K. R. O. EXTOLS FREUD AS A GREAT INFLUENCE

Psychoanalysis a Dynamic Force in Modern Thought, Says Instructor

"Freud’s contribution to psychology has had more influence on modern thought than any other body of theory advanced by any one man," said Kate Richards O’Hare, instructor in social problems, in a talk on "The Influence of Sigmund Freud Upon Modern Thought," before the Commoners at the regular Sunday evening forum recently.

"During the last twenty years psychoanalysis has revolutionized the theory of crime, the methods of dealing with the insane, and has enabled us to understand the inspiration which produces great literature, music and other forms of art. It has done more to advance religions that have ever been advanced," said Mrs. O’Hare, who then proceeded to explain her statements in greater detail.

Psychoanalysis has broken down the old absolute conceptions of right and wrong, good and bad, moral and immoral. It has induced tolerance by helping persons more fully to understand themselves and others. It has repudiated the idea of free will and forced people to realize that "we are what we are because of a long chain of factors behind us."

Mrs. O’Hare pointed out that the present tendency in crime is to ask, not what the person did, but what made him do it, and then to deal with the case accordingly. She, likewise, pointed out the similar change in our dealing with the insane. Once an insane person was thought to be possessed of the devil, later, to be suffering from a disease of the mind, but with the development of modern psychology, he is known to be suffering from soul sickness.

Mrs. O’Hare cited the Loeb-Leopold case to demonstrate the use of psychoanalysis in the courts, which, though usually fifty years behind the time, are now beginning to realize its value in the study of crime and in the application of law to criminal cases.

To understand everything is to hate nothing.—Rolland.

ENCOURAGE WORKERS’ POLITICAL ACTION?

Yes! Says W. C. Benton; No! Says Covington Hall

"Were Lenin and the Bolsheviks justified in seizing political power in Russia? Were Calles and the workers justified in struggling for and securing political power in Mexico?"

Thus, W. C. Benton, instructor at law, challenged Covington Hall, instructor in labor economics, in their debate at the March 13 Sunday evening open forum on the proposition: "That working class political action should be encouraged."

Drawing upon American history and his own experience in the labor movement, Benton enumerated many instances where working class political action has been productive of much good. "The workers should always be on the right end of the policeman’s club," he summed up.

"Politics takes the workers and farmers away from their organizational problems and weakens their fight for social control," Hall rejoined. "The working class get what they want through the might of their unions. Let the unions build up their strength and then they will be able to dictate. All power lies in the union halls."

Paraphrasing Woodrow Wilson’s remarks on the corporations, Hall

REST AND RECREATION FOR THE WORKWORN

Commonwealth Thrown Open to Workers as Summer Camp

From June 1 to September 1 Commonwealth College will be thrown open to workworn fathers and mothers of the southwest as a school of rest and recreation, according to an announcement just issued by the board of trustees. Rest, recreation, and intellectual stimulation will be provided at a nominal cost.

"The administrators of Commonwealth have decided that the college plant should not be idle during the summer months when the regular students are away earning their tuition and pocket money for the next school year," the announcement reads.

The plans for the summer school of rest and recreation include a variety of morning-to-night activities. Evening readings in poetry and literature, lectures, and forums on present day political, economic and social problems are prominent on the program. Also listed are moonlight hikes, all-day swimming, picnics and outdoor and indoor dancing.

The regular faculty of the college will conduct informal classes and act as hosts and hostesses. Prominent persons will lecture on their specialties. There will be farmer and labor conferences and farmer-labor conferences to promote harmony and co-operation.

The Commonwealth library with its 3,000 bound volumes and over one hundred different daily, weekly and monthly publications, will be available to all. The library offers a wide array of subject matter for reading; this is in keeping with the college’s liberal policy.

No tuition fee will be asked. One dollar a day will cover board, lodging and the educational and recreational incidents. Accommodations are limited and will be reserved in the order of request. The college will provide, at two dollars a week, campsites with wood and water to those who wish to rough it.

Knowledge which is acquired under compulsion has no hold on the mind.—Plato.
Commonwealth College
Fortnightly

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Signed articles express only individual opinion.

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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April 1, 1927

WHAT IS COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE

Commonwealth was organized in 1923 to provide education for workers on a self-supporting basis.

Commonwealth is located in the Ozarks near Mena, Arkansas where it operates agricultural and other basic industries by means of four hours' daily labor from its students and teachers.

