KATE O’HARE PLANS RESEARCH ON PRISONS

Union Manufacturers Okeh Survey
Leading Toward Penal Reform

A Commonwealth College teacher will carry on research which will result in the formation of plans for penal legislation, it was learned when Kate O’Hare returned from the annual convention of the Union Made Garment Manufacturers Association, held in St. Louis during December, where Kate made the report of her year’s work in the campaign against prison-made goods.

Granted by her employers a year’s leave of absence with pay to carry on her investigations, Mrs. O’Hare is beginning her work by sending questionnaires dealing with prison labor conditions to the executive committee of the American Federation of Labor, and officers of international unions and state federations of labor, as well as sociologists, penologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, and criminologists at every university and college in the country.

From the answers to these questionnaires, Mrs. O’Hare plans to work out proposals for penal legislation.

Covington Hall, instructor in labor problems, accompanied Mrs. O’Hare to St. Louis where she is receiving medical attention. William E. Zeuch is conducting his classes.

STUDENTS SING AND SATIRIZE

Two original farces, a Russian song, violin selections, a piano solo, and German folksongs entertained assembled Commoners at the December student program.

Moved by poetical fervor, the seven inmates of the Castle overflow boys’ dormitory, parodied the Charge of the Light Brigade so as to hit most of the foibles, industrial and academic, of self-maintained education for workers. Later, in the story of Bill Onion, a tale modeled closely after the more famous Paul Bunyan yarns, Commoners heard delineated the heroic history of their institution.

It is not opposition which hinders progress so much as inertia.—Keir Hardie.

Labor Investigates Too

Arkansas organized labor’s reply to a legion investigation of Commonwealth is a labor investigation.

J. W. Adams, president of the Arkansas State Federation of Labor, who visited Commonwealth some time ago will submit the findings of the labor investigation to the forthcoming convention of the Federation, according to an Associated Press dispatch.

America’s greatest news-gathering agency does not state what the contents of the report will be.

Readers of the Fortnightly who perused the labor federation president’s article in the November 1 issue will guess that the report will be favorable.

Books and Music Receive Professional Attention

Commonwealth’s evolution from the primitive has reached that point where Harriett Babcock, formerly member of the wood crew, holds the position of full-time librarian, and Thelma Triplett devotes her industrial hours to the organization of a glee club, a quartet, an orchestra, and a piano soloist or two.

Harriett, after a summer spent in a library, returned to Commonwealth gorged with mental pictures of card indexes, a Dewey numbering system, and well-regulated reference shelves. Charge d’affaires bibliothecal, she purchased white ink, yellow cardboards, and a rubber stamp, borrowed a typewriter, and set to cataloging.

She discovered that Commonwealth may thank its friends for its library; of some 2000 volumes, all but text books represent donations. However, lack of standard works in sociology, material on taxation and railroad organization in economics, and classical and modern fiction, drama, and poetry make for blind-spots in Commonwealth’s vision of the field of knowledge.

In the newly organized music department, Thelma plans to build a glee club around a quartet consisting of the versatile educational director and three others. A potential or...

LEGION FALLS DOWN ON SCHOOL INQUIRY

Chiefs Admit Report Fictitious But "Refer File" to State

LATE BULLETIN!

Public reprimand of Joe Morrison and Grady Forgy, legonnaire delegates who made charges involving Commonwealth, is demanded in resolutions adopted by the Victor Elli post of the American Legion at Fort Smith, Ark., according to an issue of the Southwest American of that city, which reached the Fortnightly after the accompanying story was in type.

Will O’Shea, past commander of the Fort Smith post, who was active in sponsoring the resolutions, criticized the delegates and the legion executive committee in the following terms:

"... The Legion is stronger than any individual member and must necessarily see that any injustice done be rectified, even though some of our members must feel the lash of the whip. . . ."

"The report does not seem to be straightforward enough for a legion convention to be unfounded, then the Legion and the department should be broad enough to tell the world that they were misinformed, intentionally or uninten-

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"POWER ECONOMICS" PROBED

"History is the record of struggles not of classes, but of functional groups," said Educational Director William E. Zeuch in presenting to the Sunday open forum the first of four lectures on "power economics," a new approach to history and economics which he is working out.

Marxian economics and the materialistic conception of history are false, Zeuch believes, since history shows that clashes have occurred not between exploiter and exploited as such, but between functional groups—city, church, and nation, for example—within each class.

A mere abstraction, be it ever so demonstrable scientifically, will never move masses of people.—Keir Hardie.
The Dead Hand of Arkansas Democracy

By CLAY FULKS

Here is an answer to Frank Bird, native Arkansan, who feels that political liberation in the "Houndstooth" is best served by a radical bloc in the Democratic Party. Clay Fulks, likewise native Arkansan, once pulled 3,000 votes as Socialist candidate for governor of the state. He recently contributed the article on "Arkansas" to the American Mercury.—Editors.

My friend, Frank Bird, writing in these columns on "What Chance Has Liberalism In Arkansas?" says so much with which any careful student of social economy must agree, and says it in a perspicacity, that one would run the risk of being regarded as captious in taking issue with him, save on one proposition, and since it is the purpose of this article to combat that one proposition, I must resist the inclination to fill space without praising for the remainder of his article. Generally, it is much easier to accept Mr. Bird's argument than to refute it.

