CAMPUS GUEST HOUSE NEARING COMPLETION

Commoners Will Care for Visitors in a Modern Community Home

An eleven-room, thoroughly equipped, modern guest house situated on the campus and surmounting the bluff overlooking Mill Creek Valley is nearing completion. The materials and furnishings are being donated by Kate Richards O’Hare, who will occupy a suite of three rooms and act as community hostess.

A large reception room, seven sleeping rooms, a kitchenette, and bathroom make up Commonwealth’s first more-than-one-story building with its rock foundation, winding stairs, exposed ceiling joists, semi-French windows, French doors, open fireplace, and glassed-in porch. The floor designs and inside wall finish have not yet been decided upon but the head carpenter, Sol Carp, claims that the floors will be beautiful and

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JERSEY WINS ELECTION

New Jersey won two seats in the new Student Council which has just been elected to serve during the second semester of the school year. This unprecedented victory and the vote won by Massachusetts turned over the control of the new Council to the East.

The election of Peter Hoedemaker, native of Holland and member of the Electrical Workers’ Union, and of Solomon J. Carp, native of England, and member of the Carpenter’s Union, gave New Jersey, where both now reside, the presidency and vice-presidency of the Council. The other members are Oscar Easton, native of Sweden, and member of the Paving Cutters’ Union, who lives in Massachusetts, Mildred Koch of Oregon, and Irene Gassoway of Arkansas, the last two being farm girls.

At the student body of Commonwealth is autonomous, the Student Council has charge of the student discipline and the arrangement of social functions. It also sits in an advisory capacity with the members of the Commonwealth Association at the regular monthly meetings.

Tremendously Important

“You have a most interesting and tremendously important educational experiment. If you didn’t teach a single class the students nevertheless would be gaining immensely. They are doing differently from what students do at the ordinary school or college; they are learning with things instead of other people’s ideas. Of course ideas are good too, but here they are getting hold of values; learning their own limitations. Their perspective is broader. I am not so much interested in teaching, as much that, of course, is important. It is what the students get—shall I say in spite of teaching—that is important above all. As I said before, your experiment is tremendously important.”

DR. JOHN E. KIRKPATRICK, Author of “The American College and its Rulers.

Zeuch Proposes Platform For “The National Party”

“I believe that nationalization of monopolized natural resources and nationalization of monopolized social services are the two planks upon which a third party can be built,” said educational director William E. Zeuch at a recent Sunday evening open forum.

“The American people are ready to accept the nationalization of such things as oil, coal, forest reserves, water power, railroads, and the Federal Reserve System. At the same time they want truly competitive enterprises to remain in private hands. A third party which would play up these wishes of progressive America could become a ‘going concern.’ ”

Zeuch declared the psychology of the American people individualistic. “A third party, if it is to appeal widely, must recognize this individualistic psychology of the people and with this knowledge as a working basis should present a platform of immediate and practical reform.”

Discussing the parties already in the political arena Zeuch said that the radical parties like the Socialist and Communist are politically ineffective.

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FARM WORK HUMS AS SPRING ARRIVES

Commoners Plow, Harrow and Plant To Feed Next Year’s Students

With two teams in the fields, breaking, plowing, and harrowing and with 130 acres to be put into corn, cotton, ‘mung beans, feterita, peanuts, potatoes, cane, cabbage, onions, melons, cucumbers, cow peas, and a host of other crops, Commonwealth are making the most of every moment available for farm work.

The cropping plans of the farm manager, Ernest Koch, include 45 acres of corn, 35 acres of ‘mung beans, 20 acres of peanuts, 6 acres of cotton, 6 acres of sweet potatoes, 5 acres of feterita, 3 acres of Irish potatoes, and about ten acres of various truck and fruit crops.

Work for the season began in January when Father Zeuch started to putter around the hot beds that now have tomatoes, head lettuce, cabbage, egg plant, cauliflower, okra, celery, and many other things ready to set out as soon as all danger of a frost is past. The Irish potatoes were

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IN EXCESS OF QUOTA

Foreign students coming to Commonwealth for study will henceforth be admitted regardless of quota limitations, according to a recent letter received from the Bureau of Immigration, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

The Immigration Act of 1924 provides that an immigrant who is a bona fide student at least 15 years of age and who seeks to enter the United States solely for the purpose of study in an accredited educational institution approved by the Secretary of Labor may come as a non-quota immigrant.

