WILSON SAYS UNIFIED WORLD IS IN OFFING

Co-operating Living Will Not Destroy Individuality. He Thinks.

"Is man such an exception that he cannot live as co-operatively as do some lower terms of animal life?"

So did Dr. Edward C. Wilson, instructor in psychology, parry the question, "Can the World Be Unified?" which he put to himself at a recent Sunday evening open forum.

Dr. Wilson contended that man has a brain and a capacity to live a bigger life than bees and therefore it was not altogether improbable that he will some day achieve that state of complete co-operation which characterizes bee life.

This is not to say that man will lose his individuality, Dr. Wilson continued. Variation is prerequisite to progress, and co-operation does not destroy that variation. It has not done so in the past when man co-operated with his fellows to achieve an end beneficial to all; and, the speaker thinks, it will not do so in the future.

Etiology of Hostility.

Historically, man has co-operated on increasingly larger scales. First it was to defend himself against bigger animals; and then, when he became group conscious, against other men. Intertribal, later international, warfare evolved traditions, customs, prejudices, and laws that make it difficult for man to think in terms other than war.

This tradition of hostility now stands most in the way of world unity. Can the obstacle be surmounted? Can Europe, for instance, overcome her struggles of the past, her hatred of the past, her jealousies of the past, and build up a united Europe?

Militarists thunder "No!" according to the speaker, and shout that man cannot live without fighting. To prove their contention they drag us into another war.

And what do we gain from this war? Does elimination result in the flowering of one, or does it result in the gradual extermination of both? Look to war-torn Europe for your answer.

(Continued on Page Four.)
Illusions of Liberty

By Clay FolkS

Commonwealth College Fortnightly

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WHAT IS COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE?

Commonwealth was organized in 1912 to provide education for workers on self-supporting farms.

Commonwealth is located in the Ozarkitas near Meno, Ark., where it operates agricultural and other basic industries by means of four hours daily labor for 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 dogma. It holds that scientific experimentations carry 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.

JEREMIAD.

We read in the papers that New Jersey, Minnesota and Indiana have legislated against hitch-hiking. According to their traffic laws, it is an offense punishable by fine or imprisonment for anyone to either ask for or offer a ride on the open highways. We read the news item and weep.

For it is handwriting on the wall, pointing to similar legislation elsewhere as the evil practices of thugs and highwaymen masked as hitch-hikers become intolerable. It will not be long now we predict without benefit of black magic, when all the highways of these States will be placarded with large-lettered injunctions against hitch-hiking instead of the current cherey when-you-come-again-bring-your—furnitures.

Commeres are especially affected by these anti-hitch-hiking laws because they have relied upon the highways to get them bread from school. How else could workers of limited means go "way down in Arkansas" for an education? Railroad fares often are higher than the tuition fee itself; while hitch-hiking as a method of transportation is at once inexpensive and speedy. — I. W.

I.

The liberty of the American citizen was once hymned and hallelujahed so much in these states that the belief in it became practically universal. The popular conception of it was that when Cornwells surrendered at Yorktown in 1781, American liberty was secured once and for all; that it has been inherited unimpaired by each succeeding generation; and that it prevails in this country precisely as does the atmosphere we breathe. The same country that the Patriot Fathers freed from British dominion is still beneath our feet, is it not? The United States is still a "free and independent" nation, is it not? Then why is not the American people a free people? To say that the American people believed themselves to be a free people does not really state the case. It became a settled assumption with them. Of course, the unfortunate inhabitants of other countries might be mistaken—in fact, were mistaken—as to the genuineness of their alleged freedom as well as to the measure of it, but whatever the people of the United States, had the genuine article in full measure. That liberty is not a thing that can be inherited—that every oncoming generation must achieve it for itself—has not yet occurred to the simple, unphilosophized democracy of America.

II.

