COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE
FORTNIGHTLY

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COMONS EXTENSION
APPROVED BY ZEUCH

"We Are Not Wasting Any Time in Speculation As to Future." He Says.

"We are proceeding with our building," says W. E. Zeuch, educational director, "with confidence in the success of the present campaign. A serious situation faces the school. I believe, however, that we will pull through. Meanwhile we are not wasting any time in speculation as to the future."

The Commons combination dining and recreation hall, is being enlarged and finished by the student carpenters. It will have about 2,000 square feet of floor space and when completed will easily accommodate 150 diners. It is being so constructed that it may be turned into an auditorium with a stage at one end. As Commonwealth has become the center of community affairs the auditorium will have a seating capacity of 400.

A building of this size will be adequate since Commons does not intend to admit more than 100 students each year. "Higher education and mass education are inconsistent terms," explains Zeuch. A large enrollment would defeat the purpose for which Commonwealth was founded, he believes. "We are developing here a type of education which is correlated with life. If the school succeeds many similar projects will be started and the increased number of self-maintaining schools rather than the increased enrollment at Commonwealth will take care of the growing demand for self-supporting workers' education."

NEW PLEDGES BRING TOTAL UP TO $740.00

Many encouraging letters arrive daily from pledgers and other friends of Commonwealth. Here are extracts from a few who have heard our call for financial help:

Prof. C. M. McConnell, Boston University School of Theology.

"I have watched with considerable interest your experiment and have known some of your teachers. . . . I think it would be a calamity if your experiment failed for lack of the few hundred dollars necessary.

Mrs. Perle Shale Kingsley, head of Department of Public Speaking, University of Denver.

"I want to be one of the hundred friends to save Commonwealth College, and I will pledge $25 a year for three years."

Mailbag Bulges With Encouraging Letters

Mrs. L. D. Brandeis, Roscoe Pound and Sol Kahn head the list of pledgers for the fortnight ending February 14. Their pledges, together with seven other promises received within the last two weeks, raises the total amount assured Commonwealth for 1928 to $740.

Mrs. Brandeis, wife of the United State Supreme Court Justice, sent a check for $100.00 and pledged that amount for the next two years. Readers of the Fortnightly will remember that Justice Brandeis, without having been solicited, gave Commonwealth $100.00 last May.

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Love and Laughter to Be Recorded by Trio

Campus tales of love and laughter will be recorded for posterity in the pages of the diaries of Mildred Chadwick, Sylvia Aronson and Charlotte Moskowitz. The girls began the writing of campus foibles recently.

Mildred says she will sell her diary to the Campus Bluff "for a price." "If the Bluff will not give me my price, I will dispose of it elsewhere. I am sure one of the MacFadden publications would grab at the opportunity."

"My suff is sure-fire: 100 percent sex appeal," says Sylvia. "I write down verbatim all the conversations of my roommates. If you, dear reader, are a woman you can about guess what sort of revelations I have to reveal—for a price!"

"I shan't sell my diary outright. It ain't done nowadays. I shall sell it to Hearst for publication in his Sunday supplement. Then to monthly magazines. Then I shall sign a $100,000 contract to lecture over the United States on the subject of my diary. Then, of course, a movie contract. Then a dramatization. And finally respectability within crimson boards, for $10,000."

Commonwealth College Fortnightly

Toward a Labor Party

By WILLIAM EDWARD ZEUCH.

I.

The political activities of American workers today are unrealistic and for the most part useless. On the one hand we have the radicals, the doctrinaire Socialists and Communists, fighting among themselves over absurd issues and l hamstring one another, and, for good and sufficient reasons making little or no appeal to the native-born Americans. On the other hand we find the conservative American Federation of Labor following a policy of rewarding your friends and punishing your enemies, a policy which finds the Federation supporting a William Hale Thompson and the Insullized Frank L. Smith, a policy which promotes the individual political aspirations of members of the Labor hierarchy, but which succeeds only in keeping Labor politically powerless. The curt contempt with which Coolidge treated William Green and his delegation which called recently on behalf of the Pennsylvania miners, to say nothing of the way in which officials of both of the major parties have ignored the provisions of the Clayton Act, Labor's "bill of rights," as it has been called, is an accurate indication of the real political power that the American Federation of Labor has achieved by such a policy.

II.

Doctrinaire extremists, such as are the Socialists and Communists, will continue to be politically impotent. The radicals in the United States have failed to grasp the true psychology of the American people. They do not realize that the typical American mind is the product of centuries of rural life and that this rural life creates a strong individualism and an insistent practical-mindedness. The population of our cities, aside from a few urban centers in the East, is made up largely of men and women reared on the farms. Detroit, for example, a city of rural mechanics, is of such recent growth and still so close to the individualistic-mindedness of the rural sections that it has been found quite impossible to organize its workers. While most American cities are not, from the standpoint of Labor, so backward as Detroit, nevertheless, several generations of city born and bred industrial workers must come and go before many American cities will be ready for an advanced Labor program. Continuous city residence and constant factory employment will in time condition our workers to that degree of community-mindedness that must precede the inauguration of any fundamental political, economic, or social changes. The urbanization of our population and the achievement of real community-mindedness is as yet afar off.

