SEVENTH ACADEMIC YEAR IS BEGUN

Courses Covering Wide Variety Of Subjects Offered for the First Quarter

The seventh academic year at Commonwealth opened on Monday, October 7, with students representing ten states, from New York to California and from Minnesota to Texas, and from two foreign countries, Cuba and Germany. An especially interesting selection of courses is being offered for the first quarter, with a staff of ten instructors.

William E. Zeuch, education director, is giving courses in Power Economics, Money and Banking, History of the Working Class to the Industrial Revolution, Economic Development of Modern Europe and a seminar on the History of Economic Thought.

Professor Goodhue is offering courses in Mathematics and Statistics.

Clay Fulks is giving courses in Elementary and Advanced Law and American History.

Mrs. Mills is teaching English for Foreign Students.

Harriet Halbert is offering a general course in Psychology which includes a survey of the modern approaches—Introspective, Glandular, Psycho-Analytic, Behavioral and Gestalt. In addition she has classes in Principles of Sociology and Social Problems.

A year’s course in World Classics is being offered by David Kaplan. During the first quarter he will go through the national literatures, taking them through the various mythical and religious stages. The Odyssey and Iliad, the Bible, the Niebuhrungenied, Beowulf, the Kavala, the Arthurian Cycle and the Roland legends, all will be studied.

A laboratory course in News Writing is being conducted by Irving Weissman who will be editor and will Campus Fluff, “The World’s Biggest Newspaper”—three feet by five feet. Weissman will be editor and will assign stories and criticize them.

Additions to Faculty

Harriet Halbert, graduate of Washburn College, Topeka, Kan., who has also had two years of graduate work at the University of Chicago, and Charles Berlinrut, graduate of Rutgers College, have taken up their duties as faculty members.

Miss Halbert, while a graduate student at the University of Chicago and since, has been engaged in social work and has had a varied and interesting experience. She has been a case worker at the Glenwood Manual Training School and the Joint Service Bureau of Chicago, and of the Children’s Bureau of New Orleans. In addition she has done field work for the United Charities of Chicago and has also gained valuable knowledge while doing similar work in Kansas City.

Miss Halbert became interested in Commonwealth through meeting several Commoners in New Orleans. She insisted upon knowing more about the college where free speech was a reality and education more than a matter of a degree; where workers are encouraged to study thoroughly their own problems while working their way with a minimum of expense.

Several weeks ago Miss Halbert motored down from Kansas City, ac-

Thanks, Friends

Cash
Ewan Clague, New York, N. Y. $25.00
John Randolph Haynes, Los Angeles, Calif. 25.00
Bessie Kimmelman, Los Angeles, Calif. 10.00
Ross Clark Brown, Riverbank, Calif. 10.00
Miss Elizabeth Gilman, Baltimore, Md. 5.00
Fritz Hocevar, Chicago, Ill. 10.00
Eva Richmond, Syracuse, N. Y. 10.00
Magazines

COLLEGE REPRESENTED AT STATE CONVENTION

Clay Fulks Tells Delegates About Commonwealth and Draws Comparisons

Commonwealth was represented by Mr. and Mrs. Clay Fulks at the twenty-sixth annual convention of the Oklahoma State Federation of Labor, held at Okmulgee, September 16, 17 and 18.

Mr. Fulks spoke before the convention on the subject of Commonwealth and his remarks were received with evident interest.

“Commonwealth,” he said, “is the only school of its kind in the United States and it represents a new and striking experiment in the field of workers’ education.

“It is not only vastly different from the standardized institutions of the country but it is unique as a workers’ college. It is different from the former group of schools in that, not being supported by taxation, it is free from the control of any dominant political party within the state, and, not being endowed by men of wealth, it is free to teach economic heresies.” It is different from the latter group of schools in that it is neither the creature nor the champion of any faction or sect. Its main distinguishing feature, perhaps, is its wide freedom and its consequent and corresponding tolerance.

It welcomes the most divergent economic and political views and opinions because it is more interested in the discovery and propagation of truth along economic, political and social lines than in the organization of any particular dogma, creed or ism.

