Arkansas Stones
Grieve Gardener

Alois Oppel, with over fifty years of farming wisdom stored within his shiny bald head, is in the midst of his yearly spring struggle with the natural elements—and human—(apology to students), and is working every day to plate crops on the Commonwealth plate, and in the canning cooker.

Alois Oppel came to Commonwealth last Spring from the "Natur-Freunde" of New York. He is an all-around wizard, gardening being only one of his skills. He is called upon to do everything from mending an alarm clock to hammering down the nails in a cow's shoe. The industrial manager was tickled to have someone in the garden who was able to distinguish between a cabbage and a turnip.

Students call Alois an elf. He must be a "sun-el." He is as ruddy and red as the sun he loves. The sun is his Doctor. Alois even lights his pipe with a sun glass. Vegetables like the sun.

(Continued on Page 3)

Workers and Students in Kentucky
AN EDITORIAL

Five Communists were beaten by Kentucky "citizens." To press agencies, newspaper editors and the general reader, this may mean just another sensational story. To us at Commonwealth this is eventful.

It is only one link of special significance to us, it is true, in a long chain of events on the American labor scene. As students of the labor movement we have few illusions about the human rights and the civil liberties which the mine owners and their hired thugs trample upon in the sportful attempt to bar working men to the striking miners. We recall workers' struggles in the past, we know of the merrily and oppression of the wage-earning class today, and here at school we are preparing ourselves for practical work among the masses.

We are preparing ourselves to carry on work, educational and organizational, among the common people, workers and farmers, whether they be in Kentucky, California, Alabama or Arkansas. The oppressed of this nation, as they become increasingly aware of their plight, will not recognize any state lines and will fight industrial feudalism whether it be in southeastern Kentucky or elsewhere.

A successful struggle for human rights for working-class justice— is not fought on one front, nor is it carried on by small groups. We urge students, as intelligent youth interested in social problems, to protest, to organize and to act. Already a feeling of solidarity is growing between the socially-minded student and the class-conscious worker. Students and workers in this country will join hands in grim determination to study and plan and work for a world in which the producers will control the factories, mills, mines and farms in the interests of humanity. —D. P.

STUDENT-TEACHER GROUP BEATEN BY HARLAN THUGS

Denial of Civil Liberty Rights in Coal Mine Area Dramatized;
Police Chief Orders Relief Car Commandeered—
Delegation Then Turned Over to Mob

The Commonwealth Delegation returned to the campus just as this issue was going to press, having placed its case in the hands of attorneys in the Kentucky coal area for civil damage suits, in accordance with the advice of the American Civil Liberties Union. Following is an eye-witness account by Director Lucien Koch, of what happened when the group of two teachers and three students came to Bell and Harlan Counties to distribute relief to starving miners and copies of the Bill of Rights to officials. The account was prepared at the request of the Newspaper Enterprise Association.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — A peaceful visit to the Kentucky coal fields on the part of two teachers and three students from Commonwealth College, with myself as leader, came to a climax Sunday when a mob, inspired by a mayor and a police chief, drove us out of town and beat us with switches in a woods near the state line before kicking us out of the state.

Our car loaded with food for the needy miners, we drove over the city line of Pineville, Bell county, and were met immediately by Police Chief Osborne. He forced us to halt at the curb. "What are you doing here?" Chief Osborne demanded. We replied we planned to stop in Pineville and then continue on to Harlan, assuring the chief that our intentions were entirely lawful and peaceful.

"You are not stopping in Pineville," Osborne replied.

When we asked why, he ordered us to follow him. We proceeded into the center of Pineville and stopped across the street from the courthouse where a crowd gathered around our car.

Chief Osborne went into conference with Mayor Brooks and several citizens. He seemed to be having a hard time trying to decide on the next step. First, he ordered us out of the city. Then he demanded that I make a speech from the courthouse steps but I declined. Next, he demanded that we put up peace bonds or go to jail. Again, we assured him of our peaceable intentions.

Mayor Brooks then took charge of the situation. "We don't want you in Pineville," Brooks said. "If you don't drive out of the city, we will drive your car out for you."

We reminded him that our car was our private property.

(Continued on Page 3)
HOW COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE IS GOVERNED

By WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM

INSTRUCTOR, COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE

Since Commonwealth College is unlike any other institution on the face of the earth, its government is, of course, unique. During the nine years of the school's existence almost every form of government has been tried, from a dictatorship to anarchy, and out of this experience has grown a peculiar system that might be described as a "practical democracy." This system has been employed since 1928, when students were first taken into the Commonwealth College Association, but minor changes have been made from time to time. A new constitution, the entire membership, provides somewhat the whole governmental process but has left it practically unchanged.

