RAY AND CHUCKY WED
JUST LIKE THAT

Raymond Koch and Charlotte Moskowitz Wedding Jars Bachelors

"Let's get married!" said Ray to Chucky—or was it the other way round? (But that is irrelevant, immaterial and incompetent). "We've been thinking about it for two or three years—why wait any longer?" "Never heard of it!" "To-morrow night!"—"Good." "Let's run and tell 'em about it.

And run they did—from cottage to dormitory and from dormitory to cottage, spreading the announcement in gay tones that carried only faint undertones of seriousness.

It was about ten o'clock and the Commonwealths, toasting their toes before the fire, were beginning to yawn when these youngsters burst in upon them with this announcement. Raymond grinned affectionately. 'Collesque,' he thought.

And, to quote the man who was looking on from the background, "Just like that!"

Lucien Koch Spends Vacation
Preparing Ground to Assume Position Next Summer

Lucien Koch, Director-elect of Commonwealth, came down from Madison, Wisconsin, where he is teaching in the Experimental College at the University, sojourned with the Commoners during his ten day vacation, and prepared the ground for taking over his duties during the late summer by talking things over with students, teachers, and administrators.

Lucien expressed his satisfaction in returning to take up this work, and his happiness in being connected with the group again next year. Speaking to the members of the Association he said, "I do not believe in one person succeeding another. I cannot take Zeuch's place as Director. But with this group co-operating I feel that we can continue to work out our problems together and to make real progress."

Speaking on Millitant Labor Education before a gathering of Commoners at White Lodge, Lucien urged the importance of constantly widening and strengthening Commonwealth's courses in the fields of labor. "The labor teachers," he said, "must give the student faith in the labor movement. They must drive to be doing—whether it is organizing, forming study groups, or other activities."

Many former Commonwealth students are active in their unions or elsewhere for labor, but some are not. We must give our students such a faith in the future of the workers as will keep them all active in the labor movement."

In general, Lucien spoke to the student body later on his experiences as advisor at the Experimental College. He outlined the educational methods in use there and the content of the curriculum.

While here Lucien joined heartily in the recreational activities. On the soccer field he proved a terror. He left a trail of sore shins. He hiked up on Rich Mountain. He got no deer though the season was open. Another day he spent squirrel hunting with Bill Cunningham. They got a few. David Engelslein hints that Zeuch treated him pretty roughly in their personal wresting bouts. His sojourn hardened him a bit physically.

The morning of his departure for Madison all Commoners were out to wish him a good journey, to bid him take good care of himself, and to make him feel something of that affection, loyalty and co-operation that will be his when he returns to take up his work.
Commonwealth College FORTNIGHTLY

Vol. VII No. 2  February 1, 1931

Economics and the Labor Movement
By Richard Bosch  M. A.

The American labor movement presents many phases and problems. The geographical divisions—the north, south, and west—have distinct problems and types of labor activity corresponding roughly to differences in industries and to racial and cultural differences of the labor population. The southern worker has a rural background with the ideals and traditions of the south, whereas the western worker (not considering the Orientals) is also of rural extraction but with no distinct unified cultural background. The east has its numerous foreign groups, more or less divergent influences tending to prevent a unified labor movement and a common cohesive labor philosophy or ideology.

Although labor has theoretical, geographical, cultural, industrial, and craft divisions, the immediate objectives are much the same. That is, practically all groups desire effective independent and complete union organization and, for good wages, good working conditions, economic security on the job and for old age. Yet, it is doubtful that the apparently dominant joblessness of American union's unions and their activities usually, serve as a cohesive force in unifying the labor movement. The unification must be on the basis of a recognition and a conviction of common interests; and pure joblessness does not furnish such a basis.

It is true that in spite of joblessness and craft-consciousness there are some things on which labor can unite, such as the various forms of social insurance—unemployment, old-age, accident, health. However, such a unification would not necessarily signify a general class-consciousness or class ideal. The unification would be because of the circumstance that individual and group interests happen in some cases to be of common interest. There need be no specific program of united action excepting such as 1. the workers' strike. For good wages, good working conditions, economic security on the job and for old age. Yet, it is doubtful that the apparently dominant joblessness of American unions and their activities usually, serve as a cohesive force in unifying the labor movement. The unification must be on the basis of a recognition and a conviction of common interests; and pure joblessness does not furnish such a basis.

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The relation may be considered from several points of view, two of which will be briefly discussed here. (1) What theory will be most effective in creating and maintaining a strong labor movement? (2) What theory can serve as a guide and a tool in labor action? In other words, the relation may be considered from the standpoint of scientific analysis—a guide to labor action or for purposes of propaganda—not using propaganda in a derogatory sense.

