COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE FORTNIGHTLY

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COMMONERS HOSTS TO THEIR NEIGHBORS

Celebrate the Fourth With a Political Powwow and Community Dance.

Commonwealth campus was the scene of a neighborhood picnic on the afternoon of the Fourth at which Mrs. Kate Richards O'Hare and local politicians held forth on state and national issues.

Mrs. O'Hare in the course of her talk dealt with the history of the Democratic and Republican parties, dwelt on the role that had been played in their development by Jefferson and Lincoln, respectively, and pointed out that both parties showed their lack of leadership in constantly harking back instead of looking forward.

"What we need today," she said, "is not a Jefferson nor a Lincoln, but a political Steimmetz, a scientist capable of turning all the marvelous advances of modern science into social engineering; men in the seats of government capable of social statesmanship."

"But neither the Republican nor the Democratic parties," she continued, "offer any real hope. The platforms of each are merely vote catching 'bunk.' If there was a glimmer of social intelligence among the delegates in either convention it was carefully concealed."

"The Socialist party," she added, "is today merely an academic gesture. We must face the fact that American psychology is not yet ripe for a third party. Old political habits are hard to break. The American voter is still held in line by traditional sentiments."

"What we need to do today," she concluded, "is to organize a National Progressive Voters' League, non-partisan and non-sectarian in character, made up of the independent, forward-looking farmers, wage earners and social workers, with a minimum political program to which candidates would be either pledged before election or opposed at the polls. Out of such a League in time there might emerge a Progressive party."

The community dance began in the Commons at seven o'clock. Five sets of

ANNOUNCEMENT.

All friends who have been watching the progress of our campaign know that we have not yet reached our goal of one hundred pledges for $5 annually for the next three years. Nevertheless we are so close to that goal that we feel justified in assuming that it will be reached before the end of the summer, consequently the Commoners have decided to continue their experimental project. Commonwealth will open next October 1, according to schedule.

EN ROUTE

Extracts from the Diary of THE CUNNINGHAMS

May 11—Fort Smith.
At eight o'clock this morning we had taken leave of the Commoners and were several miles out of Menal under a cloudless sky. Our first ride was in a Ford, and we resisted the impulse to tell the driver that he was starting us on a five-thousand mile hitch-hike. He seemed an unimaginative and unpretentious fellow and probably would not have been impressed by the knowledge that two truck drivers helped us in and out of Waldron, and then a talkative salesman in a big car took us into Fort Smith at 2:30 p.m.

We found Jack Adams, president of the Arkansas State Federation of Labor, and secretary of the central body, at the labor temple and made the place our headquarters temporarily. Later we hunted up Glenn Dool, reporter on the Southwest American and prospective student, who had written us several days before. We made an appointment to meet him and then returned to the labor temple where we met Fern Babcock and the [Continued on Page Three.]

PLEDGES FOR THE FORTNIGHT.

Charles Nagel, St. Louis, Mo.
Mrs. D. O. Ives, Clayton, Mo.
E. M. Grossman, St. Louis, Mo.
Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis, Mo.
Gustave Lippman, St. Louis, Mo.
Percy Werner, St. Louis, Mo.

MRS. O'HARE SURVEYS STATE INSTITUTION

Makes Report on State Training School for Girls to Governor and State Welfare Board.

At the request of the management and of members of the Arkansas State Board of Welfare Mrs. O'Hare spent a week during the latter part of June making a survey of the Arkansas State Training School for Girls near Little Rock.

Mrs. O'Hare reported her findings to the Governor and the State Board of Welfare at a meeting of the Board the latter part of June. In summing up Mrs. O'Hare said in part:

"The inmates are approximately of the same types that fill like institutions in all states. They are a little more poverty stricken because Arkansas has so large a percentage of desperately poor people; a little more illiterate because our percentage of illiteracy is high; a little higher in percentage of subnormals and feeble-minded because we have no institution to care for them and so shunt them about from 'pillar to post' wherever we can find shelter for them; a little more sex delinquent because the citizenry of our state has not yet learned the necessity of providing wholesome recreation and playtime for our youth; and there is an appalling amount of venereal disease because we have resolutely shut our eyes to it as an unpleasant thing to face.

