OUR ARKANSAS DESERT NOW BLOOMING AGAIN

With Plenty of Rain College Farms Now Promise Bumper Crop

Prospects never looked brighter for a bumper harvest on the college lands than at present. There has been an abundance of rain during the spring and although the parched earth seems never to get enough to soak the soil deeply nevertheless there has been sufficient to keep the surface in good shape for cropping.

There are about a hundred and fifty acres under cultivation on the three hundred and twenty acres of the college plantation. Ten acres are in Irish potatoes, twelve acres in cots, thirty acres in corn, three acres in cucumbers, thirty acres in soy beans for hay, six acres in sorghum cane for cane syrup, ten acres in peanuts for hay feed, while the balance of the acreage is in Sudan grass, kaffir corn, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, sunflowers, cow peas and other things of which, being city bred, we have forgotten the names.

Tom Thomas and Ivan Williams are running the farms this year. There is enough work to keep everyone busy. Unluckily one had to do the work one cannot realize how much there is to do to keep crops in shape, especially such a variety of crops as ours.

Alois Oppek supervises the seven acres of garden truck. He learned the business (Continued on Page 3)

ASSOCIATION CHANGES
SCHOOL CALENDAR

At the June meeting of the Commonwealth College Association, governing body of the community, the calendar of the school year was changed so as to include a week of vacation between the Fall and Winter quarters and between the Winter and Spring quarters. This means that the dates for the coming academic year will be shifted as follows: Fall Quarter, September 28 to December 19; Winter Quarter, December 28 to March 22; Spring Quarter, March 28 to June 21.

The reason for the inclusion of the vacation period is that nine months of steady grind has been found a bit too long. Students get restless and need to get away for a spell. The vacation periods during the holidays and in the spring will enable students to put their packs on their backs for Hot Springs, or New Orleans, or the higher mountain fastnesses.

"This vacation will go a long way," says Dr. Zeuch, "to overcome the accumulated irritations that always arise from too much living together. Holidays are a domestic cathartic."

LUCIEN KOCH

Lucien Koch, who assumes the office of Director of Commonwealth College on September 1, will be on a lecture tour of the Pacific Coast and Colorado during the month of August. The first week-end he will be in the Puget Sound country, the second in the Bay section of California, the third in and around Los Angeles, and the fourth in Denver.

Lucien has the unique distinction of being the youngest head of a college in the United States as well as the director of the only independent resident educational community for workers in this country. He was 24 years old on June 21. Commonwealth is, of course, the only institution of its kind.

Lucien is a capable teacher as well as an able speaker. The past year he spent as an instructor with Dr. Alexander Meiklejohn at the Experimental College of the University of Wisconsin. In June the University of Wisconsin conferred on him a graduate degree in labor economics. All his undergraduate training was received at Commonwealth during the trying pioneer years of the school. His return to head our educational community has brought considerable happiness to Dr. Zeuch, chief founder, who leaves in September for a year to study workers' education in Europe, (Continued on Page 3)

YOUTH CAMP BEGINS & SUMMER SCHOOL OPENS

College Plant the Center of a Double Header This Season

Commonwealth is carrying on the college summer session and the labor youth camp concurrently this summer. A dozen students are taking courses. Thanks to the Christian Social Justice Fund of Baltimore, of which Elizabeth Gilman is secretary, Commonwealth Labor Youth Camp was enabled to offer ten scholarships to workers children of the South, who would otherwise have been unable to come to camp.

The youth camp scholarships have been distributed among labor bodies in Arkansas and Oklahoma. In Arkansas one scholarship was allotted to Fort Smith; one to El Dorado; one to Pine Bluff; one to Little Rock unions in general and one to the Bricklayers of Little Rock in particular, this latter because the Bricklayers have been our good friends in the past.

In Oklahoma, Victor Purdy, State Secretary of the Federation of Labor, was asked to designate three boys from among the sons of unionists of the state. One scholarship was assigned to the Farmers' Union; another was turned over to L. A. Meek, secretary-treasurer of the Oklahoma State Council of Carpenters, who was asked to send a camper from among his group.

