College Buns and Onions
Take Prize in Arkansas

Brown onions and buns, both raised at Commonwealth, took first awards at a real Arkansas country fair held at the Old Potter school house recently.

Credit for the onions, which weighed nearly a pound each, must be divided among the members of the farm crew, but Mrs. Gertrude Foy, kitchen worker, baked the buns that brought a prize of 50 cents to the Commonwealth treasury. To those who think it strange that a Commonwealth baker should secure recognition in the Southland, so famous for its hot bakes, let it be explained that Mrs. Foy traces her origin to Alabama.

Other college exhibits consisted of corn, whole wheat bread, doughnuts, dresses, shirts, and embroidery work.

STUDENTS COMPRIS
LABOR CROSS SECTION

Commonwealth's student group for the academic year beginning October 1, will be a cross section of the American working class to an even greater extent than has been the case before.

About 20 states and 24 occupations are represented in the list of accepted applicants, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon, and California are each the far-flung home of one or more students, while New York, the middle west, and the southwest furnish large quotas.

A building laborer, a bus boy, a chauffeur, a cook, a fur worker, a journalist, a machinist, a miner, a musician, a paving cutter, a school teacher, a soldier, a signalman, a tin worker, and several carpenters, domestic service workers, farmers, garment workers, hosiery workers, laundry workers, office workers, sailors, saleswomen, and students are expected at Commonwealth this year.

Analysis of the student applications reveals two interesting trends: (1) a growing proportion of Commonwealth's students are trade union members, and even those who come from industries or localities which are...

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LABOR, PRESS, AND TOWNSFOLK
SCOUT LEGION 'RED GOLD' TALE

"Produce Alleged Government Report" School Asks Committee
Who Seeks Religion and "Life History" of Commonwealth Teachers

Charges made at a recent Arkansas state convention of the American Legion to the effect that Commonwealth College was the beneficiary of I. W. W. and Soviet appropriations aggregating $150,000 brought rejoinders from the American Civil Liberties Union, officers of the Arkansas Federation of Labor, the state press, and residents of Mena and vicinity.

Humors that infiltrated legionnaires would march en masse on the labor school and close its doors have simmered down to a formal exchange of notes between Duke Frederick, Mena attorney, who states he was designated chairman of a sub-committee to investigate Commonwealth by the executive committee of the Legion, and William E. Zeuch, educational director of the school.

"Dictated But Not Read."

Frederick, who declares that the charges against Commonwealth were made on the basis of a report of the Department of Justice, "a copy of...

CLINE LAYES ROOFING FOR COMMONWEALTH

Charles Cline, who, with a number of others, has been imprisoned for more than a decade for attempting to take an armed force from Texas into Mexico to aid the Mexican revolution, and who was recently pardoned by Governor Miriam A. Ferguson, spent some time at Commonwealth College following his release.

During his stay at the school, Cline helped to build a porch and to roof buildings. After a visit in the North, he may return to Commonwealth early in October. His release from a Texas penitentiary followed hundreds of requests for clemency on the part of American and Mexican labor organizations.

Cline and his companions were invited by the Mexican government to attend a celebration in their honor in Mexico City.

which alleged report more than one delegate stated he had read but which was not presented to the delegates to...
Commonwealth College
Fortnightly

Published twice a month at Mena, Arkansas, by Commonwealth College, a school for self-supporting, non-propaganda education for workers. Subscription, one dollar a year. Entered as second class matter, January 30, 1926, at the post office at Mena, Arkansas, under the Act of August 24, 1912. Signed articles express only individual opinion. Editors, particularly of labor and farmer papers, are welcome to make free use of material appearing in these columns. A line checking Commonwealth College Fortnightly will be appreciated.

Vol. 11, No. 19 October 1, 1926

Making A New World By Co-operation

By ALBERT F. COYLE

Mr. Coyle, who is editor of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Journal and a member of Commonwealth's Advisory Council, is also entitled to be considered an authority on the co-operative movement. He is executive secretary of the All-American Co-operative Commission and is connected in an executive capacity with local co-operative enterprises in Cleveland, Ohio.—Editor.

Not a land on the whole globe is free from industrial unrest. The basic cause of this world unrest is not political or diplomatic but economic and industrial. The workers of the world, who heard so much about political democracy during the war, are now aroused to apply that same principle to industrial control. They demand a voice in determining the policies of those industries in which they have invested all that they are and have—their labor and their lives.

A few years ago Bertrand Russell wrote a brilliant little book on "Proposed Roads to Freedom." One of those roads is the co-operative movement. And it is absolutely the only known road which conservatives and revolutionists will travel together side by side, satisfied with a common goal. For while co-operation destroys the tap root of the profit system, it does not require the violent or bloody overthrow of any established government or the unjust expropriation of any existing class.