But to the informed realist the liberty of the masses of this country is largely an illusion, and the researches of Professor Whipple and others show conclusively that the traditional liberty of the American people has always been far more fictitious than factual. All "loyal" Americans are, of course, very jealous of the illusion of liberty, and it is a rather curious paradox that those persons who, perhaps, are doing more than any others to keep up the illusion in this country are the very ones who know or care the least about real liberty.

American patriotism has always demanded that the illusion of liberty be held up in rainbow colors in every American school room, and the school teacher has always been more than glad to do it. Who could be so base as to be disposed to deny what American patriotism demands? But patriotism here, as elsewhere, has become so saturated with chauvinism as to be practically inseparable from it. This jingoistic spirit of nationalism has, in fact, arrogated to itself so much of the nation's patriotism that no intelligent person dares any longer subscribe to patriotism without qualification and explanation. Still, patriotism has always been deemed an indispensable virtue of the public school teacher and the public school has always been a hot-bed for the propagation of jingoistic-patriotic notions and politics. In this way the public school teacher has become the chief proponent of the great illusion of American liberty.

III.

As illustrations of my contention: The public school teacher teaches that political liberty prevails in this country but he would not dare become affiliated with a radical political party. He would not dare become affiliated with any radical group having a worthwhile program. He teaches that religious liberty prevails in this country but he would not dare think of openly rejecting an established religion that is as full of superstition as voodooism. He teaches that ethical liberty prevails in this country but he is the cringing slave of an antiquated, outworn moral code, intolerable to the emancipated mind. He teaches that intellectual liberty in general is one of the chief glories of America and yet he dares not think two inches ahead of the vulgar mob. Daily he proclaims liberty "throughout the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof" until he is hoarse; but meanwhile he carries his shoes in his hands, ready to run. Marienettes singing and dancing around a lifeless statue!

IV.

Another illustration: The fundamentalist parsons of the country are blatantly proposing to muzzle the public school teachers by having enacted anti-evolution laws. Yet aside from a few college and university professors we hear never a word of protest from the public school teachers. It would be difficult to imagine a more gross and egregious insult and yet the public school teachers seem too stupid to know that they are being insulted at all.

The whole case presents a curious anomaly. The spectacle of Simian-minded nitwits and half-wits by the tens of thousands yelling and whooping in celebration of liberty and yet not daring to challenge or dispute the most superstitious and idiotic notions that are current in the country is certainly a moving one.

Brought up in a nursery presided over by such educators, the typical American citizen fixes his big round baby eyes on the illusion of liberty and keeps them there, though he is one of the best shackled animals on the whole terrestrial scene.
STUDENTS


Previous schooling: five have had no formal education other than the grade schools; eighteen have had a high school education or its equivalent; and eight have studied a year or more at one of these institutions: Columbia University, Wisconsin University, Lynchburg College, Michigan State College, University of Politics (Berlin, Germany), Schissler College, Syracuse University and the Labor College of Berlin, Germany.

Occupations: farmers, printers, school teachers, painters, clerical workers, carpenters, salesmen, waitresses, waiters, newspaper men, truckmen and salesladies. Union affiliations: farmers' union, typographical union, painters' union, bricklayers' union, carpenters' union, printers' union and waitresses' union.

Richard Bosch wrote a semester paper on Power Economics and consequently got himself invited to study under John R. Commons at the University of Wisconsin. Although he has had no formal education other than an eighth grade schooling and a short session at the Minnesota Agricultural College prior to his coming to Commonwealth, Richard will be admitted to the graduate school of the university. He is interested in the economics of agriculture and expects to be active in the farmer movement. He and his wife, Alice Bosch, will complete four full quarters at Commonwealth in December, when they will leave for their farm at Atwater, Minnesota. The Bosches rented their farm for a year in order to attend Commonwealth, and may make the same arrangement to attend the University of Wisconsin. Mrs. Bosch taught five years in the public schools of Minnesota before her marriage. At Commonwealth she is kitchen foreman and her husband stock foreman and truck driver.

