"THE POOR MUST HELP THE POOR"

"Though we are seven and a half months behind in pay and not very flush, we had a three weeks' pay check yesterday and I am sending you a small portion for Commonwealth."

—From a Chicago school teacher.

"We are enclosing this which is a lot of money to us right now. As for a pledge for 1934 and 1935 — if we had unemployment insurance, but we haven't. And if our bank opens — which it will not." — From two unemployed girls.

"I am obliged to cancel most of my subscriptions, but I do so heartily believe in Commonwealth College that I send you a small sum." — From a college professor.

"... with cordial wishes for your success in obtaining adequate support for your very attractive, unique and necessary project." — From a West coast supporter.

Extracts from letters now coming in to Commonwealth in response to the appeal for aid serve to re-emphasize the fact that Commonwealth must necessarily depend for help chiefly on those least able financially to give.

Response to date has often been very generous so far as the individuals contributing are concerned. Often a dollar contribution has meant actual deprivation. It is good to know that there are people to whom keeping Commonwealth going means so much.

A much larger number of contributions is urgently needed. Assurance of support from many new friends is required to carry on during the coming school year.

Please don't wait for well-to-do contributors to come to the rescue. With an occasional honorable exception, they won't. The man or woman who can give $1 or $5 or $10 will see Commonwealth through — if anybody does.

Contributions received since the last acknowledgement are:

$1 each
Paul D. Miller, John R. Commons, M. Elkind, Mary R. Norton, Henry S. Huntington, D. T.

$2 each

$2.75
Workers' Modern Library, Kansas City

$2.50
William Arms Fisher

$3.00 each
George Callinghaert, B. R. Regen, C. V. Cook, Mary S. McIlwraith, Friends, Ellen L. Talbot

$4.00
Louis E. Gratz

$5.00 each

$7.00
R. Loo'er

$10.00 each
Dr. Peter Burke, Nelson A. Crawford, Liberal Center, Kansas City

$15.00
Anonymous

$50.00
Helen D. Marston

OKLAHOMA REVISITED

William Cunningham, instructor of labor journalism, has just returned from a trip to Oklahoma City and Norman on behalf of Commonwealth. He spoke before Socialist groups in the former city and before a number of university groups at the University of Oklahoma, from which he was graduated in 1925.

Revisiting his Alma Mater, he was struck by the fact that the costly and monumental new library at the state university fails to contain a copy of an important historical document like Marx and Engels' Communist Manifesto. He donated 13 cents to the library to cover cost of one copy, including postage.

Director Lucien Koch, having spoken before several forums and workers' groups in Kansas City, is now in Kansas. His itinerary includes Lawrence, Wichita, Topeka and several smaller communities. H. Lee Jones, psychologist, is telling about the College in Ohio cities.

FLOUR PRICES GO UP

BUT ONIONS COME UP

Late Garden Crops Bring
Cheer; New Barn
And Oven

Every fluctuation on the Chicago Board of Trade is reflected in a rise in the price which Commonwealth has to pay for flour to bake its bread. At this writing, an erstwhile 70-cent sack of flour costs $1.05. It goes up a nickel every time wheat rises. But it doesn't bother about falling when wheat sags.

In the face of such increases in the price of things Commonwealth must buy, the school preets with undisguised joy the arrival on the dinner table of the early produce from its own garden and farm.

Delayed and hampered by the excessive rains which Commonwealth has shared with much of the country this spring, some crops are nevertheless coming to modest fruition. The annual strawberry season, now unhappily over, has given way to the time for fresh greens, peas, onions and radishes. (The eating of onions at Commonwealth is based on the social contract; thus a young man and a young woman having a date will jointly agree at table to partake or abstain.)

These are busy days at Commonwealth, relatively as well as absolutely. Besides farm work there is the new barn now going up across the creek. The Elmhirst committee grant, plus the labor power of Bert Hodges, resident carpenter, Russell Rattell, industrial manager, and several students, are causing it to rise.