Commonwealth seeks to develop in young men and women of the working class the capacity to serve the labor movement.

Commonwealth is a non-sectarian, non-propaganda institution. It sponsors no particular religious, political, or economic dogmas. It holds that scientific experimentation carries the only hope of adjustment or solution of personal and social problems.

Commonwealth is the only institution for higher education where both teachers and students earn their maintenance by part-time labor while engaged in academic work.

Political Action

[Continued from Page 1]
declared the unions to be “a new form of social organization which has already arisen in several instances to challenge capitalist society and the state.”

At the close of the formal arguments by instructors Benton and Hall, the subject was discussed in open forum. For more than an hour the advisability of political action was debated informally by the audience.

BACK NUMBERS PLEASE

Several university and public libraries have requested complete files of the Fortnightly. In order to grant these requests it will be necessary to secure copies of Volume II, Numbers 5, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21. Will those who have copies of these issues of the Fortnightly be so kind as to return them to Commonwealth.

Democracy vs. Dictatorship

BY COVAMI

I

For many months the Capitalist, the Liberal and the Communist press has been proclaiming to all mankind the sad state of democracy—and it is sad enough, God wot—and has been busily engaged impressing its total failure upon the public. Only the Communist press has qualified the failure somewhat by asserting that by democracy it meant “Bourgeois democracy,” which is no democracy at all, but merely a masked “dictatorship of the capitalist class” over society.

After reading reams of this sort of propaganda, I picked up the Fortnightly of February 15, and in an otherwise excellent article Dr. William Edward Zeuch read this statement:

“While attempts to manage industry on a basis of industrial democracy have been for the most part dismal failures when tried out in shops or in colonies,” etc.

This, I think, is error, and for the following reasons: The establishment of shops and colonies by groups of workers has nothing essential in common with the idea meant to be conveyed by the term “industrial democracy.” That term, if not coined by I. W. W. and Industrial Unionist writers, was certainly first used by them to distinguish the final aims of Industrial Unionism from those of State Socialism. It was an effort to find a term that would oppose economic to political socialism. It was a declaration of the all-sufficiency of the Industrial Union to administer society. It was a proclamation that the Industrial Commonwealth was to supersede the Territorial State in the administration of society. It was, therefore, a philosophy of social organization and action, and, as such, could not possibly mean what Dr. Zeuch would seemingly have us infer.

II

Industrial Democracy has, further, nothing in common with the many schemes that are being paraded in its name. It most certainly has nothing in common with company unions, workers’ councils, and shop committees that are being set up by employers to seduce the workers from their own self-created organizations; it has nothing in common with co-operative shops and colonies; it has little in common with the “Labor-Management” cooperative schemes that are so much in vogue in certain quarters today. None of these, no matter how loudly proclaimed, are Industrial Democracy— for Industrial Democracy means that the men and women who do the manual, mental and managerial work of the world, whose hands and brains furnish the food, clothing and shelter, the art, the education, and the culture of the commonwealth, should have the right to administer industry, to appoint the government of society, and that they can do this only through their own organizations.

Such is the theory of Industrial Democracy. It does not mean, as Dr. Zeuch and others seem to infer, the management of industry by “everybody.” The Industrial Democrats are fully aware of the extreme specialization of work in modern society. Being so, they have not the faintest idea of holding a political caucus every morning to elect the engineer or chemist or accountant of the plant for the day.

I probably do Dr. Zeuch some injustice here, for on later he says: “Society will hire brains to operate industry for social welfare, just as the workers and capitalists now hire brains to operate industry for class welfare.”

With that statement I think that few Industrial Democrats will quarrel, since in the Industrial Commonwealth there will be no other brains hireling except those of workers. The Industrial Commonwealth will be a workers commonwealth, a classless society.

III

As for democracy per se, I make so bold as to assert that it has not failed, is not a failure, and will not fail. In no nation of the world, not even in Italy, Hungary, Roumania or Bulgaria, where tens and hundreds of thousands of democrats have died fighting for one, have they been able to crush the aspirations of the workers and farmers, the great producing classes, who keep coming back demanding changes in the social order that will give them a man’s place on the earth.

However bloody may be the suppression of the democratic forces, politically and industrially, they have not been vanquished in any land; not even in Italy, Hungary, Roumania or Bulgaria, where tens of thousands of democrats have died fighting for one, have they been able to crush the aspirations of the workers and farmers, the great producing classes, who keep coming back demanding changes in the social order that will give them a man’s place on the earth.