BURBANK EXPERIMENTATION DESCRIBED BY ASSISTANT

"Quality above quantity"—that trite slogan currently being talked to death by ge-getters—was given a scientific turn when Louis D. Bergold, for fifteen years an assistant to the famous horticulturist, Luther Burbank, and now instructor in German here, applied it to the reproduction of plant and animal life in a talk at a recent Sunday evening open forum.

Bergold told how Burbank accomplished his remarkable mutations by cross-breeding, persistent selection and changes in environment. To stimulate the natural growth of plants five artificial aids were resorted to: fertilization, grafting, budding, cultivation and pruning. Sometimes but two seeds out of a million planted would come out as desired.

"If we apply the ideas of Burbank to animal life as he applied them to plant life," Bergold concluded, "we doubtless would achieve just as remarkable results." This suggestion set the audience of students and teachers speculating pro and con.

PEGASUS UNSHOD

As Ridden by Commonwealth Versifiers

IMPULSE.

By Fannie Schleifstein.

To dance, to spring,
To fling my arms in graceful swing.
To run, to fall,
To feel that I am giving all
In this.
My spirit's free, my body too.
Nothing stifled, all is new;
My heart on tiptoe stands
To greet each new impulse with loving hands.
This joy, this bliss
Just transient happiness.

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 ____________________________

Brown Derby Wins. Al Smith polled 50 per cent of the straw votes cast in a pre-election test ballot. Communist Foster was second with 30 per cent, Socialist Thomas third with 16 per cent, and Republican Hoover last with four per cent. The voters hail from fifteen states, twelve above and three below the Mason-Dixon line.

Interment. Clay Fulks, instructor in law, was called to Beebe, Arkansas, to attend the funeral of his mother-in-law, Mrs. J. M. Coe, killed in an accident. Fulks is now back on the campus.

Poor Richard would have approved of the hours kept by Commoners. The following incident could not have happened on the campus of any other school.

Chucky sat up in bed startled. Someone was walking past the Guest House. She peered out the window. Two people—and they were going to the Commons. A match flared in the kitchen, then all was dark again. After a few minutes the prowlers returned and Chucky saw that they went into Luna Lodge.

She dressed hastily and followed them. "Clarice," she called, "is anybody sick?"

"Of course not. We went to the kitchen to get a drink."

"A drink at this hour!"

"Yes. It's ten minutes to ten."

Tonsured. Four self-styled misogynists, wishing to rid themselves of their sex appeal, ordered Barber Bergold to delihsh their locks. The four, Lucien Koch, instructor in economics; Irving Weissman, instructor in journalism; Fritz Hoffmann and Walter Hoffmann, are now members in good standing of the recently chartered Grand Order of Roundheads.
Thanks, Friends

Justice Louis D. Brandeis, Washington, D. C., a package of periodicals; M. T. Butler, Taft, Calif., a package of periodicals; Lucia Trent and Ralph Choney, their own books and issues of Contemporary Verse.

Edwin N. Durland, Chicago, Ill., a package of books and periodicals; Henry Hauser, Taylorville, Ill., $5.00; W. A. Lobbey, Colorado Springs, Colo., $25.00; Blanche Moyer, Hatfield, Pa., a player-piano roll; Stanley Pietraszewski, Detroit, Mich., five packages of books and periodicals; O. O. Wagner, Millerton, Pa., a package of periodicals; Percy Werner, St. Louis, Mo., $25.00.

COMMONERS WILL ATTEND A. F. OF L. CONVENTION

Three Commoners will attend the American Federation of Labor convention to be held at New Orleans on November 19. William E. Zeuch, Lucien Koch and Charlotte Moskowitz will leave Commonwealth in a few days in Koch's Ford.

The three will observe the doings on the convention floor and will answer all questions put to them by interested persons. Miss Moskowitz will vacation in New Orleans until the opening of the winter quarter of school.

