Thanks, Friends

Justice and Mrs. Louis D. Brandeis, Washington, D. C., one book and magazines.
M. B. Butler, Taft, Calif., a package of magazines.
Co-operative Central Exchange, Superior, Wis., book and booklets.
E. Haldeman-Julius, Girard, Kan., two Big Blue Books and issues of his Debunker.
Mrs. D. O. Ives, Clayton, Mo., $25.
Mrs. J. S. Lee, Boston, Mass., a package of magazines.
Peter Molenaar and Earl Bosch, Renville, Minn., $5.
P. E. Peterson, Duluth, Minn., $5 and books.
Upton Sinclair, Long Beach, Calif., his two-volume novel, Boston.

BOW-BOY SHOOTS KATE O'HARE; SHE SUCCUMBS

Marries Wealthy Landowner Same Day Divorced Husband Weds.

Kate Richards O'Hare, busy in San Jose, California, promoting the formation of a regional resident labor college on the Pacific coast, availed herself of the Thanksgiving holiday to take for better or for worse one Charles C. Cunningham, newsmongered an Alabama landowner. Probably at the same time, certainly on the same day, divorced husband Frank P. O'Hare wed a Miss Irene M. Reynolds in Clayton, Missouri.

Cunningham is a tall, striking-looking man somewhere in the late forties, according to Hostess Mills, who met him when she was in the West. He is said to be a divorcee, wealthy, having only recently disposed of a phosphate deposit for $100,000, and a mining engineer by profession.

The marriage of O'Hare and Miss Reynolds revealed that O'Hare has instituted proceedings looking to the annulment by the Roman Catholic Church of his first union in order that his second marriage might be sanctioned by that church, of which his present wife is a communicant.

O'Hare said he is basing his plea for [Continued on Page Three]

ARKANSAS FEDERATION OF LABOR ENDORSES COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE

Unanimously Recommends College to All Workers at Twenty-Second Annual Convention Held in Fort Smith

BY LUCIEN KOCH,
Alternate Delegate, Commonwealth Local 194.

The Arkansas State Federation of Labor unanimously adopted a resolution endorsing Commonwealth at its twenty-second annual convention at Fort Smith, December 3, 4, 5.

There was not a dissenting voice when President Jack Adams put the motion of the committee to concur. "The ayes have it and it is so ordered," he declared. The gavel rapped on the desk and Commonwealth, for over two years a member of the State Federation through its local of the teachers' union, received the support of every delegate.

Delegates Okay Resolution.

The resolution of endorsement as adopted by the Arkansas State Federation of Labor, reads:

"Whereas, Commonwealth College, a non-sectarian, non-fictional, non-propaganda school for the education of workers, has been located in this state near Mena for four years; and

"Whereas, Commonwealth College is organized to educate young workers who wish to prepare themselves for greater service to the labor movement as labor organizers, labor journalists, labor statisticians, labor economists, and labor teachers; and

"Whereas, the teaching staff of Commonwealth College is organized 100 per cent as Commonwealth Local 194 of the American Federation of Teachers affiliated with the American Federation of Labor; and

"Whereas, Commonwealth Local 194 has been affiliated with the Arkansas State Federation of Labor for over two years; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the Arkansas State Federation of Labor in Convention assembled at Fort Smith, Arkansas, endorse the pioneer work of this college for workers and recommend it to all organized and unorganized workers who wish to prepare themselves for greater service to the labor movement."

Commonwealth Local 194 was represented at the convention by Director William Edward Zeuch as delegate and the writer, as alternate.

Zeuch Sizes Up Adams.

Zeuch commends the ability of the executive heads of the Arkansas Federation, President Jack Adams and Secretary-Treasurer H. M. Thackery. "They are fighters," he said. "Adams has brought about a respect for organized labor and a cooperation between working and business men in the city of Fort Smith that is most unusual. He has been successful, too, in maintaining an aggressive and progressive organization in face of the financial difficulties now so common in the labor movement."

Zeuch and the writer were present at the national convention of the American Federation of Labor at New Orleans last month. There was an aggressiveness displayed at Fort Smith that seemed to be almost entirely lacking at New Orleans. The Arkansas convention was not constantly on the defensive. It faced its problems immediately without any unnecessary frills and formalities.

Thanksgiving Feed And Frolic Draw Whoopies

"What a feed. Mother, what a feed!" So wrote many a Commoner, colloquial with the pen, to the old folks at home, as he loosened his belt late one evening (Thanksgiving) last fortnight. He had just returned from the Commons, where students and teachers had proposed to Commonwealth in twelve languages, including the Scandinavian, over sand­wiches, ice cream and cake.