Several foreign students have made known their desire to enter Commonwealth next fall. The Secretary of Labor has approved Commonwealth as an accredited educational institution. It is probable, now that the quota restrictions are removed that the number of foreign students at Commonwealth will increase yearly.
I. Nazareth Dawn in a recent article tells us: "What Youth is Feeling." What he says is so challenging and much of it is so true that I am moved to express a few things that the elders are feeling.

First I want to say that there is a small group of the older generation which realizes just as keenly the mistakes we have made, and are making and is just as anxious to help make things better as is the younger generation. Why not counsel together and work together? Youth has enthusiasm, vigor, and impetuosity; maturity has caution, endurance and patience. Are not all of these qualities necessary or at least valuable? Youth is so scornful of maturity and maturity is so fearful of offending, or of being scorned, that we elders wash our hands and say, "Go ahead with your experiments and make your mistakes." J. K. Hart in his new book, "The North," says, "Once we dictated to youth and made irreparable mistakes. Now we abdicate all direction and make equal mistakes. Is there no place in the living of youth for the experience, good or bad, of age, and of the ages?"

II. How about this age long experience? Must it all be lost and count for nothing in the lives of youth in this generation? Youth says that they of the younger generation have been born into a world of changing standards and implies that all that their elders have experienced is of no value now. It is true that we are in an era of transition and changes are taking place more rapidly than ever before; but may there not be some fundamental truths and experiences that count, even so? Are there not lessons to be learned from the past that apply to changing conditions? Has youth taken the time to investigate the experiences and experiments of the ages?

It is quite impossible in one span of life to experience all that is necessary in order to re-evaluate life. To experiment sufficiently to gather data for establishing new values requires not one but many generations. As individuals we must get much of our experience vicariously; through a varied literature and through our friends. As a race we must get our experience from the past. So, if we would establish new values and new ideals for society, or for the individual, it is shortsighted to disregard all the experience of the ages and start all over again. Youth should not throw away their lives on experiments just because their elders have so stupidly and wickedly thrown away the lives of other youths as gun fodder.

III. But is it true that youth is ignoring the experience of the past, is breaking entirely with maturity? Youth is breaking with things as they are and is quite sure that society should not follow along in the conventional rut. This is hopeful, but we doubt after all whether youth is original and independent as a few of them think. Are they not simply choosing to follow in a half-blind way a group of their elders which they are sure is the conventional group? For example, some of the elders agree with youth that "the old god, the old theology, have become vague and dimmer and has almost vanished in the penetrating light of scientific investigation."

There are some among the groups of adults, however, who have kept abreast of scientific investigation and yet have lost neither God nor the straight and narrow path. There are indeed many who cling to the old dogmatically, others who reject all theology and all religion because they find it impossible to reconcile the old and the new; still others who find more light in a broader religion, and a new freedom in a larger conception of God. Youth, like certain of their elders, is proposing to give up all religion. There is nothing original or untried in this. The solution here raised is not whether they are right, but whether they have gathered enough data, counseled sufficiently with all groups of elders to enable themselves to choose wisely. While youth cannot escape the influence of the past it is possible for it to choose intelligently what influences of the past shall give direction to its life.

IV. Nazareth Dawn has much to say concerning what science has discovered and revealed, and, in youth's interest and enthusiasm for science, almost makes a god of her instead of requiring her to be a handmaiden. Science first gave us an understanding of nature and then taught us to control nature. Man as an animal is subject to the laws of nature, but as an intelligent and spiritual being he has learned to dominate nature. The sails over the water, he flies through the air, he sends his voice around the world in a few minutes, all by confronting and subduing nature.
Society Notes

Bon Voyage. Dr. and Mrs. John E. Kirkpatrick, though loth to go, left for their home in Olivet, Michigan, after a month's stay and study of the Commonwealth idea. During their visit the Kirkpatricks taught the classes in modern history and modern drama. They also gave two hours a day to the rearrangement of the library.

Returns. After spending six days in the Hot Springs jail "because I couldn't convince the judge that I wasn't a bum," Walter Stein, a knight of the road, is back at Commonwealth. Walter is a de luxe member of the wandering brotherhood. He summers at Commonwealth as a working guest and winters on the waters of the seven seas—and their tributaries. He was most recently discharged from the S. S. Arkansas, government boat.

Daughters of Naomi. While in almost all else there is visible improvement the laundry is still the handwork of hand maidens, and "handladies" too. It is still in that semipioneer condition which not long ago was applied to all things Commonwealth. The water is pumped from the spring into large tin tubs. The wash is boiled over open fires. Across old-fashioned washing boards the clothing is vigorously rubbed. A Royal wringer squeezes out the water all? Surely thinking youth will not be hoodwinked.

