Herr Doktor Direktor
Goes A Hitch-Hiking

Traverses Middle Western States on 2,500-Mile Vacation Trip.

About the middle of August Dr. Zeuch donned hitch-hiker's clothes, threw his knapsack on his back, put a few shekels in his pocket, bade the Commoners "Aufwiederschen," and took to the road on a hitchhiking trip that took him through portions of Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.

Although the Commoners have a reputation for hitch-hiking Dr. Zeuch had never hitch-hiked a foot in his life. He gave out that he thought it about time that he find out something about that mode of travel first hand. There are those who aver, however, that he had heard that hitch-hiking was a good way to reduce and that he was looking for some sure way of reducing his two hundred pounds to a hundred and sixty.

At the end of three weeks he returned just as "phump" as ever and with all sorts of stories of the road. He never asked for rides. As he was just loasting along he would sit down and wait until someone asked him to ride, except when he felt he ought to get a little exercise. The most he made in one day was 385 miles in two hitches from Omaha to Joplin; the least was 105 miles in thirteen hitches.

He found that the people who pick one up are those who are on the road most of the time—traveling salesmen, transcontinental tourists, and truck drivers—though he records among others preachers, college students, farmers, miners and one banker on the list of those who gave him a lift. His theory is that those who give one a ride are the lonely souls who want someone to talk to. He inquired as to why they picked him up. Some said that he looked too fat to walk; others that they were careful whom they picked up but that he looked alright; still others because of his open countenance, which we presume to mean his ah—well-filled out face. One even had the effrontery to tell him that he picked him up because [Continued on Page Two.]

PLEDGES FOR THE FORTNIGHT.

Edwin N. Durland, Chicago, Ill.
J. W. Griggs, St. Paul, Minn.

CUNNINGHAMS RETURN FROM EASTERN TRIP

It Was Worth the Trouble, They Say, but Not a Roaring Success.

Bill and Clarice Cunningham returned August 19 from their five thousand-mile hitch hike. "Our trip," said Bill, "although less productive than we had hoped, was very much worth while. Our expenses for the three months and eight days we were away amounted to $17 more than we raised for this year. However, we succeeded in getting pledges aggregating $225 for each of the next two years. Thus even from a financial point of view it was successful.

"Our work in Kansas City and St. Louis was productive, but in Cincinnati, Philadelphia and New York we raised practically nothing. Miners' relief had taken the funds of liberals and labor people in those sections. And as the summer advanced we had increasing difficulty in finding individuals whose names we had been given. During our two weeks' stay in New York every person from whom we might have expected financial aid for the college was out of town.

"However, we do not regret our Eastern trip. We came in contact with dozens of prominent liberals and labor people who will certainly help the school when they have an opportunity. Their good will cannot be estimated in dollars and cents.

"We discovered, also, a number of students of the type which Commonwealth needs. If we had done nothing whatever on the entire trip except interest these students the summer would not have been wasted.

"So far as we personally are concerned the trip was a success. We had a variety of new experiences. The East, once a mythical place vaguely conceived, is [Continued on Page Four.]

Quarterly System
Adopted By Faculty

School to Be Held During Forty-six Weeks of the Year.

The academic year at Commonwealth has been changed from two fifteen-week semesters to three quarters of twelve weeks each with a summer session of ten weeks. The change was unanimously voted at the faculty meeting held September 12.

Tuition by the new plan will be $40 per quarter, which amounts to the same as the $30 per semester rate herebefore in effect. School will be held the year round except for a six-week period beginning the middle of August. There will be four registrations each year instead of two.

Classes will be held five days of the week, during the fall, winter and spring quarters. Students will be permitted to take three subjects, a total of fifteen recitation hours a week. Industrial work will occupy four hours each day, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. during the first five days of the week, and from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, leaving Saturday afternoon and Sunday free, except for the small amount of necessary kitchen work.

Under the present plan, which is subject to alteration as the need arises, the summer session will last only ten weeks, with recitations each morning including Saturday, thus giving the same number of recitation periods as in other quarters, and industrial work each afternoon except Saturday. Thus summer students will work only twenty hours per week, as against twenty-four hours required of students during the other quarters. But since no wood is required for the heating purposes during the summer it is likely that the necessary work can be done on a twenty-hour schedule.

The main reason for the change is that many workers have seasonal jobs. The new plan will permit them to attend school one, two, or three quarters and go back to their jobs for the rest of the year. Another reason is that student workers are much needed here during the summer months for such jobs as canning, [Continued on Page Three.]
Commonwealth College
Fortnightly

The A. F. of L. on Trial
By William Edward Zech.