Three Branches of Co-operation.

There are three main forms of cooperation, each essential to the success of the others. The first is co-operative production. Today the workers, by means of co-operative ownership of the means of production, are endeavoring to control the machine, even as the guilds controlled handicraft production, for the creation of a democratic industrial order in which every producer will have his just reward.

Co-operative production already has a firm foothold in the industrial countries of Europe. In England and Wales over 25,000 workers now own the twenty-five thriving producers' co-operatives, with an annual business of some $30,000,000. These co-operatives, not only pay the union scale of wages but divide their earnings with the purchasers of their goods as well as among the workers. They also contribute funds for charitable purposes and lay-up funds for unemployment, accident, and old age pensions for the workers.

Scout Legion Tale

[Continued from Page One]

Union are Clarence Darrow, Dudley Field Malone, and Arthur Garfield Hayes," Educational Director Zech pointed out in a statement to the press.

J. W. Adams of Fort Smith, president of the Arkansas State Federation of Labor, visited Commonwealth shortly after the attack began and expressed his sympathetic interest by preparing an article on the school in which he stated, "I take it that no intelligent person believes for a moment that the Legion charges to the effect that Commonwealth received $100,000 from the I. W. W. and $50,000 from Soviet Russia are true." The article, which is entitled, "Facts About Commonwealth College," will probably be reprinted in an early issue of the Fortnightly.

Legion Divided.

That the attack on Commonwealth does not represent the sentiment of the American Legion as a whole is indicated by a letter from H. M. Thesigery, sec-treasurer of the Arkansas State Federation of Labor, in which he declares, "Many of the delegates present resented the resolution so I have been reliably informed, and I trust the matter will be speedily cleared up to the end that the school will not be injured."

As is widely known, the American Legion and the American Federation of Labor have co-operated in the past in such matters as securing adjusted compensation for war veterans, and officials of the two organizations have frequently exchanged expressions of friendship. What interest the Arkansas department of the American Legion would have in attempting to injure a school whose teachers form a part of an American Federation of Labor union is not apparent.

Attack on Labor.

That political intrigues of individual members of the Legion rather than the enmity of the organization were behind the attack has been suggested by the fact that the charges against Commonwealth at the legion convention were made by one Joe Morrison, campaign manager for Governor Terral of Arkansas, who was recently defeated for renomination on the Democratic ticket. Terral's successful opponent, Martineau, was supported by organized labor and this support would not tend to make Delegate Morrison friendly to a school whose teachers are affiliated with the Arkansas State Federation of Labor.

The Arkansas press continues to give Commonwealth fair treatment both in its news and editorial columns, and reporters from Fort Smith and Little Rock have visited the College. Statements of the College have repeatedly been given front page display in the Arkansas Gazette, while the Arkansas Democrat recently published an essentially accurate account of the nature of Commonwealth, accompanied by illustrations.

The friendship and support of neighbors and townsfolk have been valuable assets to the College. Almost unanimously they have expressed good will toward the institution and the interest aroused by the publicity which Commonwealth has received has caused many to form or renew acquaintanceships at the school. Statements of Mena people in regard to the College have done much to discredit the Legion canard in other parts of the state.
**Society Notes**

**Indisposed.** Fanny, college Holstein-Jersey. She is expected to recover. Meanwhile her milk output has fallen from seven to three gallons daily to nothing. Milkless workers are solicitous.

**Synchronized.** The birthdays of Leonore Koch, Commonwealth student, and of B. F. Gassoway, neighbor, were celebrated jointly at the home of Neighbor S. W. Tatum. Dances and games were the order of the evening.

**Visitors.** Prof. S. H. Moore, head of the department of economics of Southern Methodist University of Dallas, Tex., and Principal Coffman, of the Shreveport, La., high school, were among the recent visitors to Commonwealth. Other guests who were interested in the educational and co-operative aspects of the College were D. J. Linkletter of Seattle, a former student of the Seattle Labor College, and Earl Pridmore of Bokoshe, Okla., a prospective student who was accompanied by his father.

**Conference.** On a recent Sunday Commonwealth's crew of agricultural workers were invited to participate in a chicken dinner at the home of Will Smith, neighbor. The feast was followed by a walking tour of inspection over the neighboring farms, and an exchange of agricultural views, expedients, and ideas between old-timers and Commonwealthers. An invitation to a similar social function was issued to the women workers in the domestic department by the household of S. W. Tatum, another neighbor.