For purposes of propaganda, the measurement of excellence of a theory is its effectiveness as an appeal for united action. Judged by this standard the Marxist theory of value, and historical materialism and surplus value is a good theory in Russia and to a lesser extent in other European countries. It has not as yet exercised much influence in this country. But regardless of how effective a theory may be for propaganda, purposes, unless it has a sound scientific basis it will not furnish a guide for action.

A theory which would serve as guide in achieving one's purpose would be a theory which characterizes the process of the determination of economic values, and since the factors in the process are continually changing, a guide must be based on a method of investigation. That is to say, the labor movement cannot be guided by a rigid formula to be applied in all times and places, and the only alternative is a method of investigation which can cope with problems as they arise.

The very nature of propagandistic theories is in their attempted justification of a preexisting purpose. One's purpose and interest for example may be in a high protective tariff and so protection theories are invented in justification of the purpose. Or, one's purpose may be to the exploited, and hence historical materialists may be espoused. Then, by putting the cart before the horse, the justification is considered a guide to action, whereas a truer statement would be that purpose determines the nature of the theory—the historical law, divine law, natural law—which is nominally accepted as a guide or standard.

As Jeremy Bentham wrote: "A great many people are continually talking of the law of nature; and then they go on giving you their sentiments of what is right and wrong; and these sentiments you are to understand are so many chapters and sections of the law of nature."

The justification if any is needed, of the labor movement and its objectives is therefore to be found in a scientific theory of value. Nor is it a criticism of what purposes to be a scientific theory an attack on purposes and programs which are of the workers or capitalists. It is because of the failure to distinguish between justification (ethics) and science that a criticism of Marx's theory of value seems to some people, is with some people taken as being equivalent to upholding the exploitation of labor.

One would think that on the basis of

[Continued on Page 3]
FELLOWS BUILDERS

With this issue we include Prof. E. A. Ross, Margaret Shipman and Milton Whittington.

Prof. E. A. Ross, long time friend of Dr. Zeuch's, and Margaret Shipman have been interested in Commonwealth as a socio-educational experiment from its inception. They have appeared on our Thanks Friends list before. We are now pleased to include them as regular pledges in our Builders column.

Milton Whittington was one of the first students of Commonwealth. Out on the industrial front he has been badly injured for life. But his experience has only fortified his belief in the worthwhileness for workers of such educational communities as Commonwealth. We hope to welcome him back as a student again. His injuries will keep him physically inactive but there is no reason why brain and pen should not remain active for the labor movement.

We wish also to express in the columns of the Fortnightly our appreciation to O. O. Wagner, Sr. who has sent us a check dated October 31, 1931. His son, who was at one time a student at Commonwealth, has also rallied to our support. The Wagners have for several years been staunch supporters of Commonwealth and have never ignored a call for help.

CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Name. Yearly Pledge 1931-1932-1933
Fern Babcock, St. Louis $ 25.00
Alma Wilson Bell, Angola, Ind. 25.00
Prof. Edward Herman, Urbana, Ill. 100.00
James L. Brewer, Rochester, N. Y. 100.00
Richard Beach, Atwater, Minn. 10.00
Milo A. Guest, decoration 10.00
Prof. A. W. Calhoun, Gaffney, S. C. 25.00
Prof. E. Chapin, Cleveland 25.00
Mrs. A. H. Corl, Los Angeles 25.00
Glen Dodd, Houston 25.00
Earl M. Durland, Chicago 25.00
Kate Crand-Gaurds, Allendale, Calif. 100.00
Prof. and Mrs. D. E. Ensign, Cleveland 10.00
E. Haldeman-Julius, Girard 10.00
Milton K. Higgins, Mandan, N. D. 10.00
Mrs. E. H. Himes, Allentown, Pa. 15.00
Sol Kahn, Mobile 10.00
Dr. and Mrs. E. Kirkpatrick, Olcott, Mich. 10.00
Albert E. Meyer, Detroit 25.00
Prof. J. Pearson, Grand Forks, N. D. 10.00
Leon L. Nanda, Chicago 25.00
Morris W. Rapaport, Chicago 25.00
Prof. P. nature, St. Louis 25.00
Mrs. C. E. Renwick, St. Louis 15.00
Canes C. E. Renwick, St. Louis 25.00
Prof. L. N. and Caroline H. Robinson, Swarthmore, Pa. 25.00
Mary C. Russell, Philadelphia 25.00
Alfred D. Schoch, Chicago 25.00
Mrs. F. Klein, Washington, Pa. 25.00
Mrs. Louis D. Brandeis, Washington, D. C. 100.00
Floyd Dell, Croton-On-Hudson 25.00
Prof. S. H. Edelston, Washington 25.00
Indiana University, Indiana 25.00
Rutgers, New Brunswick, N. J. 25.00
Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo 25.00
Harvard, New York, N. Y. 25.00
Sacramento, Los Angeles 25.00
Mrs. C. H. Mayer, Madison, Wis. 25.00
Mrs. E. L. McDonald, Madison, Wis. 25.00
P. N. MacMillin, Madison, Wis. 50.00
Phoebe H. Lovell, Philadelphia, Pa. 10.00
Eliza C. Snow, Indianola, Ind. 10.00
Elizabeth Sands Johnson, N. Y. C. 10.00
Harold Preer, Austin, Texas 25.00
Prof. James E. Rankin, Baltimore 25.00
Prof. J. H. B., Detroit 25.00
Clarke, Winter Park, Florida 25.00
Mrs. Louis D. Brandeis, Washington, D.C. 100.00
Ewan Clarke, New Haven, Conn. 25.00
Margaret Shipman, Le, Mass. 25.00
Prof. E. A. Ross, Madison, Wis. 25.00
J. Milton Whittington, El Dorado, Ark. 25.00