The first boy on the grounds came from Nebraska. He arrived at night unknown to the management, drove out from town, and was fast asleep on the porch of the Commons when we came down to breakfast in the morning. All boys at the camp will (Continued on Page 3)

TWO COMMONERS TAKE POSITIONS

Irving Weissman and Ross Clark Brown, who have completed courses at Commonwealth (Commonwealth never has graduations or graduates), are taking positions this summer that will put their knowledge and abilities to the test.

Weissman, from Brooklyn, New York, spent four years at Commonwealth. Last year he took graduate work in sociology and labor at the University of Wisconsin. On July 1 he goes to the Provident Association of St. Louis as assistant to the general manager of welfare work in that city.

Brown, a Californian who studied at Commonwealth for six years specializing in labor economics and statistics, is taking charge of a new branch office at Seattle, under the Labor Bureau conducted by Melnikoff of San Francisco. The purpose of this organization is to furnish facts and argue cases for workers.
Commonwealth College Fортнighly

Vol. VI., No. 7

July 1, 1931

The Emergent Fascism In America

By William Edward Zech

During the past thirty years tremendous changes have taken place in the economic and social life of the United States. The Twentieth century came in with a strong middle class fighting against monopolies, trusts, Wall Street and all that typified the growing aggressions of concentration, wealth and power. Bryan, Roosevelt and LaFollette are names familiarly associated with that long drawn out losing and now practically lost battle. Wealth kept on increasing, industrial and financial units kept enlarging by absorptions and amalgamations, merger followed merger so that today we are largely dominated in virtually all under the competition of chains of giant corporations.

When we analyze this recent drift we are forced to the conclusion that, in all probability, we are entering the twilight of democracy. Throughout history, in the evolution of every civlization, democracy is seen as a social movement that has always been the means of middle-class domination. This was true of the ancient democracies of Greece and Rome; of the democracies that arose in the Italian and Hanseatic cities in the Middle Ages; and of the English and Continental nations in response to the needs of the rising middle class in the early days of modern capitalism.

The old-time independent farmers have been and are being forced either into bankruptcy or into servitude. The individual retail tradesmen are now members of a rapidly increasing and dependent wage-working class. Thus in the United States we are faced with a situation in which we have a strong industrial and financial group, a rapidly disappearing middle class, and an enlarging mass of tenant farmers and industrial workers.

The forces that have been at work to undermine and destroy the middle class and with it middle class dominance and democracy so as to promote the emergent industrial fascism are many. Politically, the officialdom of the Republican and Democratic parties were corrupted and won over by subsidizing their campaigns. Just as Mark Hanna, Murray Crane, and Boone Penrose delivered the G. O. P., so is拉斯卡b and his ilk delivering the Democratic followers of Jefferson and Jackson. The Norris, La Follettes and Wheelers of the old parties, coming from those states in which the middle class is still somewhat accoutred, will raise their voices in vain within their own ranks for democratic principles and measures in the face of the industrial fascist or feudal domination of their respective political organizations in the heavily populated urbanized states.

The industrial fascists have been and continue urging and destroying civil liberties, the cornerstone of all democracy, wherever they are introduced so as to control courts, executives and legislatures. Legislatures and parliamentary methods, the instruments of democracy, are being ridiculed by industrial fascist publicity agencies. This highly complex industrial civilization of our needs expects us to understand and control it for the common good and there are not selected or created by a majority vote of relatively ignorant electorate. Consequently the ridicule has point and is effective. In disgust people refuse to vote and so democracy wanes. Even in Wisconsin where the notion of democracy in government was carried to its fullest expression in the United States under the influence of that supreme middle class champion, the old La Follette, there has been an apparent recently a surprising cracking of the democratic ideology.

On the industrial field we find trade unionism, the expression of democracy in the field of production, decree and directing. William, official spokesman of labor, baffled, groping in an environment in the face of the powerful dominant industrialism has been reduced to meaningless words and gestures, giving incitement, and futile gestures. Some so-called representatives of labor, such as Matt Woll, have gone over openly to the impending fascism. Others, however, men like H. H. Broach, sensing the doom of the old democratic methods and searching for saving

LUCIEN KOCH

(Continued from Page 1) as well as much pleasure to all Commoners generally.

