FARM PEOPLE MUST ORGANIZE SAYS O'HARE

_Commoner Talks to Polk County Agricultural Association._

Cotton farmers will organize and go to Washington and to Little Rock and, through the pressure of their economic power, compel their representatives to enact such legislation as they desire, if they follow the advice of Kate Richards O'Hare, who addressed the Polk County Agricultural Association meeting in the courthouse at Mena, Arkansas, Thursday afternoon, March 8.

"It doesn't matter whom you send to Congress or to the Legislature, and it doesn't matter what party he represents; organized people can get anything they want from either party," asserted Mrs. O'Hare, in the course of a speech crammed with facts.

The speaker told the story of "King Cotton," his rule and his dethronement. "Seventy-five or eighty years ago, cotton was king, and cotton growers ruled the country through Congress and the legislatures. The war of 1861 tore down the cotton growers' rule. After the last gun was fired, the last grave filled, and the last crippled man had dragged himself home, cotton was king no more. He was dethroned by the manufacturers. They knew enough to organize. They went down to Washington and walked into the halls of Congress and demanded a tariff wall—and they got it. The cotton grower could no longer go to Liverpool with his cotton and sell it and buy his manufactured cotton goods in the cheapest market. The English manufacturer could not ship his goods to America, pay the duty and sell at a profit. The cotton growers were thus forced to buy from the mills of New England. They were forced to buy from mills protected by a tariff.

"Cotton is yet the greatest money crop in the world. And the cotton growers of America produce the bulk of the crop. But it is notorious that the cotton growers of America are the poorest people in America. You people here in the Ouachitas live in one of the most beautiful

[Continued on Page Three.]

PLEDGES FOR THE FORTNIGHT.

Paul Raushenbush
J. A. Phillips
W. L. Clark
Mary Norton
Robert Wood
Dorothy Minster
A. Paul Krager

(Complete List on Page 4.)

Babcock and Nelson Visit Commonwealth

Miss Fern Babcock, Y. W. C. A. secretary at the University of Arkansas, and Claude Nelson, of the Dallas Y. M. C. A., spent March 16 and 17 at Commonwealth. They are planning a seminar at Houston this summer and will enroll approximately forty students from various colleges in the Middle West. These students will get jobs in Houston industrial plants and study labor conditions at first hand. Several Commonwealth students had expressed an interest in the project.

Miss Babcock is an old friend of the school and was the second person to respond to the campaign for maintenance fund pledges. She visited the school for the first time last fall.

Nelson, formerly a Rhodes scholar at Oxford, compared and contrasted Oxford University with Commonwealth College. "In some respects," he said in a talk to the student body, "Commonwealth more nearly resembles Oxford than does any other American school. In methods of instruction and Commonwealth have many resemblances. But in the matter of luxury they are at opposite extremes."

STUDENT BODY VOTES TO AID IN CAMPAIGN

Half of Fund for This Year Has Been Pledged by Friends of School.

That the student body is in sympathy with the present attempt to raise a maintenance fund was shown at a student body meeting March 19 when it was unanimously voted that students pledge ten dollars each for 1928, 1929 and 1930.

"Obviously," said one student, "it may be impossible for every student to pay the ten dollars promptly. Some of us are sure to find ourselves out of work this summer. Neither is it possible for any student to say positively at the present time when he will or will not have the money. But this vote means that as many of us will pay as have the ten dollars to spare, and I predict that all but two or three will have it at no distant date."

Dorothy K. Minster, of Cincinnati, sends a check for $100 and tells us to write her next year. "If you will remind me next year at this time I believe I will send you a similar amount but I do not care to pledge myself."

A five-dollar donation comes from the Ohio State Federation of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks.

Approximately half of the maintenance fund for this year has been raised, but only a month remains of the present school term. "We must find some way of speeding up the campaign or we will fail to raise the necessary pledges," says W. E. Zeuch. "The next month will be important in the history of workers' education. If Commonwealth goes under it will be a long time before anyone will make a similar attempt to start an independent workers' school."

Prospective students are writing daily asking for information as to whether the school will continue. "We are optimistic as we can honestly be," says Zeuch, "and if I still firmly believe that our friends will not let Commonwealth go on the rocks."

Commonwealth needs fifty more friends able and willing to pledge $25 each per year for the next three years. They should be found within the month, to insure the continuance of the school.
Power Economics

By William Edward Zech.