I.

The executive council of the American Federation of Labor has turned thumbs down on Brookwood and has asked affiliated unions not to support the school on the grounds that the college was encouraging anti-religious teaching, antagonistic to the American Federation of Labor, and pro-Soviet demonstrations. The action was taken on the basis of charges that appear to have been made by Comrade M. Wolf, self-appointed Commissar of What a Good Unionist Should Hear, See and Think. Due to immediate protests from educators and labor leaders President William Green has postponed decisive action until the members of the executive council should have time to examine the protests.

II.

The action of the executive council puts the American Federation rather than Brookwood on trial. We will soon know whether American labor leadership as typified by the membership of the executive council is intelligent enough to comprehend the real meaning and import of education; whether it is broad-minded enough to perceive the catholicity necessarily inherent in the curriculum of any program of workers' education; and whether it is tolerant and liberal enough to be entrusted with a dominant and controlling position in the development of labor education projects.

III.

Commonwealth, of course, stands with Brookwood for academic freedom and real labor education as opposed to academic servility and blatant propaganda. Nothing gives us greater pain that the A. F. of L., Socialist, Communist, I. W. W., and other propaganda agencies that have the nerve to call themselves educational institutions. The founders of Commonwealth have always feared to entrust the life or destiny of the school to particular labor groups of any sort for the very reason that now threatens Brookwood. Commonwealth has striven steadily for the achievement of self-supporting workers' education under absolute self-government rather than to put its life at the mercy of any group or set of groups by being entirely dependent on them financially. The road to self-supporting education may be long and hard, especially when we have to deal with people who choose to misrepresent and misunderstand, but in the end we will not have to live in fear that we will have our academic freedom threatened or our institutional life cut short by the withdrawal of vital financial support by groups unable to distinguish between education and propaganda. The situation at Brookwood is especially interesting to us at Commonwealth because some of our friends there have constantly pooh-poohed our continued aversion to entrusting our educational project to labor groups. They accused us of undue worry, of anticipating situations that never happen—especially the very situation that has meshed them. We are going to permit ourselves to be nasty enough to say, "Aha, we told you so." For we have grave doubts whether the officialdom of the American Federation of Labor will resolve the Brookwood affair wisely.

IV.

Commonwealth from its inauguration has striven to point out that workers' education must be above institutional partisanship; that its curriculum must be broad enough to include the presentation of all points of view on any question of interest to labor; that it would be best to have the various points of view presented by their partisans; and that there must be no outside interference in purely academic affairs. The factionalists within the labor movement have damned us, of course, for this stand. For two years our application for a charter in the American Federation of Teachers was held up because a Socialist on its executive board wrote to its members that the Director of Commonwealth was one of the chief Communists of the country—which will be news to the Communists. Commonwealth refused to stultify itself by coming into the A. F. T. with the understanding that it would never have any Communists on its staff. Finally saner councils prevailed in the A. F. T. and a charter was issued. On the other hand the Communists advise all their young folks to stay away from Commonwealth. They have consistently refused to publish one line about Commonwealth in any of their publications. Two years ago I visited Rutherford in his Chicago office. Even though we were miles apart in our points of view our personal relations had always been tolerant and friendly. Yet the moment I left his office he rushed around to the Young Workers' League and told them that I was in town and to have nothing to do with me. One of the youngsters present had enough sense of humor to get the incident to me. Yet in spite of the official disapproval of the party Commonwealth has always had a good quota of young Communists among its students as well as Trade Unionists, Socialists, Wobblicks, and others who were

[Continued on Page Three.]
SOCIETY NOTES

The long summer vacation, abolished for the future by a recent act of the faculty, will have ended by the time these notes are read. Wasps will have been shooed from the now quiet dormitories; books will be cracking; new students will be studying the intricacies of kerosene lamp management.

But vacation days have their dramatic incidents, their little tragedies and comedies; their events to be remembered and retold beside the winter fire.

The steam gauge on a pressure cooker was responsible for the major accident of the summer. Five gallons of boiling peaches shot to the ceiling of the kitchen and rained down on the canning crew. Mrs. O’Hare suffered burns which incapacitated her for a week.

Chickens who roosted in coops behind the Bosch cottage were disturbed seven nights in succession and sometimes the squawk which rang out came from a dying throat. Stockman Bosch each time rushed to the rescue, and at last, armed only with a file, he met and slew in single combat a mamma possum. The next day Commoners celebrated the victory by a possum dinner.