"When the state legislature cut the appropriation in half the object for which the institution was created was destroyed. It ceased to be an opportunity school for neglected, dependent and delinquent girls. Because of lack of funds the neglected and dependent girls who might have been saved from vice and delinquency cannot be cared for, and must become 'fallen women.' filthy with venereal diseases and speeded in delinquency before the Training School is open to them.

"One of the appalling things found in this survey is the evidence of the fact that so far as this state institution is concerned Arkansas is living in the pre-scientific age. . . . Arkansas must always be counted a backward state and

[Continued on Page Four.]"
The Right to Work
By Kate Richards O’Hare.

I. The labor movement, using the term in its broadest sense and including all forces looking to the welfare of the productive workers, is in travail giving birth to a new soul. For many years there has been no impelling urge, no great idea shared in common by the masses, but social evolution is creating a unifying spirit that is breaking down craft and caste barriers and will eventually create the most widespread community of interest so far achieved.

Waves of social awareness have swept over this country from time to time unifying the people, and each has left something of concrete value in its wake. A hundred and fifty years ago it was the demand for political democracy. A hundred years ago the demand for free education; seventy-five years ago the abolition of chattel slavery, and fifty years ago the right of the workers to organize and bargain collectively for the sale of their labor power, or the products of labor.

Today universal suffrage exists, free education is provided for up to the high school for the great majority of our citizens, and colleges are plentiful and crowded, chattel slavery is no more, and the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively is questioned only by the most enlightened employers.

But the spectre of another right denied is haunting every trade, craft, profession and industry. It is a ghost that will not be laid, the death’s head at every banquet. During the past five years I have traveled in every corner of the United States, mingled with every sort of people who live by labor, and attended all manner of organized conferences and conventions, including both brain and brawn workers. They have ranged from a Farmers’ Union or a State Federation of Labor convention to a church conclave and the National Conference of Social Work. And in every corner of the country, among all sorts of folks, in every representative body the basic problem underlying all others problems was the right to work.

Our political democracy has so tenderly fostered and protected our industries, and the scientists educated through our free school system have made such advances in reclaiming waste products and in creating labor-saving machinery that our industrial productivity far outruns our capacity as consumers, or our ability to seize foreign markets. There is too much of every known product from coal to lipstick. And, since machines are paid no wages and can be laid up without expense, while workers can be laid off, there is a persistent and constantly growing unemployment all along the line. The modern jobless worker is in a more precarious situation than the old chattel slave who was never permitted to starve, never had to beg for bread, and chattel slavery at its worst never demanded an army of social workers to care for its human scrap-heap.

III. Agricultural colleges, farm bureaus, county agents, pig and calf clubs, poultry propaganda and the application of modern science to soil reclamation, irrigation and the elimination of insect pests, not to mention Henry Ford and his tractor and other labor-saving machinery, have so increased agricultural production that there is too much of every farm and orchard product from the lowly potato to the aristocratic avocado. Even the mighty flood waters of the Mississippi on a rampage cannot cut down the surplus; it can only ruin and starve a few thousand individuals. More than a million men and women left the farms last year and emigrated to the cities, but the production of farm products increased, while the prices decreased.

Every year colleges and universities turn out droves of professionally and technically trained young men and women but the great industrial corporations and mergers are already well staffed, and they cannot expand fast enough to absorb the trained youth of the country. There is "white collar" unemployment in the middle classes almost as acute as the "over-all" unemployment in the working classes.

IV. Social work, which twenty-five years ago was just beginning to be known by that name rather than "charity" was carried on by a few sentimental dabbler who administered "aid" to the social reject and the camp-followers of industrialism. Today the human scrap-heap has grown to such proportions that social work is a huge and exceptionally well organized industry.

The National Council of Social Work, held in Memphis, Tenn., in May of this year, was the largest delegate conference or convention I have ever attended. 3,100 delegates representing every phase of social salvage, and with delegates representing all sorts of organizations except trades and farmers’ unions. I was the only delegate in that great mob who represented a labor union. The Conference was far too large to conduct business in [Continued on Page Four.]
EN ROUTE
[Continued from Page One.]

Y. W. C. A. girls from the university at
Fayetteville whom Fern had brought to
visit the industrial plants at Fort Smith.
The A. F. of L. people invited us to
lunchen with them where we spoke on
Commonwealth.

May 13—Fayetteville.

Yesterday afternoon we arrived in Fay­
etville in the bus with the Y. girls and
were put up in Fern's room at the home
of a university professor.