It was not to these tidbits that he referred, but to the "spread" served earlier in the day: fruit cocktail, celery, dill [Continued on Page Three]
Commonwealth College Fortnightly

Published twice a month at Mena, Arkansas, by Commonwealth College, a school for self-maintaining, non-propaganda education for workers. Subscriptions, one dollar a year. Entered as second class matter, January 28, 1928, at the post office at Mena, Arkansas, under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912.

Signed articles express only individual opinion.

Vol. IV, No. 22 December 15, 1928

WHAT IS COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE?
Commonwealth was organized in 1926 to provide education for workers on a self-supporting basis.

Commonwealth is located in the Ouachitas near Mena, Ark., where it operates a fruit and other basic industries by means of four-hour 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 dogma. 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.

THE GOSPEL: ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

In jabberwockian confusion the American Federation of Labor in convention at New Orleans thumbed-down Brookwood Labor College. The disinheritance of Brookwood was largely the doing of Brother Matthew (Wolf! Wolf!) Wolf, who, having deputized himself an investigation committee of one, donned false whiskers and colored spectacles, hawkshawked and sherlock-holmsted here, there, and everywhere, but the Brookwood campus, until he had satisfied himself that his hunch about Brookwood's being Communist, anti-religious, and a disseminator of propaganda antagonistic to the A. F. of L was correct.

Then he paul-revered back to headquarters, rounded up his companion executive councilmen, went behind closed doors with them and, having made certain that no discords, hows, Communists were in hiling on the premises, loosed his findings. So silver-tongued were Gumsiorie Matthew's heated rhythms that the assembled brothers sprang as a man to their feet, thundered a couple of hosannas, and vowed to scalp Brookwood,—giving her no chance to defend herself. The business of hearings, trials, etc., is such a tedious, boring one, thought these ten good men and true, that it might well be dispensed with. And, anyway, did not hated Brother Wolf give them all the facts?—I. W.

Words, Words, Words

By William Green in The American Federationist

Month after month a mighty Labor Leader composed editorial variations on the freedom-of-education theme in the general pitch of superlatives. "If we are to maintain the heritage of free men, we must assure freedom in teaching," ran his argument. And teachers the land over heard these courageous words, rejoiced that so mighty a man had spoken them, and took inspiration therefrom for deeds equally courageous. They dared to break loose from the propaganda factories that posed as colleges; they dared to band together in small groups; establish colleges for workers; prepare young men and young women for service in the Labor Movement. They dared to do these things because a mighty Labor Leader, shepherd of a mighty flock, earnestly and eloquently and energetically championed their right to be free men and free teachers.

So these small groups of teachers toiled long and hard at the pioneer word of educating workers to be leaders in working class movement. They toiled sometimes with the financial help of labor organizations, but more often without that help. Better though the hardships incident to pioneer undertakings, yet they toiled, uncomplainingly, unceasingly. For a mighty Labor Leader still continued to sing the full-throated praise of that principle upon which they were rearing a new type of education. Thinking that he would be as good as his words, that he would not merely "sing" freedom in teaching, but actually "assure" it, they waited patiently and expectantly.

Patiently and expectantly they waited for the blessings of this mighty Labor Leader, champion of their right to be free men and free teachers, and one day he spoke. We must control workers' education, said he unto his mighty flock, "to assure a trade union point of view, for workers' education is fundamentally a trade union undertaking, and we are able to maintain the heritage of free men, we must assure freedom in teaching, whether secular or religious."

October. . . . Mr. Hughes warns us "But reliance upon education will be vain if we do not maintain the freedom of learning." No bondage is more hopeless than that of an unfree mind and the mind cannot know freedom and opportunity without unrestricted search for truth.

February. Research is a quest for truths. It implies freedom of thought, study and observation. Those who make contributions to knowledge of the truths and laws must give themselves with profound reverence and observation unaffected by personal predetermination. The research attitude is the antithesis of intolerance or any form of fundamentalism.

Research is the key to freedom. The truth shall make us free—whether the freedom we crave is intellectual, spiritual, physical, political, economic or social. To know truth is to be able to work with the law instead of being subject to it. All of true progress is bound up with the research to test present methods and to find new truths.

1925.

May. "The truth shall make you free," but if we bar the channels through which truths may come, how shall we remain free? . . . If we are able to maintain the heritage of free men, we must assure freedom in teaching, whether secular or religious.

October. . . . Mr. Hughes warns us "But reliance upon education will be vain if we do not maintain the freedom of learning." No bondage is more hopeless than that of an unfree mind and the mind cannot know freedom and opportunity without unrestricted search for truth.

1926.

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Because research is so fundamental the spirit of intolerance manifest in a desire to restrict the teaching of natural and social sciences in our public schools to an "orthodox" theory is most disturbing. Intolerance always resorts to display of "authority" . . . The only way to assure correction of current misconceptions is to keep open to all sources of inquiry. The research scholar has a profoundly spiritual reverence for life—he is no iconoclast. He will not fetter the mind of the students but will rest his case upon facts.