Elders Feeling

and yet youth would reduce romance, love, patriotism, heroism, to little more than animal instincts. The consistency of this, that while acknowledging the scientific spirit by which man conquers nature and proves himself superior to nature, youth yet would reduce man in other spheres to the rank of an animal.

Our young people accept nothing as sacred and no values as fundamental and eternal, according to Nazareth Dawn. Right and wrong are, we agree, relative terms. But is it not possible that there are a few things which old-fashioned people call virtues, such as love in the larger sense, unselfishness, self-sacrifice, which furnish an enduring basis for the human condition? Would it help youth if they could discover new names for some of the fundamental virtues? Patriotism and love and religion and duty are words that have been abused and dragged until they have as many meanings as there are people who use them. But what is in a name after all?

Proposes Platform

featural and numerically negligible because they offer a class program to class-conscious people.

"The older parties, the Republican and the Democrat, are reactionary, interlocked, and trusted-owned. The convenience the people once gave them is being seriously snatched; more violently where their corruption is more generally known. Consequently, in my opinion, the time is ripe for just such a party as I propose."

The speaker then traced third party movements natorically, citing the Lincoln-nepublican third party as the only successful insurgent attempt in American history.

Farm Work Hums

farmlands. The students in the farm crew are handicapped for want of adequate machinery and the farm manager dreams of the day when we will own a full equipment of modern farm implements to carry on the work with greater speed and efficiency. In spite of the meagre stock of implements, however, the work goes on.

The carpenter crew has torn down several sets of old buildings on the farms the college bought and is constructing a small cottage, a large barn, and a good sized chicken house from the salvaged materials. The new farmstead is located a quarter of a mile from the village and at the center of the college holdings. These new buildings will be a great aid to the farm crew.

Book Review


This is an interesting history of the Hooded Knights and a profound work on mob psychology. It incidentally makes clear the fact that the modern K. K. K. has no valid excuse for existence, as did the original organization at a time when, by the aid of ignorant negro votes and federal bayonets, the Northern Carpetbagger ruled on Southern territory.

Professor Macklin, in spots, speaks very bluntly with reference to some of the dominant characteristics of the order; using such words as "cowardly" and "un-American," but these terms do not indicate the general tone of the book.

Tradition and ignorance are shown as the basic elements of the modern organization, and a war psychology as one of the causes of its rapid growth. The author seems to have overlooked the important fact that the strength of such an "un-American" organization could not have been transferred to the North if it had met with opposition from the influential and intelligent super-patriots from whose ranks the dollar-a-year men were drawn during the war to handle Hog Island profits, etc. They had something to hide, and the K. K. K. threw a cloud of dust that served their purpose admirably.

W. C. B.
Communications

From One of the Literati

Editor Commonwealth College Fortnightly:

Thank you for the copy of the Commonwealth College Fortnightly. I am enclosing my subscription—and a word about one of the articles in this number: The article by Nazereth Dawn interpreting the attitude of the youth of today. Enough of that article seems to me fine to cause me to question some of it. But let me tell you first that when I looked for the paper, my father said: "I have it in my pocket."

In that article I note the slogan, which is to prove all things and hold fast to that which is good. I wonder if that slogan is consistent with the dictum: "Nothing is sacred," and whether that too has been proved.

It is not that I question the logic of this attitude or the ethics. But I do question whether this is the spiritual spirit. For science, like art, is selective. It does not affirm: "Nothing is sacred." It admits certain principles—those, say, of gravitation and combustion. It does not cry: "Everything is worth trying." To determine how many angels can dance on the point of a needle is no longer a worth a scientists while—and there are other occupations discarded as not less futile.

This excluding negation of the sacred and this indiscriminate affirination of the worth of all experience seems to me unscientific, because they are unselective.

I am assuming that this confessed attitude of negation of the past is sufficiently inconsistent to admit the value of scientific experiment. But science is controlling nature. Imagine, instead, science saying: "I shall co-operate in every possible experience—disease, poverty, insanity. For these belong to life. I affirm them. I shall participate in them."

Both internal and external nature—to use an eastern denomination of the one nature—shall control man or he shall control it. For all youth's dream of freedom, this article on youth's attitude toward life seems to me to express youth's willingness that nature shall enslave it.

Faithfully yours,
Portage, Wisconsin. ZONA GALE.

