Requests for Speaking Engagements Are Coming In Steadily

Dr. W. E. Zeuch, director of Commonwealth College, will tour the North and East from January 9th to March 15th in the interest of the College. His itinerary is being planned to include college apparatus for general publicity, to raise funds and to interview prospective students and teachers.

Charlotte Moskowitz, his secretary, is planning his itinerary and writing to friends of the college in the various cities included in the trip, asking them for their cooperation in making his stay successful.

These friends are also being asked to arrange for lectures. Since Commonwealth is a struggling educational project, Dr. Zeuch must make his expenses as he goes. Consequently, it is being urged that paid speaking engagements be obtained wherever possible.

The topics being offered for choice are:


Engagements Secured

Several definite speaking appointments have already been made. Others are still tentative, it being too early for exact dates.


Schedule


Prospective students and teachers who would like to meet Dr. Zeuch in the cities included in the trip should write to Charlotte Moskowitz immediately for appointments.

JUVENILE GENIUS

Scribblers' club meeting last Wednesday revealed to Commonwealth students the existence of a secret organization on the campus. Jimmie Fuls and Charles and Addision Hamilton have, unbeknownst to their parents, been writing poetry. The fruits of their efforts were revealed to the group by these budding geniuses. We hope that we will hear from them again.

Thanks, Friends

CASH

Prof. Louis N. and Caroline H. Robinson, Swarthmore, Pa. $200.00
Prof. Edwin L. and Marguerite W. Clarke, Winter Park, Fla. 5.00

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Edith Odes, New York City—Bundle of Magazines.
Edward S. Alden, Holyoke, Mass.—Shipment of books.

COMMONWEALTH OPENS ITS EIGHTH SESSION

Economic Depression Cuts Attendance, but Fine Spirit Prevails

The prevailing hard time made itself felt at Commonwealth at the opening of the eighth academic year in an attendance somewhat lower than the average of past years. But the personnel and spirit of the group is somewhat above the average.

For several weeks prior to the opening of the school, letter after letter was received from students who had been admitted for the year, but who found it impossible to come because the prevailing unemployment had made it impossible for them to earn even the small amount necessary to attend.

Students of High Average

It is probable, however, that Commonwealth never before had such a high average of sincere, mature students intent on preparing themselves for real service in the struggles of the workers toward a better world. All applications were culled with extreme care this year and the staff even rejected several students who arrived on the grounds after getting through the formal applications, because it was felt that they did not measure up to the standards the school has set for student material.

Courses Being Given

The courses in Elements of Economics; Volitional Economics; Labor Tactics; Contemporary Labor Movements; Laboratory Labor Journalism; Currency and Credit; The Ancient World; American History; Effective Writing; English for the Foreign Bory; Literature of Revolt; Principles of Sociology; Man's Search for Orientation; Psychology of Personality and Management; and in German and French are being given.

Canada, Germany and Cuba, as well as all sections of this country are represented in the student body this quarter.

DR. G. Y. RUSK ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF FACULTY

First to Fill the New Office Created by Association

Last Spring.

Dr. George Y. Rusk, teacher of psychology, was elected Chairman of the Faculty, a new office created last May, at the first meeting of teachers for this year held in the Guest House on October 12. At the May meeting of the Board of Directors the office of Educational Director was discontinued and two new offices, one in the Director, and the other, Chairman of the Faculty, were created.

Dr. Zeuch Declines Nomination

Dr. Zeuch, who is now the Director, and who has carried on the functions of the new office of Chairman of the Faculty since the organization of Commonwealth—a period of nearly eight years—made a previous announcement that he was resigning all those functions and would not, under any circumstances, be a candidate for the new position. He cited the fact that in past years he had never succeeded in convincing the members of the faculty to experiment with another chairman. He was determined to retire this year, as his numerous duties as Director, in addition to his teaching, kept him in constant attendance at Commonwealth.

"I will absolutely decline any nomination," Dr. Zeuch declared. "The democracy and academic freedom we enjoy here must be exemplified by electing some one else to do that work."

Dr. Rusk, who was with Commonwealth last year, is a scholar and teacher of wide experience. He was graduated from Johns Hopkins University, from Princeton Theological Seminary; was a graduate fellow at Union Theological Seminary and took his Ph.D. at New York University. As a teacher, his background is similarly varied.

