ARKANSAS LABOR INITIATES CRIME SURVEY

Commoners Participate in Conference and Convention

While Chicagoans face depopulation, loss of property, insconsiderate berufllument, the Arkansas farmers, who have been inundated by their crime wave, Arkansawyers undertake a crime survey—the first of its kind.

The Detroit meeting of the American Federation of Labor issued a call to each state Federation to devote one day of its legislative session to a consideraton of crime. Arkansas, the first state to accept this mandate, invited juvenile probation officers, state representatives, social workers, students of criminology, a prosecuting attorney, a judge, and representatives of all agencies with a social program to meet with delegates from the state's locals to discuss and formulate plans for a survey of crime in Arkansas.

In this state where over half the school districts are without teachers; where cotton, the newspaper scaracers, has failed; where log cabins with stick and mud chimneys are a commonplace; where malaria flourishes over considerable areas; and where large manufacturing centers are as yet unknown, the conference felt the injustice of the farm into the problem of crime to income, the price level of farm products, living conditions, education, health, religion, home life, machinery of administering justice, the kind of people in penal institutions, the wardens, guards, matrons, and keepers in penal institutions, and the effect of politics on penal institutions. The Federation of Women's Clubs, the League of Women Voters, the Arkansas Social Welfare Association, the Bar Association, the State Medical Association, organized labor, and the University of Arkansas have agreed or will be asked to agree to enter into this survey to make Arkansas safe for Arkansawyers.

With the sense of a job well done in their first day of conferring, the assembled delegates sent up a smoke screen and settled back in their chairs to consider more leisurely and circumspectly the business which was to occupy them for the next two days.

Two facts appeared of interest alike to Stuttgart barbers, Little Rock lobbyists, Fort Smith miners, and El Dorado carpenters, Arkansas' constitution seems to limit the amount of compensation a worker shall receive for industrial accidents. Shrewd, therefore, the delegates resolved to look askance at a bill for workmen's compensation drawn up by coal, oil, and lumber operators of the state.

Arkansas recently amended its constitution to admit textile mills into the state tax free for seven years. Arkansawyers concomitantly awoke to find that while a minimum hour law for women prevails, textile workers were exempt from it. Babbitts and boom operators of the state therefore meet organized labor's objection to women working longer hours than men in spite of the fact that they may be spinning cotton instead of dipping chocolates.

Within the past year, Arkansawyers were called to the polls to vote for the repeal of the full crew laws, which provide for the maintenance on trains through Arkansas of one more brakeman than the railroad operators felt necessary. Arkansas trains, Arkansans decided at that time, should continue to carry the muddled trainman. But speakers on the know, exhaled laborites not to jubilate too soon. The full crew law and other pieces of legislation with which labor has fortified its position in Arkansas must be defended continuously from repeal.

In the minds of many outsiders, Arkansas is synonymous with ignorance in matters educational, gau­ cherie in places urbane, and peonage in situations industrial. If these foreigners once rubbed elbows with Arkansas workers they resultant startled should be pleased. When the present state constitution was formulated workers' rights and powers were so protected in a number of instances that proud legislative committee men could suggest to the convention in many cases only a defense of the present status. Like ardent adherents to the Volstead victory, they could also of course urge enforcement.

The convention at the behest of the resolutions committee favored civil service examinations for city en­ (Continued on Page Three)
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Editors, particularly of labor and farmer papers, are welcome to make free use of material appearing in these columns. A line crediting the Commonwealth College Fortnightly will be appreciated.

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What Youth Is Feeling

By NAZARETH DAWN

You recently invited us to speak up and tell you what we, the youngsters, are thinking. When there is such a difference in point of view as exists between you of the older generation and us of the younger generation we are doubtful whether much can be gained by a candid expression of opinion. At the same time we must confess that we cannot see here any thing to be lost by frankness. So we are accepting your invitation.

To begin with, thinking youth does not flatter itself with the supposition that it is thinking. That rationalization of emotional states that you, our elders, called thinking we prefer to call feeling. Furthermore, we do not deceive ourselves with the assumption that all youth is feeling intensely or is stirred deeply about present day problems. The vast bulk of youth, like most of age, just reacts to situations without much feeling. Only a comparatively few rare spirits among us are sensitive enough to agonize over personal problems and social questions. This letter, therefore, is a feeble attempt to express what this small, sensitive portion of youth is feeling.