Section I

The Apologists

(Wilson's Note:--Dr. Zech has been giving a course at Commonwealth entitled "Power Economics" which embodies his own approach to the old School of Economics. We have asked him to condense his thought into a few brief articles to be offered as a series to readers of the Fortnightly. This is the first article of the series. The author will continue occasionally as he can snatch the time to formulate the approach compactly. Naturally the series must be indicative.)

I.
We may as well face the fact that almost all economic theorists have been rationalizers and that their theoretical systems are in reality apologetics. Practically every economist was in his day either the champion of a passing order, the high priest of a prevailing economic system, or the prophet of the new economic society that ought, in his opinion, to be.

The theoretical economic system that each formulated must be judged therefore as a system of apologetics and not as science; as a rationalization of economic situations rather than as an objective correlation of economic facts. What has been true of the economists of the past is equally true of most of the economists of the present. The history of economic thought is largely a succession of more or less clever economic rationalizations.

II.
Quennay and his fellow writers of the physiocratic school which he founded were the champions of the passing, though then still dominant, landed nobility of France. And they found to be the ultimate source of all productive power; agricultural production was, therefore, to be encouraged; and the landlord's position in the economic order was a manifestation of natural law. The rising tradesmen were declared unproductive, a little better than economic parasites. The physiocrats attempted to formulate an economics that would justify the continuation of the almost feudal system of land tenure which was being attacked by those forces that were later to produce the Revolution and to destroy the prerogatives of the landed aristocracy.

III.
Adam Smith reflected the point of view of the rising manufacturing class as opposed to the landed gentry of Britain. The industrialists needed free trade and an open market if they were to dispose of their products and to get cheap food for their workers. The expansion of industry could not go on if governmental restrictions continued in effect, so a laissez-faire policy was imperative. Smith very conveniently found a moral justification for laissez-faire in a socially and economically beneficent self-seeking human nature, and modestly dubbed this "find" a natural law.

Ricardo, a London broker, then hit the landed squires a knock-out blow, academically speaking, by pointing out the parasitical nature of landlordism and by demonstrating that the economic rent might well be taxed without affecting prices, thus strengthening industrial capitalism. The single taxers have been harping on that chord ever since.

Malthus observed that increasing production was concomitant with an increasing poverty that cursed England. With his clerical conscience he found the cause not in capitalism but in God-ordained biologic laws. Population, he claimed, tended to increase in geometric ratio, while increase in production was limited to a mathematical ratio. The birth rate was always pressed on the food supply. Capitalism was thus abolved and God or Providence made the causative factor in the increasing misery. Cairnes and Senior, and later Lasalle, pointed out the futility of all attempts to raise wages in view of the Malthusian doctrine.

IV.
Marx saw all the horrors of the embryonic capitalism and wanted to change the whole economic system. He studied and examined the classical economic doctrines, accepted the dictum that labor is the source and measure of value, found the source of exploitation in the surplus value, formulated the doctrine of the class struggle, and predicted the destruction of capitalism and the inauguration of socialism as an inevitable working out of natural laws in the social order. A highly sensitive and unusually intelligent university product, he reflected the rising tide of worker resentment against the capitalist system and tried to give that resentment a scientific economic foundation and a moral justification. He rationalized his humanitarian impulses.

V.

 Gnossen, Jevons, Bohm-Bawerk, J. B. Clark and others of the hedonistic school have been engaged primarily in finding a psychological basis and therefore, either implicitly or openly, a justification for all the institutions of capitalism. They have given us the profoundly enlightening dicta in numerous heavy volumes that economic activities are based on human nature, that we always, psychologically speaking, exchange a less for a greater value; consequently an exchange leaves all parties concerned better off. An unrestricted competitive capitalism presents the greatest liberty for the exchange of the lesser for the greater value, of course. J. B. Clark finds capitalism [Continued on Page Three.]
SOCIETY NOTES

"The foundation of the new barn has been completed," said Ubaldo Rich before he left. "Only one mistake has been discovered so far. I leave all others to be discovered by the carpenters." The barn will be 60 feet long and 30 feet wide. On the ground floor it will house 15 cows and six horses and will have a large granary, a place for grinding mill and a room for separating milk. The mow will hold 60 tons of hay.

A stiff neck and a sore back respectively were the price Raymond Koch and Al Kruger paid to get the seed potatoes under ground, so they claim. Koch and Herman Ericson prepared and marked the ground. Then the potatoes, previously cut and rolled in lime, were placed in the rows by Koch and Kruger. Ericson followed the planters with a plow and covered the seed.