Dr. Rusk's Statement

In a brief statement in regard to his intentions as Chairman, Dr. Rusk said:

"I was attracted to Commonwealth College and its aim, but now I am bound to it by strong ties of common interests, and, with other Commonwealth men, I shall strive to realize these aims of the workers. I regard the purpose of instruction at Commonwealth to be to enable the students to come to an understanding of themselves and of society as a whole, and efficiently to co-operate with others for the creation of a just social order through the labor and allied movements. The faculty has recently adopted a curriculum adequate to achieve these results in the case of all students who complete it. As in the past, the right of students to take whatever courses they desire is to be continued."

(Continued on Page Three)
Labor Tactics in the Kentucky Mountains

Earl C. Hamilton

I.

The industrial transition now taking place below Mason's and Dixon's line confronts the laborer about as America with a major problem of challenging significance, i.e.—the organizing of the South.

In some of its aspects the question is acutely controversial. For instance, considerable tension exists among labor grants which themselves hold contradictory theories and practice divergent methods in their respective approaches to the Southern situation.

The seriousness and importance of such issues are not to be minimized. But this article does not deal with them directly. Nor do I seek to suggest any panacea or formula whose application would solve the whole matter automatically. The most that I am attempting is to stress a few of the many factors that must be taken into account.

Specifically, in the scope of this article, I have in mind such conditions as have come within my own personal experience in the mountain and hill areas of Kentucky.

II.

During the better part of two years, beginning in May, 1910, I was stationed in Manchester, the county seat of Clay County, Kentucky, under the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions. Then, for a little more than three years following, I was in Cumberland and Metcalf Counties, setting forth part of the hill region along the Cumberland river about 150 miles west of my first location. During these years my assignments were at points ranging from 18 to 60 miles from the railroad.

Considering that the greater part of the territory where I lived and worked twenty years ago was so removed from main travel routes and large centers of population, the question arises—what extent should so isolated a region be included in working programs of labor organization? It is recognized that sound strategy calls for the applying of available resources in ways best calculated to bring results. Such divergent considerations will have special weight if financial means and personnel for the whole field are limited. As in the field of labor organizations no one doubts the self-evident folly of neglecting localities in which masses of population and industrializing have already gone far as to create definite labor problems.

But it should be equally clear that labor leaders may be risking a costly blunder if they are so exclusively pre-occupied with already industrialized centers as to ignore or overlook the possibilities of comparatively isolated tracts in the Southland.

First, there is no reason for assuming that the isolation of a given region is necessarily permanent. Manchester, mentioned above, was formerly 23 miles from the nearest railway point. But within the past few years it has become a station on a new spur of the Louisville and Nashville Railway. And Hyden, the county seat of Leslie County, one of my occasional visiting points, though 60 miles off the railroad in those days, is now brought considerably nearer by the extending of a line of the "L & N." through Perry and Letcher counties. Also, the parts of the mountain region with which I am acquainted are of fine natural productiveness—differing in that respect from a great deal of the South ern mountain territory. Clay County has comparatively wide valleys and a rich soil, producing such staple crops as corn, and also wheat, where effort is made to cultivate it. In many parts of the county a splendid quality of bituminous coal is known to lie near the surface. Timber resources are very rich in both Leslie and Clay counties.

IV.

In short, regions which produce richly are practically certain, sooner or later, to be brought more directly within the scope of the industrializing trends of the time. That will mean more situations involving labor interests. It is difficult to forecast with accuracy the time when a given region will be opened up for its largest industrial and social development. Under the present capitalistic regime the process is continually being hastened or retarded in artificial ways. It could barely happen that so long as private profit is the dominant force, and as long as natural resources are so controlled that they are either exploited prematurely or bottled up indefinitely at the bottom, the demand will be for one motive. Yet, even so, if labor leaders take careful note of the present productiveness and the industrial potentials of some observed region, they will have at least an approximate gauge of its future in terms of labor. Educative labor propaganda becomes important. It means that future industrial enterprises drawing their labor from that area must reckon with workers intelligent and alert to everything that concerns the labor cause.