We of the younger generation have been born into a world of changing standards; into a transition period. The greatest perhaps in the history of the world. The formulas and symbols, that is, the ideology, with which and by which you of the older generation lived have lost their power. We are groping for new formulas and new symbols, for an ideology that will satisfy our sense of fitness.

You, our parents, had a God, a theology, a way of life. Even though you deviated from the straight and narrow path you knew that there was a straight and narrow path to which you could, should, and probably would, return. You had patriotism; a great and glorious country with a noble and glorious history filled with heroes and heroines. You had romance, a realm of the ideal people with many men and womanly women moving through an idyllic world where even misery was noble and beautiful. Then you had a right that was actually right and a wrong that was really wrong.

A new epoch was inaugurated, however, with the development of scientific methods and the introduction of revolutionary scientific concepts in the middle decades of the last century. These new methods and these new concepts have come into our own during your youth. They had not permeated the schools nor had they begun to influence generally prevalent and generally accepted concepts greatly until the last decade of the nineteenth century. Neither had the cumulative results of the scientific methods been brought to bear on the material world so effectually as to transform sections of it almost completely until the first quarter of the present century. Consequently we youngsters were born and brought up in a different world than you of the older generation knew in your youth.

The old God, the old theology, and the straight and narrow path have become vague and dim and have almost but vanished under the penetrating light of scientific investigation. Patriotism has been stripped of its glamour and stands revealed as a vicious, provincial, pool self-esteem. Heroes have had their very souls bared and have been found to be as human if not more so, than the rest of us common mortals. Heroic exploits are unfeelingly accounted for by an impersonal set of fortunate circumstances. As for poor old Romance, she has been unmasked, and, what is worse yet, undressed, and found to be just plain sex. Finally, right and wrong have been demonstrated to be not absolutes but relative terms only dependant on time, place, and other circumstances.

We of the younger generation are not permitted the contentment, the satisfaction, nor the solace that you of the older generation derived from your illusions. The supposedly firm ground of fixed formulas and accepted symbols upon which you stood has been swept from beneath your feet by the flood of results from scientific research. We are struggling for new footholds. So much of the old "rock-foundations" have proven such miserable shifting sand that we youngsters have become skeptical and even a bit contemptuous of the whole ideology that you would press upon us.

We have come to accept nothing as

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We feel that all the old values must be revalued. We believe nothing on the basis of a dogmatic authority. Existing institutions and institutionalized conduct must be subjected to the test of experience. We are making ours the generation of the experimental life. "Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good" may well be our slogan.

Disillusionment with the old formulas and symbols has made us not only skeptical but quite often cynical as well. We feel our tentative, drifting position rather keenly. We are extremely sensitive to the wreck of the old and cannot help being bitter and a bit rueful in speech and raw, perhaps, in conduct. Ideals? Say bo, how did you get that way?—Enthusiasm? The poor boy is cuckoo.—Sobriety? Well, how is one going to get some kick out of life?—Chastity? What is to be gained by it? What is it going to profit you to deny the flesh and lose the world?—Love? At best a temporary erotic aberration; at worst, a pathological condition.

You are shocked. "This," you say, "is a callow and flippant experimentalism." Yes, it is the challenge of a rather harsh realism. We refuse to look at life through colored lenses. With us a spade is a spade. You can make no reasonable defense of the sets of values you would hand on to us. We have no choice but to experiment and to experience. If new values are to be forthcoming they must be discovered through experimentation. It is probable that we will continue to experiment until we are saturated, satiated, and jaded mentally, physically, and emotionally. We will probably pay a big price in wasted youth and in blasted lives in order to determine new values. But what of it? Have we not seen you throw away ten millions of our fellows in a senseless orgy of war that proved nothing nor settled anything? Is it not a fact that you have been so careless of life that you would hand it over to us? We will probably pay dearly for our era of experimentation but we at least have the hope that some permanent values will come out of it.

We feel that there is not a great amount of validity in much that you have handed or would hand on to us. It would be a blessing if we obliterate completely many aspects of our present society. To name many of the existing institutions and attitudes—militarism, nationalism, racial hatreds, our industrial feudalism, the warring theologies, child slavery,—is to condemn them. When we realize that these things are an integral part of the civilization that you have handed to us we wonder whether the whole of it can be worth-while.