Fern took this morning to see Rosa
Zagnoni Marinoni, astonishing Fayette­
ville woman, born in Italy, who two years
ago turned to writing.

In the afternoon we visited Charles
Finger, veteran Arkansas writer, at his
home a few miles out of Fayetteville. We
found him a most picturesque individual,
almost a patriarch and very proud of his
family and home and farm.

In the evening we talked to the Y. W.
C. A. cabinet, which impressed us as a
group of unusually bright girls.

May 15 to 19—Girard.

These days were spent in a profitable
visit at the Haldeman-Julius home. We
read all of the manuscript of “Violence,”
the new Haldeman-Julius novel. We were
much impressed by the book; it has many
of the qualities of “Dust” but has, as
its title suggests, more action than the
earlier novel. It will, so we have pre­
dicted, cause a great deal of discussion.

We were surprised to find Marcet
Haldeman-Julius with a broken arm and
a bruised face. A horse had fallen with
her several days before. She was, how­ever, as sprightly and hospitable as ever.

May 21—Pittsburg, Kansas.

Yesterday we had a long talk with the
intelligent and progressive Caroline Lowe,
Pittsburg lawyer. Having done work
similar to ours for many years, she was
able to give us some advice. Conditions,
It seems, are very bad about labor.

The miners are in a bad way and the
unions in general are not prosperous.

In the evening Bill attended the meet­
ing of the central body of labor. Presi­dent Coffelt of that body pledged for
three years.

Today we talked to Phil Callery, Miss
Lowe's law partner, and he gave us a
letter to Blakesley, president of the Kan­
sas State Federation of Labor. Callery
is well acquainted with the problems of our
sort of work.

We also talked with Sylvan Bruner, a
young Pittsburg lawyer and well known
labor sympathizer who told us some of
his ideas upon labor questions. He, too,
is highly intelligent—three intelligent and
progressive lawyers in one town! Our re­
spect for the profession went up some­what.

May 23—Emporia.

We appeared before the Kansas State
Federation of Labor and talked on Com­
monwealth. We were well received and
the delegates made a donation to the
work of the school.

May 24 to 31—Kansas City.

As we were entering Kansas City, by a
rare bit of luck we were hailed on the
street by the Birkheads. As the world
is well aware, they are charming people.

Dr. Birkhead, minister of the Unitarian
church at Kansas City, was technical ad­
visor to Sinclair Lewis during the time
that the latter was writing his “Elmer
Gantry.” The Birkheads invited us to
dinner and introduced us to a number
of liberals and labor people of Kansas
City.

The following Sunday Dr. Birkhead
told his congregation of our trip.

Dr. Burkhardt, who conducts the adult
class in Birkhead's church, gave us the
opportunity to tell this class about the
Commonwealth project. Also P. J. Mc­
Cann, a plumber, gave us a number of
valuable suggestions and a great deal of
his time. J. A. Harzfeld, the Kansas City
lawyer who backed Marion Talley
when that artist was virtually unknown,
was interested in the Commonwealth ex­
pertiment because of the principle of aca­
demic freedom which it espouses. He
pledged to the maintenance fund for three
years.

D. T. Snyder, owner of the Sny­
derhof Hotel, and F. C. Niles, of the
Niles and Moser Cigar Company, also
pledged. William Volker, well known
Kansas City liberal, and Jerome Walsh,
son of Frank P. Walsh, made donations.

June 1 to 18—St. Louis.

We came directly to the home of Mrs.
Lucy Preston Brown, where we remained
during our entire stay in St. Louis. Thanks
to Mrs. Brown and a few other
friends, we were able to obtain a list of
most of the people in St. Louis whom
we sought to see in connection with our
work.

In the evenings we appeared before
labor bodies, speaking on Commonwealth.

WILL YOU ENROLL YOURSELF AS ONE OF
THE HUNDRED WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS
WILL MAKE THE CONTINUATION
OF COMMONWEALTH POSSIBLE?

If so fill out and mail this blank.

I hereby enclose $ for the year 1928 and pledge $ annually for 1929 and 1930.

NAME

ADDRESS
SOCIETY NOTES

Selma Chadwick of New York City arrived at Commonwealth the latter part of June to visit her sister, Mildred, who was a student at Commonwealth last year and is staying on over the summer to complete the cataloguing of the library.