SOCIETY NOTES

Stag Party—December thirtieth was the eve of one of Commonwealth's great events—the Jungle Masquerade. The Jungle Masquerade was attended by Raymond Koch was solemnized December thirty-first—that was the occasion of the stag party. The old married men and the bachelors on the campus took part in the celeration. It was their purpose to celebrate. Thus it was that they gathered to perform due rites and ceremony for the groom. According to the proprieties Ray­ mond was carried off from the company of the bride-to-be by those appointed to this mission. All the gathering of males was shrouded in great mystery it has been intimated that soap box orators snoke to Raymond on many pertinent subjects.

Dorothy Halbert—sister of Harriet Hal­ bert Kaplan—visited the campus during Christmas week. Dorothy lives in Topeka.

ECONOMICS AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT

logic and consistency, a theory of value which serves as a good basis for investigation and an instrument of control could also serve as an effective appeal for concerted action, that is, for propaganda. Such a theory of value would furnish a sound basis for a labor philosophy and the integration of economics and the labor movement. It would be a theory which helps to achieve purposes—though it would not attempt to justify them.

There are still many people, perhaps, who feel the need of having divine law, natural law, or historical materialism on their side; yet the tendency of modern thinking seems to be that human purposes are their own justification, and the ethics of law and the law arise from the need of establishing order out of conflicting interests.

Ethics has a place, and a necessary place, in the labor movement and in a labor philosophy. All the theories of value, which attempts to explain the process of economic valuation. The place for ethics is in the purposes, the standards which are set up as goals. The economic significance of ethics lies in its concerted action, its exercise of power, in order to influence or control values, par­ ticularly wages. But labor seeks to control for certain ends—purposes or ideals, which are set up as goals. These purposes and ideals are the ends, factors to be con­ sidered in the process of control are: wages, prices, working conditions, labor laws, ought or ought not to be so and so. These purposes may be said to constitute an ethical theory of value, while the scientific theory of value seeks to explain the instruments and processes of control by which purposes are achieved. Factors to be con­ sidered in the process of control are such as: the state in its various phases—the courts, legislatures, executives, business organi­ zations, trade unions.

To sum up: a labor philosophy needs ethics in order to give direction and motiva­ tion to the labor movement, and it needs also a sound theory of value which will in­ dicate the technique of control so that goals for the future may become a present reality.

EN ROUTE

(Continued from Page 1)

Several of the young workers who are active here talked to me after the meeting about the possibility of attending Common­ wealth. The Commonwealth Press believes that the work of the party is the best training school but all the members I have heard seem to need fundamental training.

I am not a prophet, but I am going to predict that if the present drifts toward realism continue we are going to find that the young communists, socialists and unionists all working together within ten years. The Grim Reaper will remove the old iconoclasts while the pressure of dire events will bring the youth together into a united front based on realism.

Sunday evening I went early to the Lin­ wood Forum to meet Anna Louise Strong before her lecture. While there I fixed the date for my postgraduate course at the Lin­ wood Forum. We fixed on March 22nd when I will be in Kansas City on my return to Commonwealth. Dr. Strong spoke on the Collective Farm Movement in Russia. She gave a very good picture of the problems of collectivization of the land.

On Monday the 12th I called on Common­ wealth friends and helpers. The signifi­ cance of one friend typifies the situation, and is not a lack of money, but a lack of money. We have more to take care of right here at home now than we can handle.

Tuesday the 13th I spent the day at Kansas University under the auspices of the Why Club. In the morning I lectured to Prof. Ise's advanced economics students on "Power Economics." Prof. Ise, whom I met for the first time, is a liberal. He had little comment to make on Power Economics except it was a new approach, ending his lecture with a smile, and this hit below the belt. "But you are not so radical as you think you are."

At noon I talked to the Luncheon Forum on "Migration for a Labor World" and in the evening to the Why Club on "The Story of Commonwealth."