A new bake oven, higher than one's head and a yard deep, is being constructed on a spot by the Commons and adjoining the kitchen. It is the creation of B. H. Stevenson, resident engineer. Hereafter Commonwealth will bake its bread without getting in the way of the dinner crew in the kitchen. Or, if there is no bread, the oven will do equally well for cake.
THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS MAKES HISTORY

BY LIBBIE VOLPIE

Libbie Volpie, Commonwealth student, was in the Continental Congress the first stirrings of a native American labor movement. She attended as delegate from Local Commonwealth of the Socialist Party.

They gathered to the number of over 4,000, representing millions of workers and farmers, to form the most comprehensive united front of the American proletariat that has ever been seen. On May 6 and 7 they jammed the Washington Auditorium as the met for the Third Continental Congress of Workers and Farmers for Economic Reconstruction. Delegates of workers, farmers, and unemployed, co-operative, educational, fraternal, youth and student groups were all present to plan for the new social order.

And plan they did, despite the handicaps with which they were confronted. Only two days were allowed the planners, who had not dared to hope or plan for so vast a representation as attended. Another very serious difficulty was the wide divergence of functional groups represented, the great territorial area represented, and most important of all, the divergent political beliefs of the delegates. The two days were crowded with unplanned incident, the size of the convention made orderly control difficult. In some cases, even hearing the speakers was impossible, despite the microphones. Yet the accomplishments of this Congress exceeded the highest hopes of some of its most enthusiastic backers. And amazingly enough, the proceedings were almost continuously harmonious, although freedom of expression of the delegates was limited only by time.

PROUD OF RADICALISM

Keynote speeches opened the Congress. Emil Rieve, president of the Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers Union, was elected chairman, and he opened the proceedings with a brief talk. He was followed by Simmons of the Farmers Union and National Farm Holiday Association, who received an ovation which indicated the temper of the Congress when he began with the statement that he was a radical and proud of being a radical. Sen. Frazier of the Non-Partisan League spoke next. Over the radio went his state-ment that “this Congress is no representative of the people than the one on Capitol Hill.”

Norman Thomas was greeted by a rising ovation. The ovation had to be cut short, because the time during which the radio would be available to carry his message to the country was too limited to allow the luxury of an emotional outburst. He described eloquently the plight of the country, the impossibility of permanent betterment by anything short of complete socialization. He spoke of the imminent danger of fascism, and closed after indicating the program of demands that the Congress should adopt.

Keynote speeches over, the Congress settled down to the serious work before it. Committees were elected, and assigned to rooms where they could be found by delegates wishing to place resolutions before them. The committees worked through the day on Saturday. Some were forced to continue through the early hours of Sunday morning, to handle the quantities of resolutions placed before them. Meanwhile the convention continued, given over mainly to the discussion from the floor. The first Declaration of Independence was set aside. It was neither sufficiently radical nor sufficiently inspiring a document for the delegates. A committee of revision was put to work on that all important document. Saturday night was given over to a mass meeting which lasted to midnight.

STAND ON FARMING AND BANKING

On Sunday the committee reports were made, and resolutions adopted. We can take only the most superficial of glances at the most important of these resolutions. The resolution on banking called for government control of banks and an expansion of the postal savings system.

The resolution on agriculture called for immediate relief for the nearly, cessation of all evictions, foreclosures, and forced sales during the depression, tax exemption of farmers’ and consumers’ cooperatives, to eliminate middleman profits, and social ownership and control of utilities employed by the farmers.

The resolution on taxation demanded greatly increased gift, income and inheritance taxes. It demanded that all income above $25,000 a year be recap-tured by the government. The capital levy on wealth was endorsed. It opposed all sales taxes, and demanded that no worker or farmer be deprived of his tools or home because of non-payment of property taxes.

The resolution on unemployment stated that “the only way out of (unemployment) is a fundamental reorganization of our economic system, so that production will be carried on, under the control of workers, for use instead of for private profit.” It demanded three billion dollars for direct cash relief, and a six billion dollar public works program, to be carried out under union conditions. Bonus payment to needy veterans was demanded, as well as the thirty-hour week, with no reduction in pay. Further demands were for unemployment insurance, government insurance for old age, sickness, accident, maternity, child labor legislation and reduction of interest and principle on home mortgages. It condemned share-the-work plans and reforestation camps.