David Englestein of Montreal, Province of Ontario, Canada, hitch-hiked in recently to take up residence. David is an urbanite and realized that he must know something about rural work to fit into the scheme of things at Commonwealth as a student next year. So he decided to put in a part of the summer learning to distinguish a Georgia stock from a Geelhizze, and okra from artichokes. Incidentally, David knows his French, not only the Canadian patois but also the language of the salons. The Campbells got out their French books at once to polish up. One speaks French with a western New York accent, another with a Kansas accent, and still another with a Louisiana accent; and Zzech—God help us—speaks it with a Zokyidean accent. By the end of the summer David should have the "speaking in tongues" condition eliminated.

Charlotte Moskovitz, student and secretary to Director Zzech, returned the last of June after a two months' respite at her home in Syracuse, New York, to resume charge of the office. After a week of sifting of papers and filing, to say nothing of much sweeping and dusting, the "cycloidal" aspect that the office always wears after the Director has handled it for a few weeks was removed. The office looks normal again.

Hoodoo weeks come occasionally. We had one recently. Mac was laid up for a few days with an old malady; neuralgia; Wanda had a headache; David suffered from blisters; Richard ate too much ice cream; Evan pinched his toe in the door; Zzech was stung badly by a wasp; Joe limped around on a sore foot; Kate festered her hand in an explosion while canning peas. We were almost a hospital. All survived.

W. C. Benton, instructor in law, has withdrawn from the community to the top of Rich Mountain for the summer in order to find leisure to complete some writing. We understand that the mountain view is conducive to inspiration.

Many bushels of string beans are being canned for winter use. The common help, consisting of all who can be

scripted from other jobs, sit around the dining room tables, which are piled high, snipping and snipping the beans while Kate and Mac run the canning outfit in the kitchen. While hands are busy it leaves the minds and mouths free for talk, of which there is a right smart.

THE RIGHT TO WORK.

[Continued from Page Two.

one body, so it was divided into twelve sections dealing with everything from children to educational publicity: where experts in all manner of "uplifting" and "world saving" discussed varied social problems. And the basic, causative factor in each problem was declared to be poverty. And the mother of poverty is the denial of the right to work at wholesome labor under decent conditions for a living wage.

V.

Political democracy is face to face with the fact that it has permitted conditions to develop where millions of men, women and children are denied the right to live—except by charity or crime. And neither Al Smith nor Herbert Hoover seem to know what is to be done about it. Neither federal labor agencies, tariff, minimum wage nor employment insurance, which seem to be the only political panaceas suggested, can make jobs where there are none; nor can they reduce the output of labor-saving machines and scientific farming.

VI.

The educators in our colleges and universities may know how to attract "public utility" coin, but they cannot teach their students how to get a job after graduation.

Farmers' Unions cannot control agricultural production until they become vastly better trained and educated; and labor unions cannot protect their members from the encroachment of labor-saving machinery.

Social work may increase until it rivals automobiles and radio of the great American industry, but it cannot create jobs, eliminate poverty nor solve the problems of unemployment by community chest, card catalogues and "technique."

Farmers and wage workers, high-brow and low-brow, social worker and social delinquent, philanthropist and delinquent, good, bad and indifferent, we are all in the same boat. Man lives by work, his own or that of some one else. If he lives on his own work he must have a job, or land and market for his products. If he lives without work he is either a beggar, a parasite or a thief; and such can never maintain a civilization.

If man has the right to life he must have the right to that which sustains life—the right to work. Self-preservation, the right to life itself, is rapidly driving trades, crafts and far divergent groups together, creating a mighty drive, resistant in its power—the drive for the right to work. And in this universal need a new social conscience is in gestation, and from it a new social awareness will be born—an awareness that will be restless and resistless until the right to work is as firmly established as the right to life itself.

MRS. O'HARE SURVEYS STATE INSTITUTION

[Continued from Page One.] pay the price in social disabilities for its backwardness until it approaches its social problems in the scientific spirit.

Citizens interested in the use of modern scientific methods in dealing with the socially unfit are very hopeful that Mrs. O'Hare's survey may open the way for like surveys of all state institutions.

COMMONERS HOSTS TO THEIR NEIGHBORS

[Continued from Page One.] the old-time hallowed mountain square dances were going at one time and continued until eleven o'clock. The music was provided by a piano-guitar-violin trio. It was old-fashioned music and an old-fashioned hoedown.