**Betterment.** An acoustic era at Commonwealth is nearly marked by the purchase of an 18-inch bronze bell for use in indicating class periods, meal hours, and social events. The new piece of economic structure has been hung in an 18-foot campanile made of unpeeled oak logs, located near the commons. It adds dignity to the office of bell-ringer, rendering obsolete the rusty piece of rope, a tree limb by a bit of wire, and customarily beaten with an old horseshoe, which has served during the last year and a half.

I think I should know how to educate a boy, but not a girl; I should be in danger of meaning too learned.—Nietzsche. (Commonwealth is taking a chance with several girls.)

**Gratefully Acknowledged**

Commonwealth acknowledges with sincere thanks the following gifts:
- Peter Swenson, Texas, 12 baskets of table grapes from the Swenson Nursery vineyard at Si-loam Springs, Ark.
- William H. Mittelsbuscher, Detroit, tools and equipment.

The Vanguard Press, New York, three book offerings.

**Making a New World**

(Continued from Page Two)

ers themselves.

In France workers' productive associations have existed for more than seventy-five years, with a record of greater stability than private business enterprises show. In Germany and Austria the workers' co-operatives have pooled their resources with the municipalities and the consumers' co-operative societies in order to acquire and operate some of the largest industries of the nation. One Austrian producers' co-operative of 1,300 workers has taken over what was formerly the largest arms and munition factory in the country and is now manufacturing railroad equipment, furniture, and farm machinery on a large scale.

In the United States the farmers have taken the lead in co-operative production, the census of 1920 showing that the output of over half a million farms, valued at one billion dollars, is being handled through co-operative dairies, creameries, cheese factories, elevators, flour mills, and meat-packing plants, in addition to related co-operative marketing enterprises. On the industrial side workers have founded and are successfully operating co-operative cigar and glove factories, coal mines, and fruit canneries.

**How to Cut the Cost of Living.**

The leaders of organized labor in this country are facing a critical problem in the cost of living, which constantly tends to advance faster than workers' wages do. After a hundred years of heroic struggle and sacrifice, the workers find in many industries that the cost of bread and shoes and other necessities takes a larger portion of their pay than in 1900. Unfortunately the worker is sometimes fooled by getting a few more dollars in his pay envelope. He forgets that wages are worth only what they can buy, and that it takes three dollars today to pay for the same amount of food and clothing that one dollar would buy in 1900. Even in the highly skilled trades, labor unions have not been able to advance the workers' standard of living substantially because the meat trust, the bread trust, the woolen trust, the land­lord, and all their satellites have boosted the cost of the necessities of life more than the hard-won wages in the pay envelope.

There is only one remedy for this impossible situation. Trade unionism can only protect the workers' income as a producer. If the workers are to secure an ever-higher standard of living they must also protect themselves as consumers by securing food and clothing at cost through consumers' co-operation—the second branch of the co-operative movement.

The consumers' co-operative movement has swept Europe like wild-fire since the war. Though less than eighty years old, it provides some forty million families in every civilized land with what they need to eat and wear without a penny of profit to any private trust. Even in the United States, where big business combines and national chain stores are most difficult for any new business to succeed, consumers' cooperation has built up a number of flourishing enterprises handling over half a million dollars a year each. One of them, the Franklin Co-operative Creamery of Minneapolis, now does a business of around four million a year, controlling the distribution of dairy products in the capital city of Minnesota.

**The Promise of Co-operative Banking.**

Co-operative banking is the third kind of co-operation. For more than half a century people's co-operative banks have thrived throughout Europe and Asia. Some 65,000 of these democratic people's banks have been run so successfully on the non-profit basis that many of them have never lost a penny. Less than six years ago the first labor co-operative bank in America was set up by the Cleveland chapter of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Today thirty-five such banks are spread from one

(Continued on Page Four)
corner of the country to the other, with total assets of more than $150,-
000,000. No single achievement of organized labor in the past genera-
tion has so astonished the world at large.

The whole purpose of co-operative banking is to collect the savings of
the organized workers under their own control to be used as they direct
for their own enterprises. In other words the workers can mobilize their
own money in their own co-operative banks to promote producers' and
consumers' co-operation, co-operative marketing, and other forms of
industrial democracy. When you consider that the combined banking
resources of the 31,000 banks in the United States are but slightly in ex-
cess of $30,000,000,000, while our annual wage bill alone is nearly half
that sum and the total annual value of farm crops somewhere around
$13,000,000,000, you can realize how quickly the organized farmers and
workers of this country could gain control of the banking system if they
would use the workers' own money in their own co-operative banks to be
used for their own social constructive purposes.