Eligibility for membership in the Commonwealth College Association, which is incorporated under the laws of the state of Arkansas, is defined in the new constitution in these words: "Any person who has been at Commonwealth College as a teacher for three quarters (nine months), as a student or student for six quarters, or as a maintenance worker for nine months, is eligible for membership in the Association. A teacher is anyone receiving more or less complete maintenance on the school, paying no tuition, and conducting classes regularly listed upon the curriculum. A student is any person who pays tuition at the school or is engaged by arrangement and is out such tuition. A maintenance worker is any person other than a student or teacher residing in the Commonwealth College community." Basis of Admission

A two-thirds vote of the total membership is necessary for the admission of a new member or the re-admission of a former member. The constitution provides that the individual's status (as teacher, student, or maintenance worker) shall not affect his membership. That is, a person elected to membership because of eligibility as a student or maintenance worker: may be made a teacher in the regular way without loss of his membership. Likewise membership shall not affect status. Student members of the Association continue to pay tuition and furnish that part of their maintenance required of other students.

Any membership in the Association may be revoked by a two-thirds vote of the membership. A member, of course, that the person whose membership is revoked shall have been given ample time (fifteen days) to prepare his defense and ample opportunity to present it.

Members of the Association have equal rights of voice and vote. When they are away on leave of absence they may not leave proxies, or they may return at any time and vote in affairs of the Association. A leave of absence for six months may be granted by the Association and may be renewed, provided that no member may retain his membership over a period of two years unless he spends at least six months of such period in residence. Membership in the Association lapses at the end of the period for which leave is granted; upon which the member has returned and taken up residence.

Association is Sovereign

Final authority in all matters rests with the Association, which usually numbers about one-third or one-half of the entire group, but in practice all matters in which everybody has a vital interest are decided by the group. This policy of the Association of letting the entire group decide controversial issues is new but it seems to work very well.

To those who maintain that every person in the community, no matter how long his residence has been or is to be, should have equal right of voice and vote, there is one answer. Commonwealth does have and always will have enclaves. If every new member were given a vote as soon as he appeared upon the campus it would be a simple matter for some organization with aims entirely different from or antagonistic to that of Commonwealth to "capture" the place. A man with an eye to business could send fifty or seventy-five young men and women here as students, and as soon as enrollment was completed these students could vote to make the school a summer resort owned and managed by the aforesaid business man. Or a fundamentalist organization could likewise turn Commonwealth into a religious school almost overnight. Under the present system it would be extremely difficult for a secret enemy of the school to get into the Association, and virtually impossible for a sufficient number of such enemies to get in as to constitute a majority.

The new constitution provides that all power is passed in a direct line from the majority in the Association to the director and from the director to the executive director, the personnel manager, etc.

The document declares that "the duties of the director shall be to select teachers, maintenance workers, and students, select the courses upon the curriculum, conduct all publicity, field work and business of the community including the purchase of commodities for maintenance, and to supervise all industrial activities, or he may appoint individuals or committees to do such work." However the director is made absolutely the creature of the majority by a section which reads: "Any act of an officer of the Association, or any ruling of the Executive Committee, may be revoked at a regular or special meeting of the Association by a majority vote of the membership, except that legal contracts entered into by the officers of the Association may not be revoked, and except that no leave of absence granted by the director may be revoked after the application for such leave has been made."

(Continued on Page 3)
Books Needed for Imperialism Class

The following list of books is needed especially for the course in Modern Imperialism. If any reader wishes to send either used copies or new ones from this list, the students and teacher in the Imperialism class will be grateful.

Bowman: The New World—4th edition—1928 Supplement to The New World
Coch: Economic Imperialism and Foodstuffs in the Commercial Policies of Nations
Fisk and Pierce: International Commercial Policies
Goch: History of Modern Europe
Hayen: A Brief History of the Great War
Hughan: A Study of International Government
Poon: Conduct of Foreign Relations
Vialate: Economic Imperialism and International Relations
Wood: Economic Imperialism: Empire and Commerce to Africa
Lasswell: Propaganda Technique in the World War
Pay: The Origins of the World War—2 volumes
Lippman: Stakes of Diplomacy
Williams: Economic Foreign Policy of the United States
Blakely: Recent Foreign Policy of the United States
Williams: The British Empire
Denny: We Fight for Oil
America Conquers Britain
Poborsky: History of Russia from Earliest Times to Rise of Commercial Capitalism
Nearing: War
Fischer: The Soviets in World Affairs—2 volumes
Chamberlain: Soviet Russia—A Living Record and a History
Yakobovitch: Russia and the Soviet Union in the Far East

BEATEN BY HARLAN THUGS

(Continued From Page 1)

Chief Osborne then cut the ropes and canvas cover that lashed our provisions to the car and ordered another man to drive our machine. Then, he helped pull me from the driver’s seat into another car where I was held until I was later placed in the rumble seat of our car.