We urge all friends of Commonwealth along the route of Lucien’s speaking tour to make a point of meeting and hearing him.

THANKS, FRIENDS

CASW

Irving Forton, Philadelphia, Pa. $5.00

Mrs. Frederic Keiley, Elkinsdale, Washington, D.C. $5.00

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Frank, New York City $2.00

William Thomas, Pondera, Cal. $1.00

Laureltheta Conard, Grinnell, Ia. $1.00

A. J. Melz, Tulsa, Okla. $2.00

Meredith and Ruth Glenn, New York City $1.00

Paul E. B. Rundshbach, Madison, Wis. $2.00

Friends, Madison, Wis. $100.00

Christian Social Justice Fund, Baltimore, Md. $100.00

Dorothy Whitlow Ewing, New York City $1,000.00

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Charles Nagel, St. Louis, Mo. $1.00

C. H. Mayer, Bloomington, Ill. $1.00

George W. Norton, New York City $1.00

Lee Hester, Evanston, Ill. $1.00

Alfred D. Schneck, Chicago, Ill. $1.00

W. H. Fowler, Malverne, N.Y. $1.00

Louis Telle tolerant, Pittsburgh, Pa. $1.00

William Montgomery Brown, Galion, O. $1.00

W. G. Wagner, Millerstown, Pa. $1.00

Meredith Glenn, New York City $1.00

LUCIEN KOCH

(Continued from Page 1) as well as much pleasure to all Commoners generally.

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FELLOWS BUILDERS

A friend has written in asking if we would mind giving him a statement of our annual income from pledges and donations for current maintenance. We are only too glad to comply and are publishing it here so that others who wish it may have the same information. Commonwealth has always followed a policy of complete publicity as far as financing is concerned. The amounts listed below do not include income for capital equipment purposes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>$2,019.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>1,887.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>2,564.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931 (to June 1)</td>
<td>1,594.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The amount still due on pledges for the current year as well as the extra donations that always come in assure us of the $2,500 needed to meet our annual maintenance deficit.

We take pleasure in announcing in this connection the contributions recently received for capital equipment purposes.

Dorothy Whitney Elmhirst, New York City | $1,500.00
Alice Cheney, Philadelphia, Pa. | 10.00
Freda, Madison, Wis. | 100.00

The Commoners are busy in their industrial time at present installing the items of equipment covered in Mrs. Elmhirst's grant.

A developing community is always in need of new or better equipment. Mrs. Elmhirst's donation enables us to put in our water system and our own printery. The printery will save us hundreds of dollars annually. The deep well and storage will insure us against the dangers of another drought. We want to increase our dairy, put in better fences, install a lighting system and a number of other important things.

We will be glad to list further grants for these purposes from friends.

EMERGENT FASCISM

(Continued from Page 2)

solutions, have secured almost dictatorial powers within their organizations and are whipping together, co-operation with the industrialists in order that their unions many survive in some form or other. The company unions, the advance of welfare capitalism, and the threat of their extension are coercing the old time unionism into the will of the industrialists with such speed that it is doubtful whether at the end of ten years we will be able to distinguish between an old-time union, if any survive, and the direct labor agencies of the great merged corporations.

V

When we turn to the field of liberal or progressive intellectual endeavor we find a very strange lag in an appreciation of what is happening. The most of what is called liberal or progressive thought is a harking back, an attempt to regain, to revitalize, or to re-establish the democratic values of the passing middle class dominancy. The framers of Pound and Cardozo, the legal decisions of Holmes and Brandeis, the political ideas of Follet, Lippman, and Laske, publications such as the Nation and New Republic, the economic thought of Commons and his school, the religious liberalism of Ward, Israel and Ryan, are all attempts, though perhaps not always conscious, to revivify or to re-instate middle class values and instruments. Even the progressivism of John Dewey and the socialism of Norman Thomas are root ed in the ideology of the passing middle class democracy. Some liberals go so far as to assume the continued existence of civil liberties and parliamentary methods as though they were a permanent and immutable natural order of things in these United States. Intellectually, the forces of liberal democracy have failed to realize, seemingly, that democracy is doomed with the passing of the middle class or to realize the nature and basic strength of the impending industrial fascism.