HOUSES AND LANDSCAPE SLATED FOR SPRUCING

[Continued from Page One.]

Irish potatoes, peanuts, sweet potatoes, apples, peaches, lime beans, cabbage, pears, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, radishes, lettuce, turnips, carrots and okra—all cut a figure in the preparations for spring planting.

WILSON SAYS UNIFIED WORLD IS IN OFFING

[Continued from Page One.]

The militaristic point of view has been hammered into our minds generation upon generation, so that we think and talk always in terms of war. Why can't we re-form our habits of thinking? Why can't we think in terms of peace, in terms of common interest? If we could cultivate an attitude of sympathetic appreciation of the good in others, the speaker concluded, we would then eliminate the greatest obstruction in the way of world unity.

BOOK REVIEW

THE CULTURE CULT
The First Hundred Million, by E. Haldeman-Julius. Simon & Schuster.

Everybody, no doubt, has rubbed elbows with a Haldeman-Julius fan. This person is generally a youth scarcely out of his teens. If a resident of New York or some other large city you have seen him in subway and street-car—circulating libraries, in very truth—nose buried deep in a little blue book and eyes ravenously absorbing the print.

Should you perchance engage the young man in conversation, you will find him inordinately eloquent on (1) E. Haldeman-Julius, (2) Isaac Goldberg, and (3) Joseph McCabe. These three express to the Haldeman-Julius fan the alpha and omega of all that is good and true and beautiful. Never has youth been fired to genuflexion more intensely than is the Haldeman-Julius fan.

Often as not, the Haldeman-Julius fan has read every book in the little blue book series, from The Story of Aristotle's Philosophy to How to Conquer Stupidity. Not only has he read the complete list of little blue books, but he is a constant reader of other Haldeman-Julius publications. And the result?

It would be, perhaps, unfair to generalize. I therefore put down my opinion as that of one who has known intimately at least a score of Haldeman-Juliusites. My experience with them gives me to think that they are as sophisticated a bunch of youngsters, and as naif, as ever has been my lot to meet. This may seem a contradiction in terms; but it is only a surface contradiction. "Sophisticated" is the Haldeman-Julius fan's term for the same thing Webster and I call "naif."

These little blue book booklets mistake, it seems to me, pose for position. By this I mean that they conceive an emotional conviction to be a soberly thought-out viewpoint. Of course, their talk is nicely punctuated with "ifs" and "perhaps" and "maybes"; but these are merely convenient stock words. There is no "if or "perhaps" or "maybe" about their gospel truths.

Is Haldeman-Julius to blame for the dogmatism of his readers? I think not. He preaches rationalism, and rational rationalism at that. He asks his readers to be sensible and good-humored about their beliefs. Unfortunately, however, youth is without humor, without emotional balance, and therefore, deadly in earnest in his thinking and doing.

All this is in the way of a prelude: so lengthy a prelude that I must ask your pardon. In The First Hundred Million Haldeman-Julius not only tells the story of the little blue books, but also anat omizes the American reading taste. Both jobs are excellently done. Like thousands of others, I have always been curious to know how Haldeman-Julius manages that huge publishing plant that bears his name: and, more especially, how he manages to sell his blue books for a nickel postage prepaid, to any part of the world. The First Hundred Million answers these questions as well as numerous others. In fact, every detail of the manufacturing, advertising and shipping procession is fully explained.

The sales statistics of the little blue books tells a most fascinating story. The actual state of the average American's literary palate is revealed, and the revelation will, I warrant, jar you out of the opinion you may be holding on the matter. Haldeman-Julius is guided by little blue book sales figures, says that Americans want most to read books dealing with sex, self-education, free thought and methods of entertainment. He discusses the special preferences of the various strata of the great mass of Americans.

—IRVING WEISSMAN.

CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Pledges to Date.

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

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