COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE FORTNIGHTLY

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COMMONERS CELEBRATE SOVIET ANNIVERSARY

Birthday of U. S. R. Observed With Varied Program

Commoners paid homage Saturday night, November 9, on the 19th anniversary of the first workers' democracy—the first Socialist Soviet Republic—with an appropriate and appreciative program, held in the College.

Dr. Zeuch gave a talk on "The Economic Situation in Soviet Russia" in which he said, "The Russian Soviet System is the greatest social experiment in the history of the world. We watch its progress from year to year hoping that all that is good in it and there is much that is good, will survive the errors, for it is unhuman and unthinkable that an experiment on so vast a scale should proceed without grave mistakes, and hope that the experience of the years will slough away these mistakes.

"We must remember that Russia is still economically undeveloped. Compared with the United States its material comforts are crude. It will probably be twenty years, granting that Russia keeps on with her present rate of development, before the material well-being of the average Russian worker is comparable to the material well-being of the average American worker of today. The Russian workers will have to sacrifice much to carry on and to carry out their program. But let us not forget that every advance made is for the workers. The Russian workers are struggling toward a workers' world. They are sympathetic toward their struggle and patient with their errors, knowing the great ideal of liberty (Dorothy Alfrey) and a policeman farce, originally written in German by Alfred Portmuller, one of the Commonwealth students of this year, and translated by the author and Charlotte Moskowitz. It depicts a street scene in New York City and presents a "run-in" between Miss Liberty (Dorothy Alfrey) and a policeman (Raymond Koch) concerning Miss Liberty's five illegitimate offspring: Republican, Democratic, Socialist, Labor Faker, and Proletarian.

The complete program was as follows:

Commonwealth Song Group Prologue Walter Nick "The Economics of Soviet Russia" W. K. Zeuch Folk Dance (three couples) "My Personal Impressions of Soviet Russia" C. H. Mayer "Break Your Chains" (song) Mixed Quartet Mrs. Bosch at piano Folk Dance (three couples) "The Giant" (recitation) Walter Nick

THANKS, FRIENDS

CASH

Blanche Baehrke, Paterson, N. J. $2.00
A. F. Liddell, Tallahassee, Fla. $5.00
Florence Peterson, Madison, Wis. $5.00
J. R. Shullers, Tallahassee, Fla. $5.00
Charley Harligh, Newark, N. J. $1.00
Max Gyls, Moline, Ill. $5.00
Floyd Del, Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y. $5.00
K. J. Kaltby, Nettic, Calif. $5.00
M. M. Knight, Berkeley, Calif. $5.00
Jacobs Nizdary, Uster Park, N. Y. $5.00

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Dr. Karl Hoffmann, New York City—"America and der Amerikanismus." Edna N. Vivian, Los Angeles, Calif. Books.


INDUSTRIAL EXPERT QUIZZES COMMONERS

Agent of Columbia Conserves Pays Short Visit

E. Milton Jones, professional industrial efficiency engineer, who has been for several years director of the Labor Viewpoint, is well known by his appearance, and asked them to tell why they had chosen Commonwealth rather than any other college for the work they had found at Commonwealth that they did not expect to be able to get elsewhere.

Among the reasons enumerated were the following: Commonwealth stresses the importance of any particular faction of the Labor movement; the associations with people who have had a varied experience in the Labor Movement, and with whom such experiences can be exchanged; the intimate associations with students and teachers, both in and out of class, and the individual attention possible in small classes and special interest; and that at Commonwealth it is possible to get an education for the Labor Movement more cheaply than at any other college.

Teachers Also Express Reactions After asking the new students for their reactions to Commonwealth, he finally called on the teachers who explained their reasons for being here when they could be at other universities, drawing salaries.

Clay Fults, instructor in Law and History, spoke rather lengthily upon his reasons for being here. His explanation was typical of the teaching staff. He told of many years in the rural and town schools of Arkansas where he was continually "getting into hot water" with school boards and educational officials because of his attempts to bring attention, in some cases of more and intelligent students to some of the real problems of life. He said he chose Commonwealth because here teachers and students were perfectly free to express any opinion, because here the daily and social life was enjoyed and understood and because the students were comparatively free from superstitions and prejudices and were alert and appreciative of the efforts he was making to give the best that is in him.

ZEUCH TRIP DATES BEING SCHEDULED

Washington, New York, Boston

The plans for Dr. Zeuch's tour of the North and East from January 9th to March 18th are rapidly progressing and the dates are being filled by speaking engagements and interviews.

Among the lecture appointments secured since the last report are: the George Washington University Liberal Club in Washington, D. C. (Feb. 4); the League for Industrial Democracy in New York City (Feb. 18); and the Harvard Liberal Club in Boston, Mass. (Feb. 25). Others are still tentative.

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.