The Declaration of Independence presented by the committee on revision was adopted by a rising vote, followed by cheers and singing of the International.

TO CARRY ON

Plans for continuation were laid. A National Committee on Correspondence and Action was elected. This committee has as its duty the carrying out of the plans of the Congress for state and local organization, the convening of another Congress within the year, and the erection of all possible political and economic pressure to cause the adoption of its program. State conventions have been elected to call state caucuses. Local committees of action will be elected. These local committees are to carry out the work of the Congress by: (1) staging demonstrations to secure the aims of the Congress; (2) fighting for adequate relief; (3) assisting workers, farmers and unemployed to organize against their oppressors in industrial struggles and in anti-eviction fights; (4) furthering the development of a labor culture and education, and (5) organizing youth movements.

It is interesting to recall a few of the highlights of the convention. The storm of boos aroused by the announcement of the baring of Negro delegates from Hotel Cairo is unfor-gettable. Banners were quickly prepared, and many of the delegates mislaid their lunch to attend the demonstration held in front of the hotel. Thomas and others explained to the crowd of passers by why the demonstra-tion against the Hotel Cairo was being held, and the attitude of radicals toward the race question. All the delegates who had registered were left, waiting only to get their money back. But the solidarity of the capi-
talist class was effectively demonstrated when the delegates who left the Cairo found themselves refused at every other hotel in the city. They were finally housed, and the Congress felt that their solidarity and uncompromising stand for race equality was unmistakably aroused by the announcement of the dollar a year. Entered Arkansas, under promising a strike. A generous donation gave substantial backing to appeal for aid to the striking Tennessee murdered for a resolution for the legalization of birth control. feel the same glow of enthusiasm that appears to be the beginning of a native American labor movement. Up rooted in American soil, an outgrowth of our economic development. And therefore they did not thrive in the American soil. Either the leader­ thrived. But the movement that was born, the Continental Congress is American dominated by European elements. But the movement that was begun by the Continental Congress is rooted in American soil, an outgrowth of our economic development. It seems to be a hardy plant, and it should thrive.

Veterans of the struggle, not easily swept off their feet, have expressed the belief that this is the most important event in history. If it is truly the emergence of a native radical movement, then its importance can not be exaggerated. Perhaps it is not so great an event as that. But unmistakably the Third Continental Congress is a very important manifestation, and its Declaration of Independence from capitalism will probably be recorded in future history books.

DIET
By AGNES CUNNINGHAM

I like dirt;
It smells good.
I'd eat dirt
If I could.
When the plow turns
The dirt up,
Or Pete Rastus
That's my pup—
Digs for gofers
When I rest
I sniff the dirt
And chew my fist
Cause I like dirt;
It smells good.
I'd eat dirt
If I could.
Ma used
To let me take
A piece of bread
Or corn cake,
But now she says
There ain't enough
For supper even.
Sure is tough.
I get hungry
When I'm plowin'
Or hoein' corn
Or doin' chorin',
But Ma says
We can't eat
Till meal time
So me an Pete
Sniff dirt;
It smells good.
I'd eat dirt
If I could.
I 'member once
We had pie.
I walked to town
Just to buy
A pie pan
So Ma could bake it.
Took her half an hour
To make it.
We had some apples
Pa found;
Somebody split 'em
On the ground.
And Ma mixed somethin'
Called mince;
I ain't tasted
None since.
I like pie;
Wish I could
Have a piece
Sure is good.
But Ma says
We can't afford
To have pie.
Wish to the lord
Dirt was pie;
It smells good.
I'd eat dirt
If I could. 

Together.— Many a romance has burgeoned and blossomed at Commonwealth. None that had its inception here has yet withered; or, in plainer English, no couple which met at Commonwealth and wed while here or after leaving has resorted to the divorce courts. Certain of the conjugal by-products of a Commonwealth education may be more blissful than others, but to date none has been an acknowledged failure. Commonwealth, of course, dissociates itself from responsibility for anything that may happen in the future. It is merely noting an interesting fact while it is still a fact.