The objectionable proposition is, in effect, that the intelligent liberals of the State should forge the methods of an open and aggressive campaign of political and economic education directed at the Democratic asses, and instead thereof bestride the Democratic Donkey by stratagem and seer him and spur him toward the Promised Land.

The Tory tactics are theoretically defended on the ground that, in war at least, the end justifies the use of any effective means.

I admit that the Democratic Party is entitled to little ethical consideration, but that isn't the point. The point is that liberals and radicals should openly bend every energy to destroy it, instead of lending dignity and respectability to it by joining it.

Monstrosity.

The Democratic Party in Arkansas, as elsewhere, is simply a "many-headed monster Thing," void of the power of rational thought, incapable of formulating reasoned judgments, and having no intelligent will of its own. It is not iniquitous—it is inert; it is not unjust—it has no sense of justice, it is not immoral—it is immoral. It is a clueless, blundering irresponsible monster, and the politicians are its keepers. They goad it, fool it, cajole it, bamboozle it, and hornswoggle it into doing their will. Its so-called platform is the analogue of the Hindu howdah and its keepers ride it hard in regular tournaments with the keepers of the Republican elephant for the spoils of their mimic warfare. Of the two parties, the Republican is more frank and forthright in its fealty to the sovereignty and vested interests of the overlords of capitalism and, for this reason, enjoys more of the capitalists' respect. The Democratic leaders, when in power, are not less willing to serve the interests of the "malefactors of great wealth"; they simply seek more to ingratiate themselves with the mediocrity of Main Street and the puerilities of the peasantry as a bid for power. The Democratic Party of Arkansas is, of course, of a piece with the national organization but, in its restricted domain, is far more successful and cocky.

This boring from within the Democratic Party has already been tried on a national scale for a generation. Bryan came along in the late nineties with a big auger and bored and bored until everybody was bored excepting the feeble-minded fundamentalists who, of course, cannot be bored at all. Woodrow Wilson was loudly hailed as a liberal of Messianic proportions. "He kept us out of war"—until after election. If the Democratic Party had had an intelligent will of its own, it would have kept Wilson out of war and kicked him out of office to boot. There was a traitor beside whom Benedict Arnold was a gentleman. This cynicism, they then had the amazing brutality to send Eugene Debs to prison for telling the plain truth about war, as the tyrant himself admitted in a speech at St. Louis after it was over. But has the Democratic Party yet taken cognizance of Wilson's lesson to the people? Has it ever publicly repented of the imprisonment of Debs and two thousand others who had the high courage to boldly oppose the war? Has it ever officially apologized for the infamous administration of Wilson's unspeakable Palmer? Has it ever publicly repented of the imprisonment of Debs and two thousand others who had the high courage to boldly oppose the war? Has it ever officially apologized for the infamous administration of Wilson's unspeakable Palmer? Has it ever publicly repented of the imprisonment of Debs and two thousand others who had the high courage to boldly oppose the war? Has it ever officially apologized for the infamous administration of Wilson's unspeakable Palmer?

Tick on Body Politic.

There is no place for a radical bloc within a party. It has no principles, no sense of honor or shame. It has no programme or purpose for existence but what is dictated by its appetite for the fleshpots. It is morally and intellectually bankrupt and

[Continued on Page Four]
Society Notes

Cocky. Seven or eight months ago Commonwealth sent something like a dozen dozen white Leghorn eggs to a hatchery. The progeny of that trans­action are numerous and half-grown today; they share with the cows, horses, and mules the office of campus gleaners. Male and female the incubator bore them and male and female they remain. The males—lusty, post-pubescent cockerels—find traditional polygamy mathematically impracticable. Denied normal outlets, they seek consolation in exhibitionism; shrill crowing from adolescent rooster throats is everywhere heard. Sometimes even the precincits of an outdoor class are invaded by a young cock insolently venting his vaunts. Chased away, the offender vents in good order: (and a rooster is the only creature in the animal kingdom who is dignified even in retreat). Nor does he fail to utter a challenging cock-a-doodle-do from a safer distance, all of the time facing his adversaries as if to thumb his bill at them. Commoners expect to see a lot of friecases on the table at some early Sunday dinner.

Conscientious. Being an industrial executive and bossing one's teachers part of the day may satisfy a Commonwealth student's will to power, but in turn saddle heavy responsibilities on an already not quite carefree existence. Ernest Koch, 26, college freshman and industrial manager, is the hardest hit. Supreme in all things secular as W. E. (Father) Zeuch is in all things spiritual, Ernie finds that his nominal four-hour work day frequently becomes elastic in the face of responsibility for the material welfare of a family of 90.

hungrier for profits, must long continue that perennial campaign designed to induce Reuben to get a hustle on himself and his "force"—"force" generally meaning his wife and children—and make two bolls of cotton, two ears of corn, and two peanuts grow where one grew before. To this end, farmers' institutes, as they are impressively called, are held all over the State; pig clubs and corn clubs are organized and petty prizes are awarded winning contestants. County levies abound, comprised mostly of bewildered farmers, who temporarily lose their grangerism when they get to town, have been cajoled and browbeaten into appropriating hundreds of thousands of dollars for the salaries of dapper demonstration

To These, Thanks

F. M. Kirkendall, Ohio, generously supplied biographies ofJefferson and Hamilton in response to the request for Jeffersoniana in a recent Fortnightly.