April. The free citizen is a self-governing person who carries the methods and spirit of freedom into every relationship of life . . . This is one of the reasons why the labor movement has undertaken to organize workers' education agencies and opportunities to help wage earners equip themselves to be able to meet responsibilities of citizens, both industrial and political.

1927.

February. Those who believe in progress realize the value of that attitude of mind that is continually studying accepted methods and principles to detect shortcomings or fallacies. Contributions to understanding have usually come through challenge of empirical views. Thus new theories have evolved from old, as mankind has climbed to higher levels of understanding. Yet there are those who would restrict instruction to beliefs which they themselves hold . . . Truth is light and proscribing consideration of any area is shutting out possible fight. What individual or group of individuals [Continued on Page Four]
December 15, 1928

COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE FORTNIGHTLY  Page Three

CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Pledges to Date

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

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<td>80. Mr. and Mrs. J. Henry Scattergood, Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
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THANKSGIVING FEED AND FROLIC DRAW WHOOPIES

[Continued from Page One]

pickles, chicken, mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy, creamed carrots and sweet peas, cranberry sauce, cocoa and pumpkin pie.

"And what a show, Ma, what a show!" He addended at bedtime the Sunday following his previous letter. He had just returned from the Commons, where students and teachers had entertained an audience of neighbors and Commoners.

The show consisted of vocal selections (choral, duo, solo), dances (tango, polka, mazurka, minuet, scholish), a skit (Skinners All), instrumental music (piano solos), a talk (On Thanksgiving), and imitations of animals. The bill was headlined by such popular entertainers as: Alice and Richard Bosch, Ross Brown, William Cunningham, David Englestein, Jean Gold, Fritz and Walter Hoffmann, Lucien and Raymond Koch, Mrs. H. F. Mills, F. A. Post, Wallace Russell, Pamela Schleefstein, Wanda Stewart, Nellie Tobie, Roy Tutwiler, Irving Weissman, and W. E. Zeuch. Herman Erickson was master of ceremonies.

BOW-BOY SHOOTS KATE O'HARE; SHE SUCCUMBS
[Continued from Page One]

an annuement on the grounds that Kate Richards O'Hare entered into the marriage with the reservation that she would remain with him so long as love existed between them. This, he said, is considered sufficient to invalidate the first marriage and leave him free to have his second marriage blessed by the church.

Changing social conditions require new remedies; the novel exercise of the police power to care for both social and individual interests.—Charles E. Hughes.

"goodness gracious!" of Father Zeuch to the four-lettered unprintables of "Reverend" William Kenneth Moyer.

SOCIETY NOTES

Chippendale. The newest crinkle in Commonwealth furniture is a chair which William Cunningham, instructor in short-story writing, hand-fashioned out of the butt of an oak tree. Cabinetmaker Cunningham chipped the bark off a log he rescued from the woodpile, sawed out a seat and thin slab for a back rest and then, in the way of finishing touches, planed down the uneven surfaces. The chair weighs about one hundred and fifty pounds.

Auf Wiedersehen. Louis D. Bergold, instructor in German and horticulturist par excellence, departed for Siloam Springs, Arkansas, where the Swenson Nurseries, which engaged him as field supervisor, is located. His class is now being conducted by Fritz Hoffmann, recent arrival from Berlin.

Episode. The morning was raw, damp and chilly. Clay Fulks, instructor in law, walked across the campus as calmly as a man with St. Vitus' dance walking a tight rope over Niagara Falls in a hurricane. Espying puffs of smoke emitting from a chimney of The Poet's Inn, he hurried shiveringly thither. A fire roared in "Reverend" Moyer's stove. Clay edged as close to the hot stove as he dared. He began munching on a cud of chewing tobacco. "I haven't chewed for months," he explained to his host. As he warmed, so he grew loquacious; and as he grew loquacious, so he spat into the stove. Well-warmed, he departed. Moyer suddenly realized that the room had become cold. He looked into the stove. It was well stoked,—but the tobacco juice so saturated the logs that they were as asbestos to the flames.

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
STUDENTS

Richard Bristol and Leon Yoder, monstrous clever fellows both, are blood relatives (second cousins) and brain relatives (man and wife, as it were). It would be sheer folly to give separate accounts of them: for, as in the case of the proverbial two peas in a pod, they differ only in minor details, mostly physical. In consequence of relationship No. 1, Richard and Leon pledge allegiance to a same native land, Almont, Michigan, where, while yet in teens, they mated intellectually. Nothing came of this union for several years, so far as this biographer is able to ascertain. For neither parties thereto had a philosophy of life, which, as everybody knows, is prerequisite to successful fructification. At Commonwealth they rid themselves of barrenness by being touched by the belly philosophy. Thereby resulted an offspring whose name is legion. The first brain-child was but an anemic little college yell:

Sweet potatoes, sweet potatoes.
Raw! Raw! Raw!

