INFLUENZA SPIKES
NORTHERN JOURNEY

Exact Location for Dam Site Is Determined; Work Proceeds

The next best thing to being born rich is being born lucky, for even the cock will lay eggs for him who is lucky. Commonwealth was not born with a silver spoon in its mouth; nor, to judge from the turn of events, was it born exactly the favorite of Fortune. Last fortnight it was announced that William Cunningham would go on the road and stump on behalf of the college. Fortune, in the form of influenza, prevents this.

Just as black squares are necessary in a cross-word puzzle so is money necessary for the further development of Commonwealth. The college cannot do any campaigning to speak of—for a fund that will put its plant on a self-supporting basis—because of its small personnel and limited means. To be entirely self-sustaining a hydro-electric plant and workshops must be established.

50 H. P. Is Minimum

Preliminary work on the hydro-electric plant has been under way several weeks. A careful survey of the college land has determined the exact location for the dam site. The dam will be 770 feet long and twenty-five feet high, including five feet above assumed water level. One-quarter of the length of the dam will be taken up by the power house and spillways. The balance will be earth dam with core.

The dam will be built either by the hydraulic or excavation method. It will provide 50 h. p. as a minimum. This is considered sufficient for the present needs of Commonwealth. The power will be generated by one or two units of turbine, with direct connected electro-generators. Although the size of the reservoir and the amount of storage have not yet been determined, it is estimated that about ten acres will be impounded into a lake.

As present Engineer Post is trying to find out the character of the earth's substrata so as to determine the method of construction and the cost.

Wisdom is not in the years, but in the head.—Turkish proverb.

COMMONERS HOWDY NEW YEAR AT SONG-FEST

Yes, the Year is growing old,
And his eye is pale and bleared!
Death with frosty hand and cold.
Plucks the old man by the beard.

Sprawled before the large stone fireplace in the Guest House. Commoners sang out the old, sang in the new to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." "Go Down, Moses," "There's a Hole in the Bottom of the Sea," "Sweet Charriot." "Oh, Mr. Noah," and scores of others. "1-9-2-9 at Commonwealth" finished the song-fest.

Thanks, Friends

V. F. Calverton, Baltimore, Md., his latest book.
Ralph Cheney and Lucia Trent, Philadelphia, Pa., their latest book.
Bolton Hall, New York City, one book and pamphlets.
Mrs. Theodore S. Lee, Boston, Mass., one book and magazines.
Old Lindsay, Shreveport, La., package of books.
D. T. Snyder, Kansas City, Mo., $25.00.
Stanley Pietrezewski, Detroit, Mich., $10.00.

TEACHERS OUT-NUMBERED IN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The election of Ross Clark Brown, student, into the Commonwealth College Association (legal owner of all college properties) gives the students six seats in that body, as against the teacher's five. Although a locomotive fireman, Brown freighted and hitch-hiked here from his home in California. This is his fifth year at Commonwealth.

Via freight, the highway, and the cushion, three other students came; registered for the winter quarter. They are: Fritz Hovevar, Illinois carpenter, who signed on the dotted line for his third year at Commonwealth; William Cun- bow, Texas farm-hand, back for the second time; and Eugene Showalter, Indiana student, new to these parts.

COMMUNICATIONS

The college's post office has received two packages, one from the President of the University of Texas, the other from the President of the University of California. Both contain books and magazines.

ELECTION CHANGES

Student Is Voted Into Board of Trustees; to Serve Two Years

The Commonwealth College Association convoked at the Hermitage, spick-and-span retreat of bachelors William Edward (Father) Zeuch and Lucien Koch, for the special business of electing a new Board of Trustees. Discordantly composed,—teacher and student, youth and middle-age, male and female, Jew and Gentile,—yet the Association was of one mind during the history-making proceedings that ensued.