VI

The question that faces us as workers is: What are we going to do in the face of this impending fascism? Shall we ally ourselves with a type of unionism based upon passed conditions and a passing ideology? Shall we give our allegiance to political efforts that are merely an attempt to regain values and conditions that presuppose a middle class that is rapidly passing beyond recall? Shall we give our care to intellectuals who are backward looking and backward moving, who are concerned with a lost middle class, democratic Elysium?

A realistic labor movement must build on the fact that middle class dominance and democracy are of the past; that industrial fascism or industrial feudalism is the next and imminently stage in our national development; that industrial fascism has a chance to survive over a considerable period if it uses the intelligence available for its own purpose. It is the economic basis for the middle class removed the middle class and parliamentarism are doomed and a two-class society inevitable.

Out of a realization of this situation will come the future labor movement of these United States. Can any one doubt what its nature and character must be?

SOCIETY NOTES

Famous Meeting—Brookwood third assistant cook and Commonwealth sub-cook, on the latter's territory. Andy Schnoller arrived one night accompanied by, and in the private car of the Mayor of Mena, or someone equally august. Andy once attended "Labor's Own School" at Katonah, N. Y. Never having learned anything about work, he cut his foot trying to chop wood. But he knew his cornmeal, all right. Delicious cornbread, they insisted ("they" referring to the cooks).

To Awake Suddenly—and perceive by your bedside, stranded on the porch far from another human, a black cat silhouetted in the moonlight. "Shades of Remorse!" Emily thought as her teeth chattered and frame shook. "Next it'll be King Duncan, Nancy Sykes, and Eliza crossing the ice. Woe is me. I'll never do it again!" Next morning when she sought renown by describing this vision, she found the cat to be merely a very lively one belonging to Bill and Claire. "But why didn't you call him before?" That vow was extorted, so to speak, under false pretenses, but as a one-time F. V. F. I. I gotta live up to it!"

Rabbits, Look Out—William Cunningham has returned to the campus, fishing along a wire, cat, scissors, and gun. The sister is entirely harmless, quite gentle—you'll like her. The wife by herself would be all right, but she concurs with the cat in all his desires, which are—carnivorous. Bill and his gun have bad intentions though not many fatalities. Step warily and there's yet hope, especially if you move your sisters, brothers, uncles, aunts and cousins out from under Foyle, which is the Cunningham domicile.

A Passing Landmark—Once Ymen 'All has returned to the campus, fetching along a wife, cat, scissors and gun. The sister is entirely harmless, quite gentle—you'll like her. The wife by herself would be all right, but she concurs with the cat in all his desires, which are—carnivorous. Bill and his gun have bad intentions though not many fatalities. Step warily and there's yet hope, especially if you move your sisters, brothers, uncles, aunts and cousins out from under Foyle, which is the Cunningham domicile.

A Passing Landmark—Once Ymen 'All

Society Editor Scores Beat—Has own lamp to explode on own premises while present in order to be the first to get the news. Last night the writer burnt the midnight oil (though not on lessons—she hasn't that reputation!), then went to bed, but the oil kept on burning. Realizing that in her care were a fragile roommate and a sleeping child (though not her own), and with great presence of mind, she dashed the lamp outdoors before it exploded. No casualties—only a lamp, including the chimney. With more presence of mind, that last fifteen cents had been saved.

Gossip Corner—Mr. Bosch still cracks the whip as slave driver, unsuspcting newcomers being his meat. Mrs. Elmhirst from Watonga, Okla., and Grace Bamsley, from Ozone, Arkansas, have set up housekeeping with no male aid nor hindrance. They must not have needed any hammering done!
PEGASUS UNSHOD
As Ridden by Commonwealth Versifiers

These are the poems of the remaining older generation members of our teaching staff, Clay Fulks, Earl C. Hamilton, and G. Y. Rusk as promised in the last Fortnightly. These are fifteen-minute free verse. Sahah!