The Federal Farm Marketing System

A PROPOSED PLAN

for the rehabilitation and stabilization of agriculture by the establishment of a Federal Farm Marketing Board and various subsidiary marketing corporations.—A Cotton Marketing Corporation, A Wheat Marketing Corporation, etc., (analogous to the various Federal Reserve Districts); the Federal Farm Marketing Board to have a monopoly of the marketing of certain designated overproduced staple crops.

By William Edward Zeuch

I

The past ten years have witnessed a gradual decline of agriculture. Farm prices, in most of the great staple crops, have been steadily lowered by a falling of the general price level. Confronted with this situation tens of thousands of farmers became bankrupts. Hundreds of thousands of others have tried to hold on by extensions of credit and by extensions of time on notes in the hope that the tide would ultimately turn. It has been a vain hope.

II

In the meantime economists and politicians have proposed various remedies for the general farm situation. These remedies have ranged all the way from voluntary cooperative marketing on the part of the farmers to tariffs, equalization fees, and de-levies as governmental aids. In spite of the seeming concern of the politicians and the number of plans proposed nothing much has been done about it. The farmers are still waiting.

The reasons for this situation are, roughly, two. In the first place the politicians, from the President down, are hoping to muddle through without any action or with a minimum of action. The President is so antiquated in his thinking that he still believes in the President's "rugged individualism" to right the situation despite the fact that our economic society has passed out of the stage of expansion by individual initiative and production and into one of the systematic use of adjustment or solution of personal and social problems.

TWEEDLEDUM—TWEEDLEDEE

The independent voters, i.e., the "intel- ligent" voters, have been playing non-parti- sian politics as far back as I can remember. But toward the last few years we have had independent candidates turning the Independents out and putting Democrats in, or vice versa, every few years. The recent election is but a case in point.

The independent, non-partisan voters were fed up with Hoover and his everlasting promises of prosperity and prophecies of better times. They seized the "hardhat" weapon, the ballot, and gave the adminis- tration a smashing wallop. The Democrats received a clear mandate for leadership. But what happened?

Within a few hours the Democratic leaders met and pledged their co-operation to the Republicans to "save the country." But to co-operate on what? The Repub- licans for years have had the majorities necessary to "save the country" but lack- ed the brains to formulate a plan. The Republicans have nothing on which to co-operate.

Such action reveals the intellectual bank- ruptcy, the moral and social bankruptcy, and the political incapacity of the Democrats. In this crisis the two-party sham has failed. The mask is completely off. We now have a Republican-Democratic co-operation that is a Tweedledum-Tweedledee Party standing clearly revealed.

It naturally occurs that the independent voters and farmers, the "intelligent" voters, the labor leaders, and others who have promoted the new political philosophy and who punish your-enemies-bank will propose now.

Friends and enemies are hard to distinguish in a Tweedledum-Tweedledee Party. — N. D.
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Since the last issue the Brandeis and Ford Foundation have repaid the 1931-32 period. These are early and constant friends of Commonwealth and it gives us great pleasure to re-enroll them on the list of the Maintenance Fund. We have sent the letter on sending a donation, that he hesitates to pledge for a three year period as everything is so uncertain in these times that no one, no worker at least, can be sure of his prospects, much less three years. Our friend should remember that a pledge to Commonwealth is an indication of good intention and good will toward our project and not a binding legal document. In the spirit of this campaign with the January issue, "The Ohio River," Floyd Dell has repledged for the 1931-32 period with the January 1 issue, thereby committing funds to the project for the next year as.

Results to date are:

CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Pledges to Date.

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Lucien Koch, Director-elect of Commonwealth, now on leave,</td>
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<td>I hereby pledge $100 yearly to the Commonwealth Maintenance Fund for 1931, 1932, and 1933.</td>
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SOCIETY NOTES

The Misses Alfrey, Fisher and Moskovitz, residents of Loretels' Rock, entertained at a formal tea dance, in the Shore Room, Saturday night November 15th. The mock slideshows continued throughout the evening with formal dance programs, exhibition dances including an apache (Rigo and Chucky) and a marathon (Bella who is less than 5 feet tall, and Hank Mayer, who is about 7), the mental lexicon experiment, games, etc.

John Mars, member of Board of Trustees, and only resident worker at Commonwealth, made his long-planned move from 'Yemen 'All, where he had been living all summer, to the cottage in back of the office in the wee hours of Hallowe'en Eve. John was awakened by Hallowe'en prankers after midnight and since he couldn't get back to sleep again decided to move right then.

The dishwashing crew had been complaining because everyone came in to breakfast either on the last dot or later—holding that work with their hands making it impossible for them to get to their first class on time. So one morning recently Chucky and Anna did a Paul Revere fifteen minutes before the bell rang and woke everyone at six. Everyone in the book wondered why all rushed in for their breakfast as soon as the bell rang.