The faculty was represented by the Big Four: (1) Father Zeuch, plump, bald, serious, but ready with a hearty chuckle for squibs; (2) F. M. Goodhue, who recently resumed residence after a year's leave of absence, still the perfect gentleman, still goateed in the manner of a Southern colonel; (3) William Cunningham, drooping, easy-going Anglo-Saxon; (4) Clarice Cunningham, toused, bobbed, banged wife of William.

Vote Is Unanimous

Of the student representation, tow-headed and Rooseveltian grinning Lucien Koch and frail, insignificant in stature Irving Weissman are teachers as well as students. The others: Nellie Tobe, de-cisive, hard-boiled virgin (Fortnightly, Dec. 1); Raymond John Koch, big-boned, big-muscled, and yet of a quiet, unassuming mien; Charlotte (Chucky) Moskowitz, red-haired, high-powered typewriter pounder; and Ross Clark Brown, tousled and pug-nosed Irishman.

As a warming-up prelude, the members discussed campus fables and foibles mongered by The Campus Bluff and Dame Rumor. After Chairman (William) Cunningham had gavelled the meeting to order, after Secretary (Clarice) Cunningham had read the minutes (which were accepted as read), after the various officials had made various reports, the floor was thrown open to the nomination of trustees.

Unanimously, noiselessly, the association nominated; elected. For the first time in educational history a student re-

[Continued on Page Three]
STUDENTS

David Englestein, Canuck, taught for two years at the rural school nestled in La Macaza, province of Quebec. He became janitor, teacher, and principal, all rolled in one, of the La Macaza little red schoolhouse despite fog-hornings of his Montreal friends about country hardships.

Canadian-Jewish intelligentsia summered subjects. These discussions stimulated an literary self-expression. Englestein mingled with these Hebrew to avoid all artificialities and strainings to a whirlpool. Finally rolled in one, of the La Macaza little red winter weather, wolves. Some of the Canadian-Jewish intelligentsia summered into a whirlpool. Finally rolled in one, of the La Macaza little red winter weather, wolves. Some of the Canadian-Jewish intelligentsia summered at La Macaza. Janitor-Teacher Principal Englestein mingled with these Hebrew teachers, labor leaders, socialists, communists, and listened to their talks on the Ethics of Spinoza, on socialism, new educational methods, abstruse Talmudical subjects. These discussions stimulated an interest in the labor movement. Returned to Montreal, he was drawn into the white collar ranks as into a whirlpool. Finally freeing himself from his well-formed stool, Bookkeeper Englestein fled to Commonwealth, where he labors to achieve literary self-expression. Says he: "I want to avoid all artificialities and straining after effect. I want to appeal to the masses in a natural, spontaneous way. I want to become one of them and inspire them to strive and struggle for betterment."

Wanda Lee Stewart, of the Louisiana Stewarts, testimonials: "I am interested in now learning to write for labor papers, and I feel that Commonwealth is helping me towards that end. My study of psychology is teaching me to overcome certain inhibitions which may hinder my being a useful and intelligent worker in the labor movement. The study of the history of civilization has broadened my viewpoint and taken me away from small ideas and ideals. My industrial work in the kitchen has taught me to work with other people with the least amount of friction and loss of time. I am learning to assume responsibility. This work at Commonwealth has trained me to think for myself and to be more resourceful than ever. Commonwealth has shown me that there is a better life than one of selfishness and narrow-mindedness. I am acquiring enough self-confidence to push me towards which I want to do."

ELECTION CHANGES

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POWER ECONOMICS

Consequent to the publication of a series of articles dealing with the power approach in economics Forthnightly has received numerous letters expressing in their criticism and comment the significance of the new economics being developed at Commonwealth. Whenever able, the editor will print in this column extracts from communications.

Quite Right.

I found the paper on power economics interesting and stimulating. I think the criticism of Commons' volitional theory very well taken, and I think you are quite right in asserting that it is power that is the most important thing. My criticism of your whole thesis, as far as I have any, is twofold: In the first place I think you should guard against over-simplification; in the second place I think there is an element of metaphysics that is attached to your views that should be eliminated.