New sunbonnets have been presented by Mrs. O'Hare to the two other married women on the campus, Mrs. Bosch and Mrs. Cunningham. "Now a fellow can tell the married ones from the single ones," commented Harry L. Cohen.

"My sunbonnet is nice," said Clarice, "despite the fact that it hardly harmonizes with the lumberjack boots and trousers which I usually wear. The first time I crossed the campus seven people called out, 'Hello, Grandma,' which of course was meant to be funny and wasn't. This is the first bonnet I've had since I was six."

"I never saw a sunbonnet except in the movies until I came out here," said Mildred Chadwick. "I supposed they were actually worn only in costume plays."

"Put the wagon in the plow and take it to the field across the creek," ordered Mr. Zeuch on a recent afternoon. "This was promptly done," says Herman Ericson in the Campus Bluff. "Then the hammers picked up the carpenters, the saw walked away with the carpenter crew, and a bucket began to put stones into Harry L. Cohen and Charles Krarnarsky."

FARM PEOPLE MUST ORGANIZE SAYS O'HARE

[Continued from Page One]

parts of the United States, but you have to spend much money in the cotton patch that you aren't able to enjoy the beauty that surrounds you. You produce wealth that goes to endow schools and colleges, but where cotton grows there also ignorance endures. Many of you can't even read. You never had time or the opportunity to go to school. And your wives never had the time or the opportunity to go to school; they had to swing the chopping hoe. And you are not giving your children an education because you must have them to help in the cotton.

"At the other end of the row, the workers are organized. They had to organize in cellars and secret places to evade the wrath of the employer, and they were handicapped by a diversity of languages—and hardly any of them could speak English—but they did organize. And they got things. And they are continuing to get things."

She then told of how the garment workers struck at first for a fifty-six-hour week and a ten per cent raise in wages and finally won a forty-four hour week and a twenty per cent raise. "One of the finest apartment houses in New York City is owned by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. It cost over a million and a half dollars. The people who live in that house own it; and they are living easy—and they are sending their children to high school. How many of your children will ever enter high school? Very few of them, unless you get over the idea that each man is sufficient unto himself. If you don't boost together you will never get out of the hole," she said.

Asserting that "King Cotton" had been replaced by "King Railroad," who in turn had given place to other kings, until now "King Oil," the greatest of them all, rules the entire world, she closed by saying: "I have a vision of a future time such an ideal milieu for exchange of values that he claims the capitalistic distributive process gives each person what he produces, i. e., what he contributes to the collective product. The proof is that he gets it.

IV.

More recently John R. Commons has formulated the volitional economics. It appears to possess more of objectivity and of relativity in its analysis of historic and contemporary economic processes than preceding schools of economic thought. Yet if one has the patience and the vast preparation necessary to read through the appalling erudition of "The Legal Foundations of Capitalism," and "Reasonable Value" it will be found that Professor Commons' approach is so purposeful that the objectivity of his research is at times rather strained. Nevertheless Professor Commons seems to be on the right road to a real economics. If he had used the same methodology unwarped by an efficient purpose and were he not so unnecessarily cautious about the implications of his approach and findings, he would probably go down in the history of economic thought as one of the few great economic thinkers. It is unfortunate that he never loses sight of his purpose—the stabilization of capitalism.

-"Reasonable Value" is still in manuscript form.

when Labor will be king; a time when all who toil will stand shoulder to shoulder and rule by the might of organization."

The meeting which was announced as a regular meeting of the Polk County Agricultural Association with Mrs. O'Hare's address as the special feature, was presided over by Judge W. E. Ware. Although the weather was bad the attendance was large.

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.

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

NAME

ADDRESS
GOOD and WELFARE
The Last Order of Business
By NAZARETH DAWN

Ichabod!

President Glenn Frank of the University of Wisconsin has been posing as an apostle of liberalism in these benighted states. He has been scribbling and orating from one end of the country to the other on the freedom that is and will be the University of Wisconsin's under his regime.

A few weeks ago a little woman called his big bluff. She punctured his smugness of pride and mathematician Bertrand Russell's liberalism from one end of the country to the other. She staked her life on freedom of speech, conviction to speak in the House of the Senate, and advised against letting her "bad taste," be known.

It was William Jennings Bryan who was highly critical of exceptions. He is also combating the liberal Frank's liberalism of exceptions. to find a mixed audience of university students. His attitude made it almost impossible for Mrs. Russell to find a hall in Madison in which to deliver her lecture. Finally she was granted permission to speak in the Parish House of the Unitarian Church.

