (alias The Castle) are 250 bushels of Irish potatoes. The Law Library, as yet untenanted by erudition, shelters 30 bushels of onions. These will soon be joined by three varieties of dried beans and quantities of sweet potatoes. The hoard is adequate to insure hungry Commonwealths plenty of all these dietary stand-bys during the coming school year.

From Builder to Bean-Picker.

At Commonwealth one must above all be versatile. The head of the building department only must [Continued on Page Four]

LEGION LOSES SLEEP OVER COMMONWEALTH

Heroes' Convention at Little Rock Disturbed by Tales of Red Gold

Charges that Commonwealth College was heavily endowed by the "reds" dispelled somnolence at the closing session of the convention of the Arkansas American Legion recently held at Little Rock, and, according to press dispatches, threw the meeting into an uproar.

One Joseph Morrison, native of the 100 percent American city of Stuttgart, Arkansas, was the storm center. Morrison is a former state commander of the Legion and recently was campaign manager for Arkansas Governor Terrall's unsuccessful attempt to gain re-nomination on the Democratic ticket. He mounted the rostrum and unfolded a tale of red terror which seared delegates wide awake and recalled the Palmery days of 1917-20.

Implicates Department of Justice.

Stating that his charges were based upon a report of the United States Department of Justice which he did not then have in his possession, Morrison asserted that Commonwealth had received an endowment of $100,000 from the I. W. W. and $50,000 from Soviet Russia. Once having gone as far as that, of course the phrases "Bolshevism," "sovietism," "communism," and the inevitable "free love" were also introduced and freely flourished. A resolution was proposed demanding legislation barring Commonwealth from the state. It failed of passage after a stormy executive session, and the matter was referred to the Legion executive committee, which was given full power to investigate and act. "Final disposition," says the Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock) "was interpreted by many Legionnaires as a virtual tabling of the resolution."

Emphatic Denial.

Asked by the Associated Press for a statement of Commonwealth's position, Educational Director Zeuch wired as follows:

The statement made at the American Legion Convention, to [Continued on Page Two]
Great Suffering Railroads!

By ALBERT DAKAN

The following article gives another angle on the present plight of American agriculture, which has been discussed in the Fortnightly on several occasions. Mr. Dakan is secretary of the Colorado Taxpayers' Association.—Editor.

The results of an intimate study of the financial condition of the major railroad lines joining in the petition now before the Interstate Commerce Commission for an increase in freight rates in the western United States are striking. They appear to indicate very strongly that these roads do not need the increase in freight rates in the western States are striking. They appear to indicate very strongly that these roads do not need the increase in freight rates requested.

Farmers and consumers will be interested in the summary of this investigation, made by the writer. Even its teachers are organized as a local of the American Federation of Teachers, affiliated with the Kansa­ sas State Federation of Labor and the American Federation of Labor. Press Poo-Pooha.

Although a few newspapers outside the state showed themselves disposed to make the most of the can­ that the treatment accorded the Commonwealth with a surplus of $134,415,000. That and has grown each year since until to date its surplus is reported to be approximately $150,000,000. It owns the Colorado and Southern railway, with its surplus of an additional $5,000,000.

Let us divide the major western lines that are asking for higher rates into three geographical groups, and see how their treasuries look.

* * *

WHAT IS COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE?

Commonwealth was organized in 1923 to provide education for workers on a self-supporting basis.

Commonwealth is located in the Ozarks near Mena, Ark., where it operates agri­ cultural and other basic industries by means of four hours daily labor from its students and teachers.

Commonwealth seeks to develop in young men and women of the working class the capacity to serve the labor movement.

Commonwealth is a non-sectarian, non­ propagandist institution. It sponsors no particular religious, political, or economic dogmas. It holds that scientific experimenta­ tion carries the only hope of ad­ vancing the intellectual and social problems.

Commonwealth is the only institution for higher education where both teachers and students earn their maintenance part-time labor while engaged in aca­ demic work.

Legion Loses Sleep

[Continued from Page One]

the effect that Commonwealth College had received an endowment of $100,000 from the I. W. W. and $20,000 from Russia, is absolutely false. We have never received a cent from either source or from any other polit­ ical, religious, or economic or­ ganization. Our books are open at all times to any intelligent and respectable person or group of persons.

In later statements Zeuch pointed out that no outsider person or organ­ ization had anything to say about the affairs of Commonwealth. The institution is organized independ­ ently, and is controlled entirely by its own teachers and workers. It is as­ sisted in an advisory way by a coun­ cil including Senator Lynn J. Fra­ zer of North Dakota, Albert F. Coyle, editor of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' Journal, and James A. Phillips, vice president of the Order of Railway Conductors.

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Legion Loses Sleep

[Continued from Page One]
From Commoners Off The Campus

Resurrection. Everett Raether, unheard from since reported working in a cemetery, has at last come to life. He writes that after three weeks the post mortem social environment palled. So he went to work for the Evanston Street Railway Company as an "extra man," that is, he works nine hours a day seven days a week as either conductor or motorman and receives 73 cents an hour. He has joined the union and acquired a Henderson four-cylinder motorcycle, which he hopes to bring back to college.

Seafaring. Two letters have been received during the last fortnight from the mercurial Vaughan Chor an. He confides that he left Evanston, Illinois, for Revere, Massachusetts, because steady work was not available in the former place. Three days elapsed time, of which 48 hours were spent in travel, sufficed for the trip. "I rode the box cars of the Nickel Plate, the N. Y. C., and the Boston and Albany," says Vaughan. "I like it a lot better than hitch-hiking."