III.

An American Labor Party that hopes to accomplish much in the not distant future must be built upon a full realization of the practical individualistic-mindedness of the ordinary present day American worker. It must reflect only the most pressing and immediate problems, of the impoverished farmers and industrial workers. It must put aside the idle blueprinting of the millenium and center its entire attention on this day's bread and butter, on the problems of the here and now. It must avoid such foreign or highbrow terms as bourgeoise, proletariat, economic determinism, and surplus value and talk and write in terms of employers, workers, "money talks," and profits. In other words, an American Labor Party must be realistic and understandable to American farmers and workers.

IV.

The dividing line of interests in a modern industrial nation is the dividing line that separates the users and the owners of capital. Those groups in the United States today that must use the capital of others in order to live are the tenant farmers, the bankrupt farmers, and the industrial workers. A Labor Party must reflect the common needs and aspirations of these individualistic-minded farmers and wage workers. The organizers of a Labor Party must not forget, curious and inconsistent as it may seem, that neither the impoverished American farmer nor the hard-pressed American wage worker any more than the American businessman has any aversion at all to using the government to the limit to advance individual interests. As a matter of fact, both farmers and wage workers welcome and invite such governmental action as secures their interests and controls the forces that menace their individual and collective security.

V.

The platform of a Labor Party must be brief, reflecting only the most immediate and vital common wants of the farmer and wage working groups. The workers on the farms, in the factories, on the railroads, and in the mines will respond to a few urgent issues simply and clearly [Continued on Page Three.]
Some of the Commonwealth buildings are mere shells, finished neither on the inside nor the outside. Rags stuffed in the cracks, here and there, have kept out the severest winter blasts. However, the work of finishing has been carried on all winter.

Some of the cottages are nearly complete, as to rock foundations, siding, casings, and so forth, and others are still poised upon timber blocks. But it is hoped that before the cold weather of next winter sets in all the cottages and dormitories will be wind-proof and rain-proof. Tin stoves are being replaced, one by one, with fireplaces built of native stone. The appearance of the campus is being changed slowly from that of a community of pioneer shacks to that of a village of comfortable homes.

In one respect Commoners are more fortunate than are the dwellers in the average mid-western village. Both trees and grass are abundant. The out-of-doors takes care of itself beautifully.

The building program is and has always been: First, to complete a sufficient number of buildings to comfortably house members of the community; second, to build a dam and power plant and work shop, and thereby enable the school to earn its own way. Commoners have never expected to be able to earn enough money to build the capital equipment, but have gone on the assumption that there are many liberal-minded people in America who are ready to contribute to a fund for such a purpose as soon as the college proves itself capable of survival. Past efforts have been directed toward education, maintenance, and construction of buildings. The school has never been self-supporting, although it has earned, of finishing of March dormitories will be wind-proof and rain-proof. Tin stoves are being replaced, one by one, with fireplaces built of native stone. The appearance of the campus is being changed slowly from that of a community of pioneer shacks to that of a village of comfortable homes.

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Of course, the Commoners will continue to raise fruit and vegetables, to keep a dairy, and to run its farms in order to produce as much of its foodstuffs as possible. Most of the necessities of life can be raised on Arkansas soil and the school will continue to "grow its own" to a greater and greater extent, but the wood shops will supply a marketable product to offset the yearly deficit.


Eleanor Copenhaver, New York City, list of One-Act Plays.

[Continued from Page One.]

New pledges bring total up to $740.00

[Continued from Page One.] dreed people who desire Commonwealth to stay on the map and continue its unique career. These people must be made to realize that Commonwealth cannot continue without their material support."

In the January 15 issue of the Fortnightly Commonwealth's straitened financial condition was fully described and an appeal was issued for aid. It was suggested that one hundred financially able and willing friends each pledge $25 yearly for the next three years to meet the annual deficit. Relieved of the deficit, the trustees will be able to canvass for a sufficient capital equipment fund. Only $7,000 is necessary in order to complete the capital equipment which would make Commonwealth self-supporting and this could be raised with little difficulty in three years, the trustees believe.

The school has received letters from friends who desire to make the hundredth pledge. According to Zeuch many people are watching the campaign who are of a mind to contribute just as soon as the results indicate success. "I earnestly ask that our friends lose no time in sending in their pledges," he added. "An early pledge has the added advantage of influencing others to follow suit."

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 1923 and pledge $______ annually for 1929 and 1930.

In case $2500 is not pledged by May 1, 1928, the sum enclosed is to be returned if so desired.

NAME ____________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________
SOCIETY NOTES

Six Commoners will attend the labor seminar which the Y. W. C. A. plans to conduct at Houston, Texas, during the summer months. Fern Babcock, secretary of the University of Arkansas branch of the Y. W. C. A. wired an invitation. She will endeavor to obtain part-time jobs for the students who will attend the seminar.