[Continued on Page 4]
Book Review


This book is probably the best treatise on the single tax, even though the author clings to many of the proven mistakes of the advocates of that reform. While he assumes to write profoundly on social relations, and has much to say regarding "natural rights," he makes only incidental and incomplete references to social and economic evolution.

The book, like almost all single tax literature, strongly proclaims the fundamental doctrine of Henry George that "to secure fully the individual right of property in the products of labor, we must treat the elements of nature as common property." It is vainly argued that the unearned increment in the value of land arises, and points out that the community rather than privileged individuals should receive these unearned increments. The book fails, however, to explain how payment of the economic rent of land to the government rather than to the landlord will abolish exploitation in its entirety.

The author alleges that capital is both a product and a partner of labor. Maybe so. But is the capitalist a partner of the laborer? Reciprocal as their relations may be made to appear, their interests are certainly not identical when it comes to sharing the product of labor.

Competition is made a fetish. It is worshipped as the great leveller of monopoly and inequality. It is one of the "natural laws," a phase of the badly overworked throughout the book. Is not cooperation also a natural law? Evidently not, so far as any indication of the author reveals it.

The extractive industries are basic, it is true, but do they dominate the other businesses or industries? Speculation in land is not nearly so important an economic factor as speculation in stocks and bonds, which are based, not upon land values, but on industrial machinery and processes, and upon advantages that have little to do with land values.

In prescribing the single tax as the fundamental remedy for the defects of our present social order there seems to be a desperate attempt to avoid the wider aspects of social and economic conditions. This is shown in the fact that the book is remarkably silent on the income tax, the changing conditions of the wage system, and other pertinent related subjects. Its idealism is based on the social and economic conditions of a hundred years ago; it so well written, however, that it should find a place in historical literature as one of the dying wails of small capitalism.—W. C. B.

TWILIGHT AT COMMONWEALTH

By COVAMI

The mountains in their tiyan robes,

The valleys veiled in mist;

The evening star and crescent moon,

Like lovers in a tryst;

The moments pass on golden wings

Across the twilt sky —

All nature seems a perfect thing,

Too lovely, heart, to die.

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Commonwealth has a group of advisors made up of well known men and women representing many different activities and interests upon whom the Trustees call from time to time for information and advice. The present Advisory Council is made up of Judge Stone Blackwell, William Bouck, Mary D. Brite, Albert F. Coyle, Senator Lynn J. Frazer, William H. Green, Rev. John Haynes Holmes, Ernest R. Meitzen, James A. Phillips, Upton Sinclair, Carrie Weaver Smith, Luther Ely Smith, and Miriam Van Waters.

MUSKOVITE BIDE-A-WEE

Emanuel Graff, Russian translator who has lived in New York for many years, stopped over at Commonwealth en route from New Orleans to the home of Charles J. Finger at Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Emanuel intends to translate some Russian works for Finger. His brother, Ahner Graff, who is a student at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, paid Commonwealth a visit a few weeks ago in company with three of the Finger boys.

Emanuel visited classes and worked at an industrial job. He was so taken with the Commonwealth spirit and methods that he announced his intention of returning to attend next year.

Gratefully Received

Commonwealth Land Party, New York City, several of their pamphlets and John E. Grant's, "Problems of War and Its Solution."


Joe Labadie, Detroit, Mich., three booklets of his own poetry.


Dr. W. Van Netto, Clyde, Ohio, $2.00.

Society Notes

Call of the Wild — Several male students of the he-man variety, disappeared shortly after dinner one Saturday evening recently. On inquiry it was found that they had packed their knapsacks with food, rolled their blankets, and struck out to spend the night and the following day in the mountains. Sunday evening the gang came straggling in just about fagged out. They claimed to have hiked over most of eastern Oklahoma — the old Indian Territory — but we took that information with several grains of salt. One he-man was so done up that they had to carry his Sunday evening lunch to him in bed. He found mountain trails a bit more difficult than Chicago streets or Commonwealth paths.

Working Guest — Will Chase, one of the organizers of "The Commonwealth" at Omaha, Nebraska, has been spending time at Commonwealth. Will has had many years of experience with co-operative enterprises, so that he finds no difficulty adjusting himself to our particular brand. He is perfectly at home with almost all the various kinds of industrial work that we carry on. He is up most mornings with the first streaks of dawn, and is often in the field before the rising bell awakens other Commoners. This is his second sojourn with us. Last summer he stopped over for several weeks on his way to the gulf coast.