Then our car was driven recklessly out of town, toward the Harlan county line, the driver casting off bundles of relief supplies as he drove. Soon, the driver of our machine was changed and the newspaperman following us were ordered to keep back.

The motorcade was cut down to three machines—a Harlan car in front, ours in the middle and a Pineville car behind.

After we crossed the Harlan county line they escorted us up Black mountain to within 50 feet of the Virginia state line. There they ordered us out. One at a time, we were led to the bushes at the side of the road and beaten with switches cut from trees. I was taken first, my wrists chained. Next came Harold Coy, a teacher of old Kentucky lineage, who was beaten on the back. Sam Sandberg, who was wounded in France and spent five months in a hospital, was given five extra lashes because he was older than some of us. Leo Grolow, another student, Isaac Greenberg, president of our student body, were last to feel the lash.

During the beatings, members of the mob seized and read our copies of the bill of rights and a statement we had previously prepared for the governor, supporting him of our peaceful intentions.

When we were ordered back to the

STONES GRIEVES GARDENER

(Continued From Page 1)

Alois likes the sun; vegetables like Alois, and commoners have a good gardener—Q. E. D.

But Alois has his troubles as any sympathetic listener knows. First there are the stones! No thorough German can tolerate a stone in a field, and Alois has several hundred thousand to contend with. Unlike Alois, an Arkansawyer knows that stones constantly rise to the surface, so, disregarding them, he plows his patient furrow. Not so Alois.

Then there are the ineradicable cribriars; the pesky peach borer; several dozen species of plant pest, including the notorious potato bug; the sandy soil which washes; poor old pokey Dick, the mule; students who will not mention late frosts and early drought.

But knowing Alois, Commonsers rest assured that there will be lettuce, peas, okra, and other crisp delicacies on the table, and in the fall, a cellar crammed with canned goods.

The garden plan as presented by Alois promises much. Onion, radish, pea, turnip, carrot, lettuce, okra and other seeds are already planted in large quantities. New seeds go out every day. Later, large plots will be planted in tomatoes, corn, cucumbers and melons.

"This spring the prospects for a bumper strawberry crop are good," Alois says. "That means strawberry shortcake! Three thousand new plants are being set out today."

The Executive Committee is a board of three empowered to carry on "all routine and minor" business of the Association.

The previous constitution made it possible for the director to act in opposition to the wishes of the majority of the Association, and yet hampered him by red tape at every turn. The present arrangement gives him a free hand in all matters so long as there is general agreement and confidence, but takes all power from him as soon as he assumes a dictatorial attitude.

It is unlikely that any other institution could be efficiently governed by an exact duplicate of the Commonwealth plan, but certainly Commonwealth could not survive under any such system as that employed by most small colleges.

HOW COLLEGE IS GOVERNED

(Continued From Page 2)

total membership." Another section provides that "No officer of the Association may enter into a contract or understanding involving the expenditure of $100 or more without permission of the Association, or of $100 or more without permission of the Executive Committee.

Responsible to Group

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COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE
SUMMER SESSION AND CAMP
JUNE - SEPTEMBER 1932
A novel educational opportunity this summer at a cost of $4 to $7 a week
MENA, ARKANSAS

By a mountain stream
in the wooded Ozarks

COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE COMMONS

HIKES - SWIMMING - DANCING - LABOR DRAMA - MUSIC

SUMMER SESSION
June 27 to September 3
(Open to accepted students enrolled for the 10-week period)

COURSES IN
Labor History and Problems
International Problems
Public Speaking Labor Journalism
Effective Writing
Economic Theory
Psychology

TUITION
$40 for the 10-week period
(All students earn room, board and laundry service by 15 hours work a week)

SUMMER CAMP
(Open to the public - length of stay optional)

DISCUSSION CIRCLES
Led by members of the Commonwealth College faculty and visiting instructors
"The Labor Movement Today"
"Looking Behind the News"
"Changing Thought in a Machine Age"
Lectures on Current Economic and Social Problems

RATES

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(Working guests put in 15 hours a week at communal tasks of the college)

COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE

Any proceeds from the summer session and camp will go toward the support of Commonwealth College, a year-round residential labor college. The school is nearly self-supporting through the part-time work of students and teachers on its 320-acre "farm-campus". Commonwealth is a non-factional institution of the labor movement, approved by the Arkansas and Oklahoma State Federations of Labor.

ADDRESS INQUIRIES TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE
MENA, ARKANSAS