A bottle of iodine was knocked from a bench and, the cork coming out, squirted its contents over red-headed Chucky. One drop landed in her eye. The pain, of course, was intense, but Chucky’s chief concern was her sight. “Oh, it’ll put out my eye!” she cried. “I’ll be blind.”

“No,” explained Stein, “you can see practically everything with one eye.”

The next morning Chucky’s eye was as good as ever, although somewhat bloodshot. “Did any of the stuff splatter on your face?” she was asked. “I think so,” she replied, “but I can’t tell the stains from freckles.”

When Clarice pushed open the side door of Luna Lodge a blacksnake, which had evidently been crawling along the wall above the door, lost its foothold (bellyhoist) and tumbled on to her neck. Obeying the instincts of a daughter of Eve she screamed and leaped back, leaving the bewildered reptile in midair. It plumped to the floor and wriggled to a hiding place behind a suitcase. Bill, summoned by the scream, came to the rescue. He picked up the snake, which was several feet long, and it promptly buried its tiny thorn-like teeth in the flesh of his finger.

“Shall we leave it in the house?” he asked as he pried the snake’s mouth open. “It’s cleaner than a cat and a better mouser.”

“I won’t have it in the house,” insisted Clarice. “It would be tumbling into bed with us.”

“All right. If you can’t overcome your primitive repugnance—” He carried the snake to the yard and released it.

THE A. F. OF L. ON TRIAL.

[Continued from Page Two.]

not partisan enough to flaunt their labels. We have always had both conservatives and radicals in politics, unionism, and religion. We hope that we will always have them. We believe that Commonwealth is a good place for both radicals and conservatives. Fifteen hours a week of intense academic work plus twenty or twenty-four hours a week of muscle-hardening industrial work seems to be about the right prescription for extremists of the right and left. We have no intention of putting ourselves in a position where the American Federation of Labor, the Socialists, the Communists or any other faction can dictate what we shall teach or whom we shall teach. Even in the face of our premonitions we hope that the officialdom of the American Federation of Labor, realizing that workers’ education and the labor movement itself can progress only by an open, free, and thorough examination of any plan offered for labor’s advancement, may have the wisdom to sit and sit hard on its Wolls.

PRESS WANTED.

The College is looking around for a good second-hand twelve by eighteen job press. “With our own printing equipment,” says Zeuch, “we can get out a catalog and other material much needed but heretofore too expensive. Any information as to the whereabouts of available equipment will be gratefully received.”

WILL YOU ENROLL YOURSELF AS ONE OF THE HUNDRED WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS WILL MAKE THE CONTINUATION OF COMMONWEALTH POSSIBLE?

If so fill out and mail this blank.

_ I hereby enclose ______ for the year 1928 and pledge ______ annually for 1929 and 1930.

NAME

ADDRESS

KATE O’HARE GOES ON LECTURE TOUR IN WEST

Kate Richards O’Hare left Commonwealth August 27 for an extended speaking tour in the North and West. Her stops include Minneapolis, St. Paul, Spokane, Seattle, Portland, Sacramento and Los Angeles. Upon her return she will attend a labor convention at New Orleans. She does not expect to be at the school again before Thanksgiving, and may remain away even longer.

QUARTERLY SYSTEM ADOPTED BY FACULTY

[Continued from Page One.]

gardening, farm work, etc. The new arrangement will enable the plant to be used the year round for educational purposes, whereas before it was idle during five months of the year.

During the summer teachers from the faculty of other schools will be able to teach at Commonwealth. There are a number of capable educators who have expressed their desire to give some of their time to the school but cannot leave their regular jobs during the winter.

October 1, Fall quarter begins.

November 29, Holiday.

December 2, Fall quarter ends.

December 24, Winter quarter begins.

December 25, Holiday.

January 1, Holiday.

March 15, Winter quarter ends.

March 17, Spring quarter begins.

April 2, Foundation Day holiday.

June 7, Spring quarter ends.

June 9, Summer session begins.

July 4, Holiday.

August 16, Summer session ends.

At the same meeting of the faculty the offices of Dean of Men and Dean of Women were abolished and all matters relating to conduct were placed in the hands of a Committee on Relationships, which will consist of two faculty members chosen by the faculty and one student chosen by the student body.
GOOD and WELFARE

The Last Order of Business

By NAZARETH DAWN

Friends Indeed.

The Commoners sometimes think that they are blest with the finest group of friends that it was ever the lot of a struggling, pioneering workers' project to possess.