As a group, economists are too much disposed to elucidate one single strand of an explanation and find in it the key to all sorts of complex phenomena. I think the method is too easy. You should try to avoid explaining too much in terms of mere power. I agree heartily that power is of enormous importance: probably it is more important than anything else. But when you stress it too much you imply that those in power are not ever motivated by anything but their desire to enhance their own interests, and that as a rule they do so consciously. I think a great deal of economic activity is purely non-rational and I think also that much of our labor legislation is nothing more than a crystallization of the humanitarian and non-economic impulses of middle-class and occasionally employer interests.

The second criticism has to do with your assertion that just as developments came about to make the capitalist-employers the retainers of power, the working class, by increasing organization and political power, will become in turn the possessors of power and the makers of the working rules. Now that, in my opinion, is an end fervently to be wished for, but to assert without further ado that it is going to take place smacks altogether of Marxian metaphysics.

Nothing in the world, as far as I can see, is sure to take place inevitably except the process of being born, living and dying. You may be able to see certain influences at work which, if unhindered, seem to point to the assumption of power by labor. But you must not assert that such a thing is bound by the nature of things to come out. Any number of things may happen in social and economic development to turn events in another direction.

If you set forth your power concept as a philosophy of action for labor, that is one thing. If you set it forth as something upon which labor can rest its convictions that one day soon it will rule, that is an entirely different thing. The latter is mere metaphysics which should lead logically to the conception that one might as well sit down and wait for the inevitable to happen. The former may become an invigorating and enlightening philosophy of action for labor.

Walter A. Berman
Department of Economics
University of Illinois
Urbana, Ill.

PEGASUS UNSHOD
As Ridden by Commonwealth Versifiers

COMMONWEALTH
By a Visitor.

Hills, vales.
The browns of autumn, mists,
And back of all the glory of the setting sun.
Youth, purposeful and alive.
The will to do and—opportunity.

LOVE IS LIKE AN OLD SHOE
By Emily Wilson

Like an old shoe cast aside
Is love, when the wearing is done.
When protection against bitter winds
Leaves strength sapped and thin,
And the shoe fits no other foot
Nor cares—
So is love thrown back in the closet.

BOOK REVIEW

SEEK YE FIRST THE POWER.

To begin with let me state that this little book is an excellent statement of the problems that have arisen in connection with the rapid development of the power projects the past two decades. The volume takes up the much-discussed propaganda methods and agencies of the power interests, the concentration of financial control of power systems, comparative rates as between privately and publicly owned power plants, the present status of attempts to regulate, the comparative advantages of the publicly owned Canadian power plants; then ends up with a consideration of ways and means of recapturing control of the electric power facilities in the interests of the general public. The thing that always interests and surprises me, however, when I read a book of the nature of Power Control is that, notwithstanding the attempt at objectivity, there is a note of the good old-fashioned Sunday school moral indignation running through it all. I wonder whether this intense and ever-recurring though subdued motif of righteous indignation is for propaganda purposes or whether such products of the the New York intelligentsia as Messrs. Rauschenbusch and Laidler really react to economic and political problems with an emotionalism tinted by moral sentiments.

The scientist would find nothing strange in the activities of the power interests. What they have done he would expect them under the prevailing conditions to do. Is it not rather naive to expect great economic concerns to consider any but their own interests? Who that has studied history objectively would not expect to happen that what has happened, not only in connection with the power interests, but with the oil interests and all other interests that have something to gain by getting control of the sovereignty so as to set the working rules relative to their own particular economic interests? Where is there a group, no matter whether it be a financial, a manufacturing, an agricultural, or a labor group, that has not tried to use the state to protect its own interests; and all the time seeking to identify its own interests with the public good? That is a part of the game in the struggle for power. The scientist who approaches these problems should do so with a measuring stick of social well-being scientifically determined and not with moral sentiments otherwise inspired.

—William Edward Zeuch.