From this it naturally and easily follows that its faculty members enjoy a measure of academic freedom which would be impossible under other conditions. From this it follows that they have all the mental elbow room necessary for doing their best. Commonwealth accepts the idea that only the free teacher can rise to his highest capacities.

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Commonwealth College Fortnightly

The Colorado Coal Experiment

By HARRY I. COHEN,
Commonwealth Student, Member Colorado and Southern Lodge No. 270, B. of R. C., Denver.

I.

The American coal industry is sick. It is in a serious condition and all the industrial doctors thus far, with the single exception of Miss Josephine Roche, have failed to achieve favorable results. Colorado, one of the great coal-producing states, has been the scene of much remedial treatment which has, exclusive of Miss Roche's prescription, been of questionable success.

II.

In 1913 there was a great coal strike in Colorado—and the Ludlow massacre. The situation called for sound measures and constructive thinking. The Rockefeller plan was a result. This plan is, to quote from the preamble to the Colorado Coal and Iron Company agreement with its employees, "For the purpose of maintaining and developing harmony and right understanding within the Colorado Coal and Iron Company." It left to the company all the power of its connection with the Rockefeller millions. As a measure of their power the employees had nothing but their jobs and a weak, company surveyed organization.

III.

The Rockefeller plan was never popular with the miners, many of whom had been members of the United Mine Workers of America. The first open expression of the miners' resentment came during the summer of 1927.

U. M. W. of A. organizers were never allowed in the Rockefeller mine camps, they were usually located and dismissed from the mines. But the I. W. W., with the unwritten and unofficial permission of the company, was permitted to put organizers among the men. It was believed by the C. F. & I. officials that it would be much easier to break a strike under Wobbly leadership because of the comparatively weak condition of this group, than one backed by the organized power of the U. M. W. of A.

In October, 1927, the I. W. W. issued its strike call. The southern Colorado mines came out almost en masse, followed almost immediately by the workers in the northern field. The 1913 strike is remembered for the Ludlow massacre; that of 1927 for the Columbine massacre—and the entry of Miss Roche into the coal mining industry.

IV.

Miss Roche was a stockholder in the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company. Though born to wealth she had made a thorough study of social conditions and was actively engaged in social work. She felt certain that it was possible to improve conditions in the coal industry with benefit to both investors and workers.

With confidence in her ideas and a firm belief in the great possibilities in the coal industry she succeeded, shortly after the Columbine massacre, in gaining control of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, second only to the C. F. & I. in size.

Merle D. Vincent, now president and general manager of the company, proved to be a capable assistant to Miss Roche. She went forward with her plans in spite of the stern opposition of the conservative business interests of the state. Several of the best customers cancelled their orders when they learned that her company had recognized the U. M. W. of A. and the right to bargain collectively.

Union officials were called into conference to help formulate an honest, workable plan, whereby both men and management could profit. At the same time increased wages were granted and union conditions, as laid down by the U. M. W. of A. inaugurated.

V.

On September 1, 1928, the Roche-Vincent plan went into effect in all the mines of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, for a period of two years. The general purpose, as stated in the Declaration of Principles is:

To promote and establish industrial justice.

To substitute reason for violence... To avoid needless and wasteful strikes and lockouts through the investigation and correction of their underlying causes.

To establish genuine collective bargaining...

To stabilize employment, production and marketing...

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COLORADO COAL EXPERIMENT

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In its general provisions it is a regular U. M. W. of A. agreement. The great point of departure between the old ideas and the new plan is in the relationship between not only the men and management but between the management and organized labor throughout Colorado.

The Colorado State Federation of Labor, representing 30,000 members, is participating in the upbuilding of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company through the purchasing power of its membership and through its publicity medium, the Colorado Labor Advocate. They have organized a special coal committee to canvass the membership all over the state. Union men are on the company sales committees; union men have a voice and a vote in all matters pertaining to their welfare; and union men are insuring the future success of the plan through buying and advertising coal from a company which is unionized, even to the delivery truck drivers.

Just as the company heads inspire confidence in the men, the men respond by working for the upbuilding of the company and their own organization.

VI.