Organized Labor's Two Arms.
The American Labor movement is rapidly discovering that collective
bargaining alone is not sufficient to maintain a decent standard of living
when private monopolies control the cost of the necessities of life. It is
also learning that collective bargaining is at a tragic disadvantage when
huge industrial combines, backed by open-shop bankers, use the workers' deposits to crush their attempts to organize steel, oil, textiles, coal, and
other basic industries. For these reasons intelligent labor leaders have
discovered that organized labor has two indispensable arms, both of
which it must use in order to secure social justice and economic freedom for the workers. Its right arm is the co-operative movement, with the three branches above outlined. Its left arm is political action, by which alone the workers can cope with the great trusts and
monopolies that now dominate the political state.

Laws grind the poor; and rich men rule the law.
—Goldsmith.

Wherever is found what is called a paternalistic government is also
found a State education. It had been discovered that the best way to
insure its best observance was to commence tyranny in the nursery.—
Beaconsfield.

Making a New World
[Continued from Page Three]

Good and Welfare
The Last Order of Business
By HAROLD BRONCO

Legal Logic.
Mark Twain once remarked that the American people enjoyed three
great blessings—free speech, free press, and the good sense not to use
either. And Mark, as usual, was right. All attempts to appraise the
value of the first two blessings apart from the third lead to the same
conclusion. Constitutional guarantees designed to safeguard mi-
nority freedom of speech, opinion, and religious worship are on a par
with Confederate currency and the street-car transfers of yesteryear.
* * *

Whenever it is officially found ad-
visable to gagrotte the Constitution we Americans do the job quickly
and efficiently. After the lynching is over the logic of the law may be
depended upon to find a suitable post facto explanation. In such cases American judicial tradition
once prescribed careful and work-
manlike rationalization. But in law
as in industry, craftsmanship is giv-
ing way to mass production, with consequent detriment to the quality of the output. The following is
strikingly illustrative:

South Dakota commands that the Bible be read once a week in her
public schools. In practice, with the present school-board authorities in
power, this means that the King
James Bible is read. Catholics ob-
ject to this because the King James
version is not acceptable to the Cathol-
cic church. In the appropriately-
named town of Faith, South Dakota,
11 Catholic school children walked out of their classroom when required
to listen to the King James Bible, and
were promptly suspended by the
school board. Their parents
sued for reinstatement without com-
mand.

* * *

"Show Me the Way
To Go Home"

Subcription Blank
COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE FORTNIGHTLY
Mena, Arkansas

The enclosed dollar pays for one
year's subscription for
Name
Address

pulsory religious instruction, giving their plea on constitu-
tional guarantees of religious free-
dom. The court sustained the school
board on the basis of evidence that the differences between the King
James version and the Catholic ver-
sion of the Bible were so slight as to be unimportant.

Ignorant laymen may suppose that the legal profession reserves
the phrase "incompetent, irrelevant, and immaterial" for use in
designing such evidence. But the logic of the law doesn't see it that way.
Nor is such legal card-sharpering con-
fined to the lower courts. The United
States Supreme Court in liquor
cases has repeatedly invalidated
search and seizure without warrant, on
constitutional grounds. But in cases (notably those of the I, W. W.) where radical literature has been
seized without warrant, and pre-
sented as evidence it validated the
seizure because, it said, the results
of the search would have been just as inculminating if a warrant had
been obtained.

Such farcical procedure recalls Mr. Dooley's dictum that "the Su-
preme Court follows the ballot box." An eminent dean of an eminent law
school summarized the situation by
saying that the law in the United
States is the combined prejudices of
five gentlemen on the bench of the
Supreme Court. If only there were
an American satirist to do for the
Supreme Court what Gilbert and
Sullivan did for the British Navy in
"Pinafore" and the House of Lords in "Iolanthe!"

The fruit of liberal education is
not learning, but the capacity and
desire to learn; not knowledge, but
power.—C. W. Eliot.

The journalist is a grumbler, a
conserauer, a giver of advice, a rebel
of sovereigns, a tutor to nations.
Four hostile newspapers are more
to be feared than a thousand bayo-
exts.—Napoleon. (Commonwealth
is training journalists for the labor
movement.)

LAUDS DOGMA

Education is the constraining and
directing of youth towards that right
reason, which the law affirms, and
which the experience of the best of
our elders has agreed to be truly
right.—Plato.

The aim of education should be to
Teach us rather how to think than
what to think;—rather to improve
our minds, so as to enable us to think
for ourselves, than to load the mem-
ory with the thoughts of other men.
—Beattie.