There are two veterans of the Civil war well on toward ninety and so not far from the great silence who are contributing from their pensions for the rebuilding of this educational and community devoted to the training of working youth and dedicated to the future. Whenever pension time comes round Commonwealth is invariably remembered. They always enclose delightful personal letters with their contributions. Often a note of visitful sadness creeps in. One has just lost his "sweetheart" two years before sixty years of conjugal happiness. Both keep abreast of the times and think youthful thoughts as though they were anticipating another ninety years. Chucky lays aside their letters reluctantly and says, "Aren't they dear. I do wish that they could come down here and see what we are doing."

From a man in California there comes almost weekly a bundle of current books and magazines. He writes, "I am no longer young and am not financially able to donate money but am in hearty sympathy with your work. I have a lot of good books and as my job is not secure (as jobs never are) I do not wish to pile up a big library to move around. So as I read the books I will send you the best of them."

Just the other day a man in St. Paul who had first heard of Commonwealth two hours ago at a last May secd in a paid-up three-year pledge. "I take pleasure," he says, "in sending my check for $1.00. The extra $25 will make up for the delay." It is a rare man indeed who will pay such an exorbitant interest on his good intentions, especially when the object of his bounty has no definite knowledge of his intentions.

Another friend in Duluth writes, "I have never parted with my money with so much pleasure. The acceptance of this gift, however, will bind Commonwealth to one condition, namely, that I be presented with an honorary degree in case I should ever visit your college. Let me say that you are fortunate in getting the money without having to endow a chair in my name."

The Commoners will no doubt remember the matter of the honorary degree and if the Duluth friend ever shows up he shall have it. We will wager, however, that after getting it he will never display it on the walls of his study nor put it after his name in the public prints.

Commoners know that the best way of showing appreciation is by driving ahead in the development of the educational work, and they often wish that their friends could get down to Commonwealth so as to get first-hand information on what is being done.

CUNNINGHAMS RETURN FROM EASTERN TRIP

[Continued from Page One.]

now real. New York, while intensely interesting, did not overawe us by its size. Our real astonishment came when we returned to the Western towns with which we are familiar and found them shrunk to a pile of cigar boxes. Buildings and streets once impressive, seemed miniature while the memory of the Woodworth tower and Fifth Avenue was fresh. Niagara Falls, in all its grandeur, seemed not so grand as we had anticipated, but the rapids of Mill Creek have dwindled to a trickle of dew among pebbles."

HATTIE SIMON LEARNS "UP, OUT, TOGETHER"

Hattie Simon of Memphis, Tenn., was a visitor at Commonwealth during the latter part of August. Hattie arrived during the height of the peak-canning season at Commonwealth, and did most of her visiting with a paring knife in her hand and peach parings in her lap. She claims, however, that she was more than repaid because the swimming hole was close and "Chucky" made a systematic swimming teacher. Hattie writes that the words "up, out, and together" are synonymous in her mind with her red-headed instructor. She actually swam nineteen strokes the day before she left and had only been in the water six times.

CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Pledges to Date.

(70 pledges have been acknowledged in this column in previous issues)

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PHILOSOPHY TEACHER IS COMMONWEALTH VISITOR

Howard Eaton, a teacher of philosophy at the University of Oklahoma, and his wife visited Commonwealth for a few hours recently. Eaton was a schoolmate of Zeich's several years ago, and had known Bill Cunningham during the latter's undergraduate days at O. U. The Eastons were much interested in the Commonwealth project, and are considering a visit of a week or more during the Christmas holidays. If this visit is possible, Eaton will give a series of lectures on philosophy to the Commonwealth group.

MAGAZINES NEEDED FOR JOURNALISM COURSES

Commonwealth needs magazines, according to Bill Cunningham, who teaches courses in Labor Journalism and free lance writing. "Of course, we already receive many magazines, but we need extra copies of those we get. Especially will we appreciate gifts of old or new copies of the American Mercury, Harper's, Scribner's, Century, Atlantic Monthly, Bookman, the Haldeman-Julius magazines, Plain Talk, the Survey, the World Tomorrow, the Red Book, Cosmopolitan, Life, Judge, Good Housekeeping, Harper's Bazaar, the New Masses, Poetry, Contemporary Verse, the Lyric West, the Harp, the Saturday Review of Literature, the Southwest Review. It would be nice indeed if friends of the school would subscribe for us to some of the weeklies: the Nation, New Republic, Time, the Saturday Evening Post, Collier's, Liberty. Even a few copies of the 'action' or 'Western story' magazines could be used, chiefly as warnings. "In fact, we can find a use for any magazines sent us."