The general deduction that I draw from my own bit of concrete experience in the Kentucky mountains is that labor strategy in the South should not confine its energies to already industrialized centers. Doing all that needs to be done at such points, it should go further still. For one thing, the scope of the method of industrial survey might be greatly extended and enlarged. It could be made to include not only the present scope of labor organizations in certain districts, but also (and not less important) the elements of promise, of potentiality, in localities which as yet have little place on the industrial map.

Applying this method of appraisal to the mountain region with which I happen to be most familiar, we must admit that in Clay Counties and the territory adjacent, there is little or no labor organization at present. But recent information from that locality reveals facts which bear significantly on the labor possibilities of that part of the Kentucky mountains. The coal mining industry of that neighborhood is just now under a new failure in the natural productiveness. It is due to certain rulings of the Interstate Commerce Commission in favor of the Pennsylvania coal fields. This present handicap to the coal mining industry may be counterbalanced by the fact that Clay County is beginning to show considerable promise as a field for the production of natural gas. And the gas production suggests the possibility of oil. Outside capital has invested to quite an extent in such lumbering and mining ventures as have

[Continued on Page Three]
### WINTER QUARTER

December 29 to March 21.

**Courses Offered.**
- Elementary Economics; Institutional Economics; Labor Problems; Effective Writing; English for the Foreign Born; American Literature; World Classics; Labor Journalism; World History—From the Dark Ages to the Industrial Revolution; American History; Historical and Social Setting of the Law; Contracts; Social Problems; Man's Search for Orientation; Advanced Mathematics; Statistics; Psychology-Valid Reasoning, Argumentation, Methods of Research; French for Beginners; Advanced French; German for Beginners; Advanced German.

### SOCIETY NOTES

Herman Erickson arrived in Commonwealth October 18. He came here from New York where he was president in past summer. We will gladly receive evidence of his new talent on the campus—he spent the summer painting the structure of the eleventh state in that such a state in New York. This next quarter will show us what the sophisticated city has done to Herman. At least he is still a good hiker. He made his way to school in about six days.

Dorothy Alfrey also joined our student group again. She came on the campus October 16. Dorothy was delayed in returning to school, but she made a visit to her sister in Pueblo, Colo., on her return from Narragansett, R. I., where she spent the summer. She was employed as a cook. While working in Providence and Narragansett, Dorothy yielded to Commonwealth's influence and attempted to join a union. She found the men who were members of the cooks' union friendly and interested in the school which produced their first woman applicant for membership. Unfortunately there was no union with as much influence in that locality. Commonwealth, welcomes Dorothy back with pleas for her cooking again. Dorothy will be given the work of managing the kitchen.

Tennis has become a popular sport on

- Prof. Sumner H. Slichter, Ithaca, N. Y. 5.00
- Rudolf Stoess, Denver 5.00
- G. O. Wagner, Sr., Millersport, Pa. 25.00
- Dr. and Mrs. C. Anderson, Baker, Ore. 25.00
- Columbia Conserv, Co., Indianapolis 100.00
- Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Mayer, Bloomington, Ill. 50.00
- F. N. McCollum, Madison, Wis. 25.00
- Phoebe D. H. New York, N. Y. 10.00
- Elizabeth Sands Johnson, N. Y. C. 5.00
- Harold Preece, Austin, Texas 5.00
- Prof. Edwin L. and Marguerite W. Clarke, Winter Park, Florida 5.00

Commonwealth College, Mena, Arkansas

I hereby pledge $_____ yearly to the Student Health Maintenance Fund for 1931, 1932, and 1933.

(Signed)

### LABOR TACTICS

Continued from Page Two been developed of late years. But in Clay County alone, according to my informant, "there remains a vast amount of coal, and other resources untouched." What some keen sighted industrialists are expecting as to future development is indicated by the fact that Henry Ford, acting for the Fordson Coal Company, now owns about one hundred thousand acres of coal and timber lands in Clay County, as well as a large area in Linn and Van Buren County. All this is evidently held for the future. There appear to be no present developments of Mr. Ford's holdings.