Blood — A bit of realism crept into the skit, "I Wanna See a Giraffe," written and staged by the "Castle Gang" at the last student program. Herbert, the irrepressible youngster who insists on seeing a giraffe, falls into the bear pit at the park and is dragged out unconscious after the keeper has shot the bear. He is finally brought to, and his first complaint being, "I wanna see a giraffe."

Unfortunately for little Herbert (Paul Henkel), in this case the powder charges were held in place in the blank cartridges by pieces of Commonwealth's home made whole wheat bread. One of these slugs hit Herbert squarely over the right eye. But Herbert never faltered. Biting his lips as the blood trickled down his face, he went on with the play, and did it so well that none of the audience, and but few of those on the stage, knew that he was really hurt.

Arrived — Eugene O'Hare, son of Kate Richards O'Hare, and a student at Commonwealth until a few weeks ago, when he left for St. Louis, is now a reporter on the St. Louis Star. He sends in his maiden [Continued on Page 4.]
Labor Education

By "MARAT"

"Labor History and Problems" is the suggestive title of the subject or course of study which, in my opinion, amply justifies the claim that Commonwealth College exists for the purpose of educating workers so that they can best do the things necessary to obtain for the working class the greatest possible benefits in return for their efforts.

"Labor History and Problems," as taught at Commonwealth, takes the student back to the beginning of history and acquaints him with the struggles of the workers from the dawn of history to the present time. Accepting the premise that there is a working class, and that there is an exploiting class, and that there is a conflict of interests amounting to a state of industrial war between these classes, the student is made cognizant of the social and economic conditions that have existed in past times, and of the means employed by workers to advance their interests as well as the means employed to hold them in subjection with a view to further and greater exploitation. Moreover, an attempt is made to determine why certain forms of organization and certain tactics succeeded at one time and failed at another.

"Labor History and Problems" does not, however, teach dogma. It does not pretend to say that one organization was, or is, better than another. It recognizes the fact that the form and tactics of any organization, at any time, probably was, at inception, the best that could be devised, and that the subsequent failure of any organization was, in great part, due to its becoming fixed and incapable of modification to meet the ever evolving social and industrial conditions.

"Labor History and Problems" gives especial attention to the modern American labor movement, as represented by its various economic, social, and political associations, and attempts, through the process of comparison and deduction, to discover what form of organization and what tactics or plan of action is best suited to the present time. Nor is this research and the conclusions arrived at the work of empirics. Not only has the instructor in this class grown up in and achieved a wide reputation as an actual fighter and tactician in the ranks of organized labor, but the class itself includes a large percentage of students who have spent years in fighting labor's battles, and have, in many instances, risen to high standing in their respective unions. That the results of their united effort while at Commonwealth must have a far reaching and beneficial effect in the labor movement is inevitable.

"Labor History and Problems," in my opinion, is easily the most important subject in the curriculum of Commonwealth College. The comprehensiveness of the course definitely distinguishes Commonwealth from other so-called "Labor" colleges. It is the course of study that definitely stamps Commonwealth as an institution devoted primarily to "workers' education."

That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings.—Ruskin.

Communications

Blazing the Trail
Commonwealth College Fortnightly.
Dear Sirs:

* * *

From the first information concerning your plans and ideals I have been much impressed with your work, and now to see how you are making progress in working out your plans I am still more impressed that your school will make a real contribution to education.

A new type of school, that of academic democracy, must be established, and your school is showing the way * * *

Yours truly,

Cows and Cats
Dear Zeuch:

* * * I want to congratulate your editorial staff for the very unique and interesting paper they get out. Of course, I am not acquainted with any of the students, and their names sound strange to me, but I am beginning to feel as if I knew some of the cows and cats.

* * * Your experiment in education seems to be passing rapidly out of the experimental stage. It is most interesting to follow the results of your work. If I can ever manage to do it in any way, I shall visit your school. How I would enjoy a week or so there! But that is a pipe dream * * *

Sincerely,
RAYMOND BELLAMY, Ph. D., Tallahassee, Fla.

Age! Age! Sir!
Dear Zeuch:

I have read your very interesting article on stabilization in a recent number of the Commonwealth Fortnightly. Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of the testimony I gave before the committee on banking and currency of the House of Representatives recently in Washington. This will give you one of the lines of attack in which I am interested.

Sincerely yours,
J. R. COMMONS,
Madison, Wisconsin.