THE STATESMAN

"Klatsuck, klatsuck,
Kaw, kew, koo;
Cock-a-doodle-do!
Watch the east burst
Into dazzling fire!
Watch the glorious sun
Rise higher and higher!
Marvel, inferno, at
My infinite power;
I make the day!
Cock-a-doodle-do!

But now I must strike the earth
And tear down the mountains
Made by the humble cows;
I bring Prosperity to the State."

And proudly the great cock struts,
And struts—and struts—
Before the admiring gaze
Of the sedate hens;
The rooded pullets; the poor
Despised capons; the alert,
Jealous cockerels, yearning
For their spurs;
The little chicks, chirping
In a hungry swarm;
And lesser fowl without the law.

Proudly he crowns—
And struts—and crows,
Making the day;
Bringer of prosperity. C.F.

ANCESTORS.

Some people are ashamed
Of their ancestors;
Why should they look guilty
When they see the frisking, Leaping,
Chattering.
Inhabitants of the cage?
Why should they turn the page quickly
When the Orang and the Gorilla
Stare at them with friendly Recognition,—
And mutter "That person
does not belong in my set."
I am different!
I deplore the steam heat,
The electric lights,
The ornate bungalow,—
I dream of the swaying trees
And the howling jungle.
I am on excellent terms with
My ancestors,—
Are not tree-climbing ancestors
Better than church-going neighbors?

A SOLDIER PASSES

Friends mourn the death of Amy B. Toole on June 2. Mrs. Toole, mother of Petta and Nellie Toole, was connected with Commonwealth as student and matron from 1875 to 1925.Perhaps it is why I appreciate this little volume which the Rebel Poets have fittingly dedicated to Upton Sinclair.

I do not think the poems in "Unrest" would appeal to the "comfortable" classes in society. The poems are descriptive of proletarian life. At the same time they express the hopes of the submerged classes and ring out as a battle cry. The contrast of rich and wretched is a constant theme—also the utter uselessness of the idle rich. Especially I liked the long poem on Russia, "Paws Have," by Clement Wood; H. H. Lewis' poem, "General;" and others by Ralph Chenery, Jack Conroy, and Lucia Trent. Perhaps these names are already familiar to the reader.

This anthology is described as an improvement over past ones put out by the Rebel Poets. There has been a better and more careful selection.

The editors say that this neatly bound, rod-covered, volume contains enough T. N. T. to blow up Capitalism, and shoul'd, by rights, be suppressed. I hardly think so; but I wish every worker could get and appreciate these poems of the proletarian movement.

THE WORLD I KNOW

Earth domination and sickening sense of weary impotence
All organisms dispersed and Despicable pressed together
Art that presents passions raw and Holy truths that corrupt the sincere Kiddy care for howling infants in dirty flannel
Their mothers in dirty corsets too Desires that leave no trace
Leaving only a desire for desires Kisses for one night only and a multitude of such nights
A God who personally—
with full power to do otherwise— created the heavens and the earth and all that in them
Wound them up and set them going If you don't like a world I know Go to Hell and find it Or rather
It would flatten me more as a realist poet if you would stand on one foot and find it just where you are And then stew in your own juice You insufferable Bombastic Prig.

A NEW BOOK OF WORKERS


I am not a critic—least of all a critic of poetry. I cannot lay claim to having read poetry extensively. I am just a workman who perhaps is why I appreciate this little volume which the Rebel Poets have fittingly dedicated to Upton Sinclair.

I do not think the poems in "Unrest" would appeal to the "comfortable" classes in society. The poems are descriptive of proletarian life. At the same time they express the hopes of the submerged classes and ring out as a battle cry. The contrast of rich and wretched is a constant theme—also the utter uselessness of the idle rich. Especially I liked the long poem on Russia, "Paws Have," by Clement Wood; H. H. Lewis' poem, "General;" and others by Ralph Chenery, Jack Conroy, and Lucia Trent. Perhaps these names are already familiar to the reader.

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R. J. K.

SOCIETY NOTES

(Continued from Page 1)

ZEUCH.

C. F.

E. G. H.

G. Y. R.