An adequate survey will include not only material conditions, but also social conditions, and the more illusive psychological factors, including various ideological. The mountain man is an intense individualist. To what extent is that individualism, involving an intense love of personal freedom, a barrier to labor organization, and to what extent is it an asset in the battle for industrial freedom? Religiously, too, many mountain people incline. Numbers of them believe that "whatever is, is; whatever will be, will be," and that nothing much can be done about it. It is self-evident that Mountain mind would be particularly amenable to labor organization. But the younger generation is not held so tenaciously in such mounds of thought; and the mental attitude itself is not necessarily immune to labor education and the inexorable economic pressures of a changing time. Such a survey, applied to the mountain territory, would open the way for a discriminating and respectful attitude, which is the only basis for a successful approach. It would make clear that the people are not of one type, or one grade of intelligence. There are too many dangerous characters, too great prevalence of ignorant and prejudiced attitudes among the mountain population, yet it remains true that some of the finest native intelligence I have ever known exists in the Kentucky mountains.

Finally, any real knowledge of mountain life reveals the tenacity of the religious institution among the mountain folk. The solution is that the labor cause will not make real progress in the Southern mountains or in the South generally if it takes the form of a religious propaganda. Labor leaders are under no obligations to trim in the matter of their personal convictions as regards religion, or to withhold any constructive criticism bearing on the attitude of organized religion in the social struggle. But when atheism is made an inalienable part of the educational approach (as is done by some cooperative minority) the whole outcome of labor agitation is placed in doubt. Leaders who pursue such tactics are quite within their personal, legal and social rights in so doing. But to put it in the mildest possible way, it seems to me that such an attitude is no asset to the labor cause.

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Dr. Rusk Elected

Continued from Page One the asire will be maintained. But from now on all the students will be referred to the approved curriculum as, in the opinion of the faculty, the one most adequate to achieve for all our students what the instruction of the college is designed to accomplish."
Good and Welfare
By Nazareth Dawn.

THE HOOVER INTELLECT

Some one has said, so far as that if you would measure a man get him to write a book or to make a speech. Mr. Hoover has just delivered four speeches. We assume that he dictated the theses of them all, although some secretary or other underling may have provided the phrasing and filled in the details. These addresses were delivered to the Senate, to the Legion, to Labor, and to a group of patriots assembled to dedicate a memorial. We judge from their content that they are all in pursuit for capitalistic at large and that they reflect quite accurately the mind of our chief executives.

The Theses

When one examines these speeches to find some evidences of constructive statesmanship bearing upon these trying times, one is led into a realization that when it comes to solve some problem, to meet the situation, the mind of the President is a vacuum.

To his Excellency he said in substance, "You are a bright bunch of boys. You are the governors of our business life. You set the tone for optimism or pessimism. Cheer up. Just keep smiling and you will smile through prosperity. This is no time to surrender."

To the Legonnaires, "We are a great people. We have created a new social and economic system. We are all going to be well off and happy without exploiting other people."

To Labor, "You have been a fine bunch of fellows during this depression. Your leaders have exhibited real team play in their relations with the capital. Capital has kept up wages and employment while your leaders have kept down strikes. Just keep that up and hope, and all will be well in the end."

To the patriots, "We have the best system in the world. Some very evil minded people have been feeding 'fearin' ideas called Socialists are trying to make you believe that there is a better way. But ours is the American way, therefore, the best way. Hurrah for the U. S. A."

We submit, after a careful reading of all the speeches, that the above include every speech of the above and all of them.

The Lack of Intelligence

Now any fifth-rate economist would have been able to tell Mr. Hoover that prosperity does not depend upon an optimism independent of material conditions. This wonderful system of ours which His Excellency seeks to bolster by landing in every speech is based on the profit motive. Pessimism and optimism of bankers and business men depend upon the rate of profit flowing from productive enterprises. When profits are good, optimism of bankers and business men will be high and production will boom. When profits are low, pessimism will be widespread and industry will slow down.

Mr. Hoover could have found out by consulting any economic primer that profits determine prices. All that it would have been necessary for His Excellency to do in order to induce the optimism and the prosperity he wants to prevail, was to produce the strong markets that produce the great op-

Unясн. But the Chief Executive failed in that little matter. He did not even tell his great and good banker and business friends where the deficit might be found or how they could be produced. What a terrible oversight.