The plan has been in effect for over a year. Not a long trial, but its success thus far may be judged on several points. First, the mine employees are receiving an average of two dollars a day more than any other mine workers in the state; second, the miners worked 137 days more during the first year of the plan than during the preceding year; third, the production per man per day, including all workers in and about the mines, has risen eighteen percent during the first half of this year, over the corresponding period for 1928; fourth, the business of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company has grown from twenty-five percent of the total in the northern Colorado field to forty-one percent. There are many long-time contracts from industrial concerns included; fifth, only two complaints in eleven months of the plan, were appealed from the pit committee or the superintendent.

ZEUCH TO JOURNEY.

Dr. William Edward Zeuch, director of Commonwealth since its founding, will make a trip during the winter quarter, from the first week in January until the middle of March, through the North and East in the interests of the school. This is to be his first speaking trip since the founding of the school, seven years ago. His line of travel will include Kansas City, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Washington, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Detroit, Cleveland, and Chicago. Dr. Zeuch will talk on “The Story of Commonwealth.”

COLLEGES REPRESENTED

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Not only are the teachers free to teach the truth as they see it, but, what is of equally high importance, perhaps, the students are encouraged to do the most independent thinking of which they are capable. No standardized output is sought. Students are not cut to pattern.

Consistently enough, democratic control and management of the institution is given a full and fair opportunity.

Commonwealth has no menial servants. No one is coddled, specially privileged or set apart. Everybody works, including father. Everybody plays—some—and everybody is compelled to think and act if he stays at Commonwealth long.

SEVENTH YEAR BEGIN

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fore publication. The Bluff is issued weekly. Zeuch, Fulks and Weissman will study and criticize the Bluff for the contributors.

Charles Berlinerut is giving courses in Introductory German, Introductory French and Elements of Science. The last-named will include a laboratory course, with practical experiments, to get an understanding of the scientific method of research and proof.

Economic Resources is being taught by Raymond Koch.

dealings with the men and there is no reason for doubting their sincerity.

There is just one thing to be regretted, however, that is, that with all the improvements made, it has not been deemed advisable, apparently, to put a few honest-to-goodness minors who actually work in the mines on the board of directors.

SOCIETY NOTES

Father Zeuch says they will, Clay Fulks says they won’t, and the tomato plants keep growing larger. The big question: Tomatoes yet this fall, remains unanswered. But the rest of the fall garden is supplying lettuce, radishes, green corn, string beans, and a variety of greens for the table. The cucumber vines are rapidly approaching the bearing stage. There should be plenty of vegetables until it freezes.

The Guest House stands on one of the best sites on the campus and offers a fine, inclusive view of the valley and mountains. Menaites as well as Commoners are showing an appreciation of the prospect. A number of visitors have recently come out from town just to see and admire the panorama from its back porch.

Austin McLane, formerly editor of the Vernon Parish (Louisiana) Democrat, and a member of the Llano colony, a young man who has had extensive experience with co-operative groups, was a recent visitor at Commonwealth. He was quite enthusiastic about what he found here.

Ernesto and Gustavo, two of the Cubans, who arrived a month ago, are doing well in their study of English. They are blest with an oversupply of teachers since the arrival of several seeroritas. In addition they are developing into good woodsmen. They are successfully adapting themselves to the new conditions and are now fairly proficient in handling an ax.

John Mars, stockman, believes in comfort for his charges. He considered the barn entirely too gloomy, so two windows were added. Then the feed racks were rearranged to allow more room for the cows. Finally a coat of whitewash was applied to the whole interior.

Most of the Girls at Commonwealth are from the industrial centers and have almost no knowledge of cooking or kitchen procedure. Their progress is usually interesting. Rose Cohen, a Newark girl, was absolutely new to this work, yet in three days, she was able to bake a good batch of bread had cooked several palatable meals, and even milked a cow.
Results

An interesting phase of the life at Commonwealth is its tendency to promote close friendships. This has been demonstrated many times, through student communications and other sources. It is attributable to the communal or cooperative life of the college.

When a Commoner passes through any city where another Commoner resides, the unwritten rule is to stop long enough at least to talk over matters pertaining to the college and students.