Harriet Haberd Kaplan, Sociology instructor at Commonwealth, now on leave, before he had quit blubering over this loss, Science takes him upon her knee and plesures him to ret. Utopia right here on this good green earth.

Whereupon, with a rainbow round his shoulders, Sap bravely struck out for the newly-promised land.

But he ain't got there yet!

Now he is beginning strongly to suspect that his ultimate destiny will never reach further than a futile cycle of successive civilizations each in its turn foredoomed to a desolate end; that Utopia, as well as New Jerusalem, is only a mirage.

Surfeited with prosperity and disillusionment, Elysium for his wine, his woman and his song—knowing, however, that the wine is adulterated; the woman denuded of her wings; and the song filled with discordies. Swiftly, then, his civilization falls in ruins and decrepit old men see the end of time approaching. Jackals, bats and owls inhabit his proud

Some time after Homo Sapiens came out of the bush, he blinked his eyes at the sun, scratched his puzzled, unkempt head, and gradually formulated a very interesting and flattering set of conclusions: the earth which was the center of the universe, had been specially created for him and he himself had been specially created to glorify the God who had created him and his universe. The human race was simply marching through this world on a pious pilgrimage to its Eternal Abode above the stars. In centuries, to the accompaniment of loud hosannahs, this march continued toward the lofty City of God.

Then, over this beautiful pipe dream of Homo Sap's, came a devastating change. The bejewelled city, it was discovered, was only a mirage. Science dethroned theology and Sap, hearing a heavy sigh, had to relinquish his little mansion in the sky. But

WINTER QUARTER

December 29 to March 21

Courses Offered.

Elementary Economics; Institutional Sociology and 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 Problems; Search for Orientation; Advanced Mathematics; Statistics; Psychology-Valid Reasoning, Argumentation, Methods of Research; Advanced French; German for Beginners; Advanced German.

BOOK REVIEW

BEYOND OPTIMISM AND PESSIMISM


Those who know Mr. Krutch have a right to expect much in this book; and certainly it is not wanting. His admirers will find all they need to confirm in the opinion that here is an observer of the tendencies in contemporary thought, and of the mood resulting from such tendencies, whose reports are an earnest student of this age can afford to miss. For this, is what in "The Modern Temper," Mr. Krutch has done: He has traced the most significant of these tendencies; has described the dominant mood engendered by them; has stated the present dilemma of the "victims" of the modern temper; and he has done all this with a precision, vividness and courage truly impressive.

These tendencies all converge irresistibly to one central point—disillusionment. This mood is one of neither smiling optimism nor weeping pessimism but rather one of calm, truly impressive. Of the modern temper; and he has done all this with a precision, vividness and courage truly impressive.

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Reasonable Efficiency

The Fall Quarter of 1930 begins what we all hope will be a new era in industrial affairs at Commonwealth. Our readers will probably remember that last May Dr. Zeuch on accepting the office of Director stipulated that he would receive only a free hand to enable the Board to work out objective standards of performance for all communal tasks. The Board granted that condition.

For five years Commonwealth has been experimenting to find some ways and means to achieve a reasonable performance in industrial work under student management. The best available student material was put into managerial positions. Regardless of kind of organization it was found that student managers did not get what the community through excellent performance from the student workers. Student managers were loath to insist upon an adequate achievement at the expense of personal social relations with some intelligent and genial, but lazy students.

Dr. Zeuch, after watching the experiments for five years, stated that the only way to achieve his estimation, to meet the situation, was to work out standards of reasonable efficiency for every communal task. He gave it as his opinion that strict industrial discipline was just as necessary in a co-operative effort as in capitalistic enterprise; that most human affairs involved, and with the opening of the school were established for the kitchen, the laundry work under student management. The spirit never overtook him even though old age of the flesh finally tracked him down. In his own original way he was ever a firm, though it was for the common good. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mother Corl.

FARM MARKETING SYSTEM
(Continued from Page Two)

SECTION 6. If the producer attempt to market his crop outside the official marketing corporation, both he and his land shall be cut off for a period of years from the privilege of marketing through the corporation. Congress shall fix such other penalties as it may deem advisable.

SECTION 7. Congress shall determine from time to time what staple crops have entered a period of chronic over-production and so come within the provisions of this act.

IV

Those who do not realize that we have passed out of the period of "rugged individualism" into an era of corporate action will condemn the above plan as too inclusive and rigid. But such a strictly planned farm economy is needed to save the farm situation. The condition of agriculture makes imperative a regimented ordered production. Palliatives or patchwork will not do.

Others will find that such a solution will raise many problems. Probably so. But does it raise problems that cannot be solved? I do not think so. Life itself is just a complex problem. We must solve them if we would go on living. The only question is: Is the Federal Farm Marketing System a necessary and adequate remedy for the present most deplorable state of the farming industry? I believe it both necessary and adequate.

We are fired with the hope to reform men. After many experiments we find we must begin earlier—at school—Emerson.