It is amazing to find such palpable and unpalatable Grundism in such a self-advertised liberal as President Frank. It is also highly amusing when thousands of women in the large urban centers are purposely experimenting to find a satisfactory sex life when many thousands more all over the country are thinking and talking about the problem of sexual compatibility and when students of society are seriously concerned that President Frank should consider an open discussion of it in "bad taste."

If the university platform is not the place to discuss vital sex problems that are agitating any portion of society we should like to know why. Is it not the worst sort of smirking Grundism to suggest that it is highly improper and in "bad taste" to discuss sex problems frankly before an audience of mature young men and women of the university? President Frank should remember that not all men and women are nasty minded. We of the younger generation believe that it is about time that we bring sex out of the latrines and put it into the classrooms so that we of our generation may have a wholesome-mindedness toward sex problems that our elders most obviously lack.

Then that cry of "bad taste." Is it not just another cheap, flimsy cloak for intolerance! Our Grundies are always talking about "bad taste" with lifted eyebrows. What constitutes "bad taste" anyway, and who said so? Is an honest, open discussion of any real life problem before any university audience "bad taste"?

We had hoped that President Frank would bring an enlightened progressivism into the administration of the University of Wisconsin. Little by little we learn the limits of his liberalism.

Wisconsin! Wisconsin! Ichabod!

CAMPAIGN RESULTS
Name-Address 1928 1929 1930
E. Haldeman-Julius, Girard, Kan. $25.00 $25.00 $25.00
Fern Babcock, Fayetteville, Ark. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Alfred F. Schoch, Chicago, Ill. 25.00 25.00 25.00
A. F. Green, Cleveland, Ohio 25.00 25.00 25.00
Frederick N. MacMillin, Milwaukee, Wis. 25.00 25.00 25.00
George Marclay, Ogdensburg, N. Y. 25.00 (if able)
Lillian Goldblatt Buck, Brooklyn, N. Y. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Mr. and Mrs. Phil Fried, Peekskill, N. Y. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Brody, Peekskill, N. Y. 25.00 25.00 25.00
A. M. Todd, Kalamazoo, Mich. 25.00 (if able)
Mrs. M. Wilson, Pleasant Lake, Ind. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Peter Hoedemaker, Little Falls, N. J. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Elizabeth Gilman, Baltimore, Md. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Albert F. Coyle, New York City 25.00 25.00 25.00
Luther Clark, Saint Louis, Mo. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Mrs. Louis D. Brandeis, Washington, D. C. 100.00 100.00 100.00
Roscoe Pound, Cambridge, Mass. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Sol Kahn, Mobile, Ala. 100.00 25.00 25.00
Mary P. Shields, Detroit, Mich. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Ewan Clague, Washington, D. C. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Perle Shale Kingsley, Denver, Colo. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Mary D. Brite, Cincinnati, Ohio 10.00 10.00 10.00
Peter Boike, Cincinnati, Ohio 25.00 25.00 25.00
O. O. Wagner, Millersport, Pa. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Rudolph Stoess, Denver, Colo. 5.00 5.00 5.00
Morris W. Rappaport, Chicago 25.00 25.00 25.00
Dr. Edward Berman, Urbana, Ill. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Margaret Shipman, Lee, Mass. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Floyd Dell, Croton on Hudson, N. Y. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union, No. 1, Arkansas, Little Rock 25.00 25.00 25.00
R. J. Halsey, Needles, Cal. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Constance MacCorkle, Fairhope, Ala. 50.00 50.00 50.00
G. W. Smith, Troy, Ohio 25.00 25.00 25.00
Paul Raushenbush, Madison, Wis. 25.00 25.00 25.00
J. A. Phillips, Terre Haute, Ind. 25.00 25.00 25.00
W. L. Clark, Milan, Ill. 25.00 25.00 25.00
Mary Norton, Arkansas City, Kan. 10.00 10.00 10.00
Robert Wood, Mt. Hebron, Cal. 10.00 10.00 10.00
Dorothy Minster, Cincinnati, Ohio 100.00 100.00 100.00
A. Paul Kruger, Coronado, Cal. 25.00 25.00 25.00

RICH LEAVES SCHOOL
(Continued from Page One.)

monwealth and the Commoners very much. They are just the type of men and women I wish to associate with. When I first came to Commonwealth I was restless from months of strike struggle but after associating with the faculty and students for a few weeks I overcame my restlessness.

"This is a labor institution. I hope that all of the students will fight for the cause of labor when they leave here. However, they shouldn't and needn't be in any hurry to leave. I expect to see most of them back next year."