New York and its environs, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Buffalo, San Diego, New Orleans and other cities have served as gathering places or stations for hikers. The home of any Commoner is always open to another who has been connected with the school.

As the number of Commoners grows there is a stronger tendency toward contacts between them. This is especially true of the New York area, from which a large percentage of the students come. This development was more noticeable during the past summer than ever before. In New York there were several weekend parties arranged by former students for prospective students who later felt that no other contacts had been quite so satisfactory. A community of interest on the inside is breeding a bond of loyalty on the outside.

ADDITIONS TO FACULTY

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accompanied by her father, a prominent social worker and the author of a number of books on social problems. She wished to see Commonwealth before taking up her work as a teacher.

Charles Berlinrut was working in New York when he first learned about Commonwealth. His interest was developed upon making the acquaintance of several Commoners there, during the past summer. He had been an honor man at Rutgers, Phi Beta Kappa, as well as winner of other honors for scholarship. It struck him that this was something quite different from college as he had known it and he made it his business to learn more. So interested did he become that he decided to lose no time in joining the group. He hitch-hiked down.

Hitch-Hike Statistics

Commoners are not wealthy. Commoners are interested in the lows and highs of things. Were it possible to dissect the earth and learn what makes it click, some Commoner would undoubtedly make the effort. Students come to Commonwealth for an entirely different reason than most students go to other institutions of learning, so even their educational ideas diverge from the set standard.

Not being children of wealth the Commoners do not like and few can afford to pay railroad fares. It would make their tuition problem far more difficult. Having a love for adventure and a strong desire to see the country at first hand, they have taken to the hitch-hiking idea. Today very few Commoners "ride the cushions."

Of the students registered for the first quarter, the girls have hitch-hiked an average of 1,640 miles each. Nearly one-half of their number, averaging 1,250 miles each, came by train. For the male students the average distance hitch-hiked is 1,625 miles. The four Cubans, who were the only male Commoners to travel in the conventional way, averaged 1,500 miles. But even they plan to adopt the regular Commonwealth method when vacation time comes around.

Battle of Liptons

The porch of the Commons is the popular gathering place for Commoners after meals. Here they meet, smoke and talk over the important events of the last hour; who missed out on a meal by coming late, or an announcement of something impending, perhaps a meeting of some kind or other later in the day or evening.

When they meet after supper all the pent up steam generated during the day finds its release. Some of the students really act quite rowdy at this time. Boxing matches are an occasional occurrence.

Quite recently one of these friendly bouts was in progress between two male students. Among the interested spectators were the Lipton sisters, Sylvia and Rose. Both have an abundance of energy; sitting still is quite out of their line. They fidgeted about until the match was ended.

"Let me put them on," demanded Sylvia. The request was granted and the boxing gloves turned over to her. She fooled around for a few minutes. Then came another suggestion, "Why not have a bout between the sisters?"

Everybody present agreed, including the prospective combatants.

Seconds were appointed, a referee chosen, the rules of the State Boxing Commission read to them. The battle was to be for the championship of the Lipton family, as represented at Commonwealth, winner to take all the blows the loser sent her way.

The bell rang and two slim forms leaped into action. They neither pulled hair nor hit below the belt—but there wasn't much else overlooked. For two rounds the battle raged, then it was declared a technical double knockout, as neither combatant was able to continue, due to loss of breath.

Astride Pegasus

"Johnny and I didn't take to each other the first time we met," said David Kaplan, "we got into an argument shortly after being introduced. Some days later I was out walking and caught sight of him... We walked together, conversed for hours—and I met the poet."

"He was in a state of euphoria when I met him," added Harriet Halbert. She described the circumstances and her impressions. Raymond Koch and Mr. Zeuch then related their experience with the poet and the Commoners gathered at White Lodge for the first meeting of the Modern Poetry group prepared to hear the work of John Kingston Fineran.

"Interludes in Chaos," Fineran's first volume, a collection of twenty-four sonnets, was read by Mr. Zeuch. In it he tries to answer many questions of modern youth. "After," and "Resurrection" were the most discussed.