Why not?— Are radicals easier to live with than conservatives or liberals? Is that why the sons and daughters of Commonwealth prosper materially? Or is such an explanation too harsh a commentary on the rest of the human race? Does it overtly the credulity of those who are acquainted with the radical temperament? Yet, after all is said and done, it may be true. Maybe conservatives make such dull mates that one divorces them from pure boredom. Maybe liberals are so distressingly open-minded that one casts them off after they utter, "But on the other hand—" for the nth time. Maybe radicals, trail-blazers as they must be, ready as they must be to forgo any recognizable standard of living, make the best mates, at least for each other.

Asunder.— For the first time since Arkansas' famous 90-day divorce law went into effect, a Commoner took advantage of it the other day, parting ways with a mate of her pre-Commonwealth days. She reports that just as Reno is the headquarters for bourgeois divorce (attorney's fees, $250 up), so Mena should be the center for proletarian divorce (attorney's fees, $25 up.) The next term of court will be held in October, she advises, in a comradely word to the wise.

SUMMER CAMP

The display announcement of the Commonwealth College Summer Camp and Session in this issue is a reproduction of part of a leaflet being distributed among the teaching staff, college students and other professional and white collar workers. It is included in this Fortnightly for the information of interested readers. Further details about the camp may be obtained from the Executive Secretary.
Please post

Social Workers
Teachers • College Students
Professional and White Collar Workers

A Message
About the Commonwealth College Summer Camp

Although Commonwealth is primarily a school for industrial workers and farmers, it is addressing this particular message about its summer camp to "middle class" elements, because they are the ones on whom a choice is being forced today, the world over, between going forward toward an improved social order or backward toward reaction and fascism.

Commonwealth addresses you because it believes a change of intellectual diet for a while this summer will add vigor and freshness to your thinking no matter how well-balanced you may believe your present ration to be. You owe it to yourself to find out what the labor movement is doing and thinking now. Momentous changes in its philosophy and program are taking place. Whether you sympathize or not, you will want to know more about this reawakening social force and its stimulating challenge. The Commonwealth Summer Camp offers you an unusual opportunity to hear this point of view ably expressed. In addition to members of the College staff, several outstanding figures in the labor movement will be in attendance, speaking and leading discussions.

You can come for the full ten-week session, or for as short a period as two weeks or even a day or so. Costs are remarkably low—gauged to reduced salary checks and less than it would take to remain in the city. You will not have city comforts, but you will have more fun.

There is recreation too, and a congenial, informal social life. Swimming in the creek that cuts across the pine-clad campus. Tennis and volleyball. Dancing—the old-fashioned Ozark square dances as well as the modern steps. A labor theater presenting the new "proletarian" problem plays. Hikes over interesting mountain paths. Lounging under the pines and oaks perhaps reading a book from the well-stocked library.

Schedule of Visiting Lecturers

All Summer—July 3 to Sept. 9

Nathan Fine
and Emily Brown Fine

The Fines edit the American Labor Year Book, a mine of information on problems affecting labor. Mr. Fine is research director of the Rand School of Social Science. The contemporary complex of Fascism, socialism and liberalism will be among their topics.

July 3 - 15

Carl Haessler

Former Rhodes scholar and University of Illinois philosophy instructor, Mr. Haessler has been managing editor of Federation Press, the labor news service, for the last ten years. You will be interested in why he thinks social workers should be social militants, and why college people should be collegiate in a new way.

July 17 - 29

Carl Brannin

Unemployed Citizens' Leagues we have with us everywhere, for better or for worse. Mr. Brannin probably had more to do with starting them than anybody else when the Seattle Labor College, which he heads, sponsored the famous Seattle U. C. L. He will tell what he thinks these leagues hold for the future, and what should be the relation between them and social workers.

August 1 - 15

Oscar Ameringer

Mr. Ameringer, editor of the American Guardian, is dean of American labor journalism and ace of the humorous and serious speakers of the movement. His "Adam Coaldigger" column is known to millions.

Address Inquiries to
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