We do not know what the future holds but we are not approaching it handicapped with the dogmatic authoritarianism that has characterized your existence. Who shall say that we will make a worse mess of things than you have? We feel that we have a superior method of approach to our problems and will, therefore, achieve better results. Time alone will determine whether our faith is justified. We are going ahead with our experimentation regardless of your protestations. Why should we be influenced by the opinion of those who are handing on to us a civilization that has failed?
COMMONWEALTH ADOPTS AND ELECTS

Years of Experience Crystalized in Document

On January 18, 1927, after almost four years of continuous experimentation, Commonwealth College Associated adopted a constitution and inaugurated its first elected board of trustees.

The associate members are the voting members of the Association. In order to assure the educational character of the Association, three-fifths of the associate membership must at all times be composed of teachers. Community members enjoy all the rights and privileges of the associate members except the right to vote on business affairs of the Association.

The governing body consists of a board of trustees composed of three associate members. In order to assure continuity and stability the term of office of a trustee is three years. After the first election one trustee is to be elected annually. The board of trustees elects all the officers of the association. At the first annual meeting under the new constitution on January 18, 1927, William Edward Zech was elected to the three year term, Kate Richards O'Hare to the two year term, and Covington Hall to the one year term of the board of trustees. The trustees elected Wilbur Clarke Benton as Executive Secretary, Ernest E. Koch as Industrial Manager and E. M. Goodhue as Treasurer of the Association.

It is of importance to note that after several years of experience the Commonwealth group has come to the conclusion that it is best to conduct all purely academic affairs on a basis of complete democracy within the teaching staff, and that it is best to delegate all administrative and industrial affairs to the board of trustees which is responsible to the group. Outside academic activities the method of delegated responsibility rather than the method of industrial democracy prevails.

The delegated responsibility, however, is conditioned by provisions for appeals to the group from decisions of the board, for initiative, and for recall. It takes a two-thirds vote of the associate membership to reverse a policy or to recall an action of the board. It likewise takes a two-thirds vote of the associate membership to initiate a policy over the disapproval of the board or to recall a trustee. This makes it possible for the board of trustees to function freely and with some assurance. At the same time the membership has it within its power to curtail the activities of the board in any clear case of unwise conduct.

The adoption of the constitution marks a milestone in the development of Commonwealth. It completes one phase of this educational experiment. With the matter of the organic law out of the way greater time and more energy may now be devoted to other problems.

Good and Welfare

The Last Order of Business

By NAZARETH DAWN

Requireist In Peace

Harold Brome is dead! Long live Harold Brome!

During the last fortnight dissolution came to the compound editor of this department as it must eventually to all compound editors. The end was not unexpected.

Symptoms of dissolution were in evidence for months. Last summer a serious infection set in which made necessary a major operation. A third of the corporate ody was cut away. The weakened and mutilated remnant took up the battle of words again but the spirit was broken. The clan had departed. Cynicism and pessimism descended like a pall. Scintillating effervescence was displaced by a cruder, coarser irony and a bleating sarcasm. The end was inevitable.

We know not when or where, if ever, the resurrection will be.

Women, in my observation, have little or no difference in them, but as they are or are not distinguished by education.—Defoe.

Society Notes

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bath. The Commoners will enjoy this home-cured meat during the coming summer.

Roman. Oscar Fay, manager of the Commonwealth College store, recently sought to increase his patronage by attracting his Arkansas neighbors, fond of light clothing. When a salesman for union made garments appeared on the college grounds, Oscar considered his potential customers, looked through the catalog, ordered buff duck trousers to decorate native Arkansan extremities. The clothing consignment arriving shortly after the opening of school was eyed enviously by metropolitan students. The entire stock now adorns New Yorker Irving Weissman, Syracusan Bernard Kleinman and the urbane brothers O'Hare.

We Thank You!

Mrs. Harriett B. Page, Hot Springs, Ark.: 100 miscellaneous books.

Mr. Roger N. Baldwin, New York City: 11 Vanguard Press books.

Mrs. Rachel T. Dunlop, Santa Fe, N. M.: $10 cash.

Mr. A. Prince, Paterson, N. J.: "Abridgment of Blackstone's Commentaries."