Versatility is a necessary qualification for a Commoner according to William Cunningham, instructor in journalism and English. Aside from his teaching Cunningham has worked as stockman, woodsman and editor. Now he has attained a new glory in the laundry. "I always thought that I was meant to be a laundress," he said.

Fire started by a detective stove pipe caused great excitement, but little damage, in the office of the Campus Chief on a recent Saturday afternoon. Members of the editorial staff were deeply engrossed in their work when Bill Cunningham noticed the burning wood at the point where the pipe goes through the ceiling. Charlotte Moskowitz dashed out the door and ran to the kitchen. "Fire," she gasped to the astonished kitchen crew as she seized a pitcher of water and darted back. The crew raced after her, a squad of them, carrying various utensils, filled with water. "Where's the fire?" they pantied. Charlotte pointed to a glowing place in the ceiling—enough fire to light a cigarette. "Oh, gee!" Spoonfuls of water were dashed on the conflagration until the red glow had turned black.

A large campaign poster, a relic of the 1920 Socialist presidential campaign, was received by Mrs. O'Hare from a Wisconsin admirer. The poster advertises a speech Mrs. O'Hare was scheduled to make for Debs. "That picture of me was taken shortly after my release from prison. I can tell from the dress I have on. That dress was given me at the time I was pardoned from prison," said Mrs. O'Hare. "But I can't imagine where the picture was taken. It looks like a snapshot."

Spring Is Here! Violets and jonquils in blossom, lilies growing noticeably, warm south winds, songsbirds of various kinds and restless students tell the tale of spring at Commonwealth. Father Zeuch, too, has the fever, and he is using

MAILBAG BULGES WITH ENCOURAGING LETTERS

[Continued from Page One]

years in case you plan to continue your work."

Ewan Clague, First Assistant to Ethelbert Stewert, Director of Bureau of Labor Statistics,

"I am indeed greatly concerned about the success of your experiment and you can count on me as one of those who will do what he can to help you out. . . . I think I can safely promise to get $25 to you in April, and I shall be glad to pledge an equal amount during the next two years. Of course, as a matter of fact, I hope that I can do better than that, and if I have any luck financially I shall certainly be able to do so."

Mary D. Brite, well-known Cincinnatil liberal,

"I cannot pledge $25 yearly to Commonwealth even to keep it alive. I can see my way clear to making a pledge of $10 yearly for this year and the next two years. I wish I could do more; but am glad I am able to do this much."

Mary F. Shields, a donor since our founding,

"I earnestly hope your wonderful college may live and prosper. I enclose a check for $25 and shall pledge to send the same amount for three years."

O. O. Wagner, railroad telegrapher and father of former student,

"We must keep up our labor schools by all means, and Commonwealth being the best one I have, why then here is my $25 pledge for the three years to tide it over."

Lillian Goldblatt Buck, former Commoner,

"I was very glad indeed to hear of the effort you are making to make Commonwealth a go, no matter how hard, and I am confident that you will succeed. . . . I am very, very much concerned."

BOOK REVIEW

UPSTREAM.


This slender Vanguard volume contains fragments from the letters of Grace Scribner, who was assistant secretary and joint editor of the Social Service Bulletin, a liberal paper put out by the Methodist Federation for Social Service. She died in 1922 as a result of an automobile accident.

Her story is touchingly epic. It reads like a fame and fortune dime novel, yet for all that it is both genuine and gripping. For Grace Scribner came out of a little Michigan lumber village, an uneducated and frail country girl, seeking not fame, not fortune, but simply the chance to be of service to humanity. She worked through the Salvation Army at first, helping in street meetings and selling their papers in stores and saloons.

Then she passed through a period of skepticism. She lost most of her theological dogmas, but her faith in the efficacy of the church remained unshaken. She saw the church, however, not as a temple of worship, but as an instrument which she could use for the transformation of humanity. So she joined the movement that has for its purpose the Christianizing of the social order, the Methodist Federation for Social Service.

The portions of her letters which Miss Chappell has included in this book reveal Grace Scribner perhaps better than a straightforward biography might have done. Harry F. Ward wrote the foreword. The book bears this inscription:

Grace Scribner
1882-1922
She sought truth and desired justice. An intelligence critical and tolerant, a purpose eager and patient. Suggestive in counsel, resourceful in execution, unsparing in labor, in adversity indomitable. Rigorous in self-discipline; able to cooperate. A maker of the New World.

—IRWIN WEISSMAN.

"Well," concluded the manager of the apartment house, "you say you have no children, phonograph, or radio, and you don't keep a dog. You seem to be just the quiet tenant the owner insists on."

The prospective tenant smiled grimly.

"I don't want to hide anything from you," he said. "You might tell the owner that my fountain pen squeaks a bit."

—Arkansas Digest.

Imperial Type Magazine.