From Stupidity to Stupidity

Passing over the equally shallow comment of His Excellency to the Legion and to Labor, and his comments to the latter were equally with to the prior were cruelly amusing, we come to the prize won a General. It is not only has the Chief Executive, has, evidently never heard of the thing psychologists call arrested development, an inherited limited capacity. He probably does not know that the reports of the psychological examinations given during the war to conscripts show that 45 per cent of our physically mature people, judged by those results, are twelve years old or less, mentally, and that 25 per cent of them are fourteen years old or less, mentally. How does the American system equalize that terrific handicap for the great majority of our people?

Sheer Bunk

Then in the very region in which His Excellency was unburdening himself of such bunk there is a great oppressed race. It not only has probably an inferior native endowment for success, but it is also laboring under great racial discriminations, both economically and legally. What has the American system ever done to give them an even chance, by education or otherwise, for this great system in which "our government is the umpire of fairness."

Lastly, for I have not the time or the patience to go into all the obvious denials that result from this blunt bunkum of the Chief Executive, does His Excellency mean to tell us that Edsel Ford, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Vincent Astor, J. P. Morgan, and the other rich sons of rich fathers who are the real government of this country through their control of the financial and material resources of this country—does His Excellency mean to tell us that these men arrived at their positions by starting equally with all the rest of us? Any idiot knows better. As I see the poorly educated mountain children of these hills, I am most positive that they are not starting under this great American system on a par with the two sons of Edsel Ford.

Socialism Merely Intelligence

Now, it is these great inequalities, clear to any honest man turning more and more intelligent people to Socialism today. The American system gives greater power to those who already have a good intelligence and a little, and are for the moment fortunate enough to be born into the white race. Those who are so unfortunate as to be born mentally backward and without opportunity of race, have little chance. They are dragged further into the depths. The Socialists believe in intelligently recognizing these facts and in caring for them with the best scientific methods. The Socialists, at least, are not such fools as to be taken in by the stupid twaddle of His Excellency, which, so far as having turned the campus lately. Through the efforts of Mr. Brown, the tennis court which had become a weed patch, practically speaking, was made into a fine court. Since the rehabilitation of the campus, there has been a series of matches played between Ross and Joe. At last Joe is boasting having won a set from Ross. The enthusiastic spirit of such a victory has led to the organization of a tennis tournament which is to be open to all comers. Jimmie Fulks hopes to be a successful entrant, it is rumored.

The social season at Commonwealth this year was opened by the events of the last two Saturday nights of this quarter. The first Saturday of the quarter the students gathered in the Commons to dance and sing together. With the aid of Dorothy Mayer, pianist, and the songsters among the students we group we made merry. We sang German, Hebrew, Negro, Russian and Spanish folksongs as well as the old favorites from Arkansas. Greatest popularity is granted by all to the song led by Bill Leach, "The Blood Came Trickling Down."

The second Saturday evening's entertainment was even better attended than the first. The program consisted of a Cartoon and Impromptu: it opened with the blessing of the 'rabbit' Joe Englestein and 'his voice' David Englestein, addressing us with solemnity to the pleasure of the American system and the rebaptism of the court there. The program closed fittingly opening we listened to our first grand opera of this season. It was the musical drama "Little Red Riding Hood." Chucky sang the title role. Dorothy Alfred, Harriet Habbert, Ray Koch and Rigo Bert Fonte were also members of the cast. After the opera we listened to Amos and Andy, alias Chucky and Ray. Bill Leach and four German boys also entertained us with singing and dancing. Commonwealth's social season is now considered to be officially open.

Evan and Roland Bosch are on campus with us for this year. They are the young sons of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bosch, former Commonwealth students. Mr. Bosch is teaching here this year. Evan, who is five years old, has attended school with his mother in years past, but this year and a half, is just being initiated into labor education. Both boys already show a fine spirit of independence about the campus. With a sand pile, a big ball and a little green wagon to keep them occupied they seem happy. But Evan and Roland must have their 'little lunch,' and in the middle of the morning Evan will remind his mother of this. We all love to watch the children's antics—we may we test the temptation to spoil them. We could use a vacation.