Arrived on the East coast and wishing to accumulate tuition fees, Sailor Vaughan purposed a voyage to Germany. When his parents objected he dutifully sought a job ashore, but in vain. Finally he shipped as an able-bodied seaman on the S. S. Nelson, an oil-tanker bound for Havana.

Correct. Ruth Sutherland, whose ideas of correct female dress were acquired at Commonwealth, finds skirts irksome. Perforce she wears them six days in the week, but on the seventh she perpetuates Commonwealth tradition by donning boots and breeches, even though she stride no farther than her own front door. Unlike Sunday evening she and an ex-Commoner took it into their heads to attend a first-class theatre thus attired. Resorting to subterfuge, they telephoned the management, intimating that they were transient hitch-hikers without luggage who wished to attend the show. Receiving permission, they were soon foci of attention in a crowd of richly-clad, bejeweled theatregoers.

Society Notes

Visitors. C. W. Eldred and C. J. Rechsteiner, both from Pennsylvania, both workers at the Llano Co-operative Colony, each spent a few days of his annual vacation examining Commonwealth and comparing the Arkansas and Louisiana varieties of co-operation.

Guest. Caroline Lowe, well-known woman lawyer of Pittsburg, Kansas. Miss Lowe was a speaker for the Socialist party before she took up the practice of law, and has more than one old acquaintance on the Commonwealth staff. More recently she has distinguished herself in the handling of labor cases, especially those involving civil liberties. Before her departure she saw the college, visited with friends, and, on a Saturday night, tripped a few measures on the dance floor with Educational Director Zeuch.

Henry Ford.
New Buildings

[Continued from Page One]

know how to plan and erect buildings, but on call of the industrial manager he must manifest skill as a bean-picker, a potato-digger, or perhaps display his ability to wash dishes acceptably. Emergency jobs are continually arising, and demand the entire labor power of the college, even though it be for only a short period. Such a situation helps to head off ennui, but as the number of resident workers increases it is hoped to gain added efficiency through greater specialization.

Suffering Railroads!

[Continued from Page Two]
Chicago & North-western .......... 57,755,000
Missouri Pacific ....... 35,664,957

Total surplus of group .......... $109,368,543

This gives a grand total surplus for the major Western lines of $1,079,432,993. And yet, with this fabulous amount of over a billion dollars surplus in their pockets, these railroads have the nerve to ask for more money from a shipping public already overburdened with freight costs.

What about the other lines on the petition now pending before the Interstate Commerce Commission? The short roads named in the petition for higher rates are nearly all owned by these major lines. The facts appear to be that the major roads own the short lines and keep them broke. The record of the ownership presents a veritable scheme by means of which the big roads are able to exploit the shippers at will. An itemized list of the ownership leads any fair-minded person to that conclusion.

Communications

In this column letters of comment and criticism from our readers will be printed, regardless of their tone but not regardless of their length. The editors reserve the right to print extracts from communications.

Friend.
I see the newspapers are printing some idiotic stuff about your college. I want you to know that I am your friend and that I am trying to figure out how to help you meet this stupid attack. I should appreciate a letter giving me such facts as you may have.

Sincerely,
E. HALDEMAN-JULIUS.
Girard, Kansas.

Good and Welfare

The Last Order of Business
By HAROLD BRONCO

"Up From Methodism."

By their fruits ye shall know them. But do ye? When a single tree bears both coconuts and apples, how much of its nature do its fruits reveal? Yes, there is such a tree, even though it be only a metaphorical one. The tree is the tradition of evangelical Christianity planted by John Wesley over a hundred years ago. The coconuts represent the monkey laws which that tradition is bearing in the southern United States. The apples, as ever the fruit of knowledge, stand for the rugged workers’ education movement of Great Britain. Astounding though it be, Methodism supplied the initial educational impetus which today alike sends the farmer on the slopes of the Cumberland’s to his Bible and the worker on the banks of the Clyde to his Karl Marx! • • •

Methodism originated among the factory poor of England, who became massed in the cities with the coming of the machine age. Denied rudimentary instruction by the state or spiritual consolation for their miserable lot by the established church, they received both from Methodism. The Wesleyan societies brought large numbers of workers together in one organization for the first time, giving them their first taste of adult education and their first experience as orators and administrators. Trade unionism followed, and with it, better conditions and less need for spiritual consolation.

"Good and Snappy."

The paper which you get out is good and snappy. I like its tone.

Ridgewood, N. J.

SCOTT NEARING.

"Interesting."

I have been receiving your "Fortnightly" and have found it very interesting—so interesting that I do not wish my forthcoming change of address to be responsible for my failure to see the journal. Please record the change.

LEW SABRETT.
Northwestern University
School of Speech
Evanston, Illinois.

Dollars to Doughnuts.

Through kindness of "Labor" copy of your Fortnightly just came to my desk. You have gotten the right lead. I will bet a dollar vs. a doughnut that you are so interested that you are reluctant to retire before midnight and in the morning you wake with a gladness of heart that toses you out of bed to meet the sunrise and the opportunities of each new day.

Sincerely and fraternally,
F. M. KIRKENDALL, President, Ohio State Federation Brotherhood of Railway Clerks.
Dayton, Ohio.

Sincere and Free.

I read the Fortnightly with great interest and with great hopes for your success. You have about as good a chance to do sincere and free teaching as can be imagined, and after a little time the number of your pupils ought to increase steadily.

Yours fraternally,
GEORGE CLIFTON EDWARDS,
Attorney-at-Law.
Dallas, Texas.