Others to whom Commonwealth make grateful acknowledgment are:

"Ralph Haisey, Calif....5.00

Olga Larsen, Ill. ....... 5.00

Roger Baldwin, N. Y., two recent publications of the Vanguard Press.
agents whose advice the farmers did not want. Many of these farmers sullenly resent this guardianship thus extended over them. Not content with the slow process of teaching the farmer scientific husbandry through the doubtful route of reason, a recent imperious little president of the Arkansas Bankers' Association sent out a circular letter to his brother bankers of the State urging that Reuben be forced, under pain of being refused loans, to buy Jersey heifers, carry their cream to town, and drink skimmed milk. Poor Reuben! Continually harassed by the gant specter of hunger and these up-and-coming Arkansas getters, he gets little rest.

**Peasant Into Prol.**

But the bustling Arkansas Babbitts, impatient with the slow-plodding, hollow checked farmer and his frequent partial crop failures, are now much concerned with the idea of industrializing the State. They see the farmer and his numerous progeny, who should make docile factotum of farming: man's hope, as the custodian of the file now in the possession of the American Legion relative to this college, as a result of action taken at a joint meeting in December of the state executive committee and the investigating sub-committee of the Legion. As the investigating committee reported that it was unable to confirm or deny the charges, the matter will be referred to the legislature without recommendation.

**Here's Legion Statement.**

The official legion report as authorized by Commandant William J. Winn and Adjutant Hugh B. Wicker is reported by the Associated Press as follows:

1. The resolution was introduced from the floor during the closing moments of the convention and was never presented to the proper convention committees for its consideration.

2. The resolution was based on an alleged report of the Department of Justice, which in fact does not exist.

3. That there were no witnesses to the said report, that the investigating sub-committee made as an investigation as the present laws of the state of Arkansas will permit.

4. That no evidence of any persons making the charges was introduced on the floor of the convention.

5. That due to lack of evidence in the part of those in authority at this college, it was not possible for the sub-committee to either deny or affirm the charges made in the resolution.

6. That due to lack of co-operation on the part of those in authority at this college, it was not possible for the sub-committee to either deny or affirm the charges made in the resolution.

The executive committee of the American Legion, department of Arkansas, directs its commander to refer the file now in possession of the American Legion relative to this college to the educational committee of the Arkansas legislature to be used as the members see fit.

**Legion Tergiversated.**

Late in August a sleepy legion convention was galvanized into action by horrendous tales of an I. W. W. and Soviet subsidy bestowed on Commonwealth College. They emanated from one Joe Morrison and were thought by many to veil political maneuvers against organized labor, inasmuch as Morrison was campaign manager for a gubernatorial candidate opposed by the unions.

The charges were avowedly made on the basis of an alleged Department of Justice report which today even the Legion admits does not exist. The investigating committee reported that it was unable to confirm or deny the charges, the matter will be referred to the legislature without recommendation.

**Robin Hood Committee.**

The charges which were avowedly made on the basis of an alleged Department of Justice report which today even the Legion admits does not exist. The investigating committee reported that it was unable to confirm or deny the charges, the matter will be referred to the legislature without recommendation.

**Good and Welfare.**

The Last Order of Business

By HAROLD BRONCO

**The Senesecud.**

When Eve and Adam munched the fruit of sin they opened the gates and let the devil in.

The oldest generation in our ken

Must take the blame for all the hell since then;

Yet older generations have a way

Of saddling guilt on those who're still at play.

Our elders have mistakenly insisted

It was by youngsters that the world got twisted.

Though elders always bring us belly-ache;

Our own dear papas therein take the cake:

What with the war and kindred messes more

Today's senecents face a guilty score—

Yet shifting ground with such a pious bray:

"The world through youth is dogward bound," they say.

These two-sexed spinsters quite bereft of sin

Are those who squawk of flappers and of gin!

The follies which our fig-leafed forebears fled

Are taxed tenfold against each youthful head.

When youth pursues its pleasures unalloyed,

Old age, gone stale, turns pale (for this, read Freud).

Ideas, like children, seldom spawn sans pain:

That's why they come but to the youthful brain.

Old brains which in the eighties mossified

Are county farms for thoughts long ossified.

When youth is past the mind's decay begins:

A rigid brain precedes unsteady pins.

At two score years ideas have ceased to thrive;

When man is more he's really scarce alive:

O, God, slay us ere we are thirty-five!

*Harold Bronco is the name of a group of young writers at Commonwealth College and was taken to indicate the breed of their Pegasus.

fused to furnish the college with a copy of the alleged report by which their charges stood or fell, but attempted to shift the issue to other grounds; and this explains why the college refused to "co-operate" with the committee.