The second, however, was no mere yell; it was a wail, a healthy, lusty wail:
Oh, the old meals are gettin' worse, gettin' worse, gettin' worse.
The old meals are gettin' worse and ah's gwine home.

See that spaghetti
Chopped so fine
Rather eat horse-meat
Any old time

Oh, the old meals are gettin' worse, etc.

And so each new-born babe is an improvement over the last. The couple, again in a family way, prophecy a masterpiece this time. They have chosen Fourteen Days Round the Table for a name, but will change this name, if the child proves to be not that kind of a baby.

Emily Wilson, graduate of Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Virginia, heard her father enthuse over Commonwealth College and mentally registered surprise. She could not conceive of anyone, least of all her Ph. D. daddy, finding anything to enthuse over in a college located in the nighted and illiterate Arkansas. When her father resigned his post as head of the department of psychology at Lynchburg College and announced himself as Commonwealth-bound, Emily's mental eyebrows arched in utter astonishment. Commonwealth seemed to her as intracting as an octogenarian female, glass-eyed, toothless, poked, wispy-haired, and peg-legged is to a red-blooded, personality-plus He. Nevertheless, she accompanied her parents, resignedly taking herself, drawl, humor and all, to that hill-billy school euphemistically called a college and on registration day signed up for... freshman work.

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

[Continued from Page Two]

is wise enough to predetermine the limits of progress of the human mind in finding new truths.

April. The whole educational world recently celebrated the centenary of Pestalozzi, the teacher who first pointed out that education should be based on plans to release individual capacities instead of suppression and conformity to patterns. It is unpleasant to remember that Pestalozzi was unable to continue his experimental school because of dire poverty and that there was little contemporaneous appreciation of the richness of his contributions to human progress. Would it not be well if we considered what manner of valuation we are giving the effort of present-day educators who are making contributions to the future equally potential as those Pestalozzi made one hundred years ago?

1928.

June. If the teacher who has a vitalizing function to perform has surrendered the birthright of free citizenry, how can he help others to realize the ideals which underlie our national structure? If teachers are not free to follow truths, whither education?

POWER ECONOMICS

Sidestep and Jump.

Olds* and I had quite a discussion on your power economics. My opinion was that you were able to sidestep recognition of the class conflict by looking only at the stabilized periods, and Olds' criticism was that you jumped to unwarranted conclusions in deducing the triumph of the working class on your premises.

CARL HAESSLER
Managing Editor,
The Federated Press.
Chicago, Ill.
*Leland Olds, industrial manager of The Federated Press.

BOOK REVIEW

MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE.


One hundred and forty-two years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great shivering war, wrestling that notion, or any notion so conceived and so dedicated, from native moor.

Some there are who have not seen the rocket's red glare nor heard the bombs bursting in air. Artless flag-wavers and horn-tooters, these, to whom this is unequivocally the land of the free and the home of the brave. Let Freedom Ring will dynamite them out of their blissful ignorance; as an eye- and ear-opener it is supremely competent.

Of course, I may be unduly optimistic. Enthusiasm for the book makes me wish that it would conduce to some such miracles as were allegedly current in the antiscience days. I may be wishing for a moon made of green cheese. Hundred percenters probably will rah-rah and hip-hop-hurray our country now and forever, right or wrong.

Be this as it may, famed Lawyer Hays deserves commendation for a fine reportorial performance. He has expertly chronicled several cardinal battles staged within the last five years against the cosacks of suppression. Not only does he chronicle these struggles, but relates them to a common stem: fear.

These inalienable rights guaranteed to the citizen in the Constitution are slipping away, censuras Libertarian Hays. Thus does he itemize:

Item. Freedom of education: e. g., anti-evolution laws in Tennessee, in Arkansas; Bible-reading made compulsory in the public schools of New York.

Item. Freedom of speech and assembly: e. g., suppressions in Pennsylvania coal towns, in West Virginia coal towns, in New Jersey textile towns, in Boston.

Item. Freedom of the press: e. g., censorship by the post office, watch and ward societies, anti-vice associations; The Masses and The American Mercury cases.

Item. Freedom of residence; e. g., negro segregation in Detroit.

Item. Freedom of the stage and screen: stage censorship of movies and police censorship of the stage.

Item. Freedom of opinion; e. g., the Sacco and Vanzetti case.

—IRVING WEISSMAN.

The poor man's back benefits the rich man's stomach.—West African proverb.

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December 15, 1928