From a Manufacturer

... The article in the February 1st issue of the Fortnightly by Nazereth Dawn is the finest, sanest, most refreshing and most stimulating thing that I have read in many a day. Please tell me something about the person and antecedents of Nazereth Dawn. Is that a real name, or just his—or perhaps even her—nom de plume? I am very interested in the Fortnightly. Personally, I share your views in general, and hope that it may be permitted me to come in touch with you... I want to know more about the college in general, and... more especially, I want to know about a young man who thinks as you do. As a subscriber to the Fortnightly, I hope that I shall see you more frequently in print...

Yours very sincerely,
ALBERT CLAYTON BAKER.
Gambier, Ohio.

From a Machinist

... In my opinion the Fortnightly is great... There is a wonderful article in issue number 3. "What Youth is Feeling" by N. Dawn. It is a bold aggressive statement of youth and a challenge to the old. But I would like to know who are the young and who are the old? Does the author mean by young those who happen to be of a certain age in 1927? Is he not aware that in all ages there has been a youth of a certain age that challenged and broke traditional customs and idols?

Father Zeuch's article in number 4 (The Stabilization of Capitalism) is a masterpiece; clear as a mirror, sharp as a razor, harmonious as a symphony, and hitting like a steam hammer. More power to you Father Zeuch.

Cleveland, Ohio. J. SVIRSKY.

Thanks, Friends

Dr. Edward Berman, Urbana, Ill., volume on government and labor.
Hippolyte Havel, Stilton, N. J., 1 pamphlet on socialist admissions.
F. M. Kirkendall, Dayton, O., two volumes life of George Washington.
Dr. John E. Kirkpatrick, Olivet, Mich., check for $25.
J. H. Lewis, Cape Girardeau, Mo., 10 Little Blue Books, including his own, "Outlander."
Old Lindsay, Mena, Ark., de luxe edition of the complete works of De Maupassant.
J. W. Schweinfurth, Adel, Ore., tree seeds.
Mary Winsor, Haverford, Pa., two years' extension of subscription to The Nation.

Nazereth Dawn. Is that a real name, or just his—or perhaps even her—nom de plume? I am very interested in the Fortnightly. Personally, I share your views in general, and hope that it may be permitted me to come in touch with you... I want to know more about the college in general, and... more especially, I want to know about a young man who thinks as you do. As a subscriber to the Fortnightly, I hope that I shall see you more frequently in print...

Yours very sincerely,
S. KAHN.

Society Notes

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Letters to the Editor:

water and wires stretched from tree to tree to serve as clothes-lines. The dry clothes are gathered in the tubs that boiled them. Gasoline heated flat-irons, the one advance over our grandparents, do the pressing. Then that wash the one of old frocks. It is on the shelves of the laundry room. This is the way we wash our clothes.

Competent. Nellie Toble hitch-hiked in from Neosho, Missouri, where she has been at the bedside of her sick father for ten days. She reports him improved. Nellie, a young Amazon of sixteen, is a college freshman. In the three years that she has attended Commonwealth she has hitch-hiked about 5,000 miles. Traveling has no terrors for Nellie. When she gets ready she swings her pack upon her back and sets out. She can tell you a thousand tales of the road. Her middle name is Independence.

Gyp. "Where is my soup?" shouted Fritz Hocevar, a budding young Lenin from Chicago, rushing into the kitchen. "Git out! Lunch is over; that was the one o'clock bell. It is time to go to work," replied heartless Clara Jaiven, New York garment worker, as she瑞ndished a wicked dish mop. Poor Fritz had become so immersed tracing the class-struggles through some tomes on ancient Egypt recently arrived, that he did not hear the lunch bell. So Fritz went lunchless until dinner—good training for the Revolution.

Demosthenes. The sound of many voices comes from the woods around the campus. The students of public speaking are practicing in pairs. But above the hollowing of the great maple leaves a deep bass voice rises and falls in measured periods: "And so ye hosts of toil awaken! O workingmen unite! unite! unite! for might is right, 'tis Freedom's only way." "I was the logic of the ancient world, and the gospel of today." "The gospel of today" answers the echo as Covami enters his cabin. Covami who teaches the history and theory of unionism is somewhat of a rebel poet as well as one of the widely known war horses of the labor movement and has the habit of reciting poems in a thunderous voice during his walks. Students smile as they hear him. They would not have him otherwise than he is.

Eggs. Now that eggs are procurable at twenty cents a dozen or less the Sunday breakfast piece-de-resistance graces the dining table at almost every meal. Neighbors or their children form a veritable and continuous egg-bearing caravan. Kitchen manager Mildred Koch buys up the market for immediate and winter consumption.