The young liberal group at Kansas University is very progressive and when charming and Paul Porter were on the campus. It still has some very good stuff. However, you will be interested to know that I attended a Y. M. C. A. cabinet meeting to hear a report by our friends, Herb K. Z. L'Esper, on the direct con­ ference. I look forward to the time when these students will be turned completely from soul saving to social saving.

On Wednesday the 14th and Thursday the 15th I completed the rounds of the known friends in Kansas City. On Friday morning, the 16th, I reached St. Louis.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 10-12—St. Louis, Mo.  
Jan. 19-21—Indianapolis, Ind.  
Jan. 22—Cincinnati, Ohio  
Jan. 29—Washington, D.C.  
Feb. 5-8—Baltimore, Md.  
Feb. 14-24—New York City  
March 1-4—Boston, Mass.  
Mar. 6—Indianapolis, Ind.  
Mar. 7-11—Chicago, Ill.  
Mar. 12-21—Madison, Wis.  
Mar. 22—Kansas City, Mo. ( blijwood Forum)
Labor Youth Camp Plans Completed

Plans for the Commonwealth Labor Youth Camp have been completed so that the initial work of institutionalizing the project and campaigning for southern workers' children has been started in the Commonwealth College office.

To follow up the contacts made, Raymond Koch, who spent last summer as a counselor at the Pioneer Youth Camp in the Catskills and who will be the director of the Commonwealth Labor Youth Camp, and Charlotte Moskowitz, his wife, will spend the spring quarter hitch-hiking through the nearby states, speaking before union meetings and enrolling campers. The camp staff will consist largely of Commonwealth College teachers and students who are particularly interested in and fitted to direct camp activities for labor youth.

"Labor Youth Camp strives to build an active interest in labor, and to develop a sympathy for the ideals of the labor movement," according to a circular on the summer camp. "The close and democratic group life is ideal as a stimulation for investigation and discussion of whatever personal and social problems that might develop in association with others of the same age. This is an individual for a more successful adjustment to the world at large. Camp activities will include dramatics, arts and crafts, music, nature lore, a camp paper, photography, wood craft, carpentry and masonry, tennis, hiking, swimming and other sports and hobbies. For two hours each morning on five days a week the camper will work at community tasks in the kitchen, garden, laundry, workshop, etc. The camper will be allowed the utmost freedom in choosing his hobbies according to his interests.

Commonwealth Labor Youth Camp is open to boys from 10 to 16 years. For further information write to Charlotte Moskowitz, camp secretary, Commonwealth College, Mena, Arkansas.

SOCIETY NOTES

(Continued from Page 3)

Kansas. She considered herself fortunate in seeing the students in a holiday mood. We were all glad to have her join in our activities. Dorothy attended a forum, a neighborhood dance, a hike to the "rocks," and many informal "gab fests" of the students. When she left us she promised to come again.

Emily Wilson—returned to the campus Saturday, January 3, after an absence of two years. During this absence Emily was making her fortune in the East, it is rumored. We are all laughing more now with Emily's jokes to distract us from our very serious thoughts.

Gabino Guisasola—another Cuban student has entered Commonwealth for this next quarter. Gabino is following the lead of his countrymen at the school by making friends with the young ladies immediately.

Paul Chusid—of Greenwich Village arrived on the campus Friday night, January 9. He has talked with the students and attended seminar and forum meetings and (Continued in Column 4)

BOOK REVIEW

LABOR'S STRUGGLES

"Strike," by Mary Heaton Vorse. $2.00


The Southern mill worker is reliving the experiences—the horrors and the struggle—that fell to the lot of workers in highly industrialized centers a century ago. In "Strike" this struggle is carried up, documented, and in the last page you read, "They had to go on." The touching story of these workers who are determined to win out is simply and movingly told. The heart of the book lies in the line of the workers, the workers' intense devotion to their union, the death of their leaders by mob violence, and the workers grimly struggling on—all is drawn so vividly, so poignantly that one readily understands why this book has been hailed as the great labor novel of the South.

There were many May Day's, the "ballet" singer. She slowly learns the significance of the Union, is inspired, and sings:

"We're going to have a Union
All over the South
So we can wear a good long cloth
And live in a better house."

Four of Mamie's eight children had died. Her husband, discouraged, had deserted her, and she had slave in the mill for right dollars and forty cents a week. Now, during the strike she met death at the hands of a mob.

And we come upon a funeral scene. The murdered body of Fer Deane, the organizer, lies in a gray casket alongside the open coffins of three other murdered workers. This was his life history. He worked in the mills when he was a boy. He had joined the Union early. He believed in solidarity and tried to organize the workers in the textile industry into unions. He was twenty-nine." Here beside these open coffins, unuttered pledges were made by the workers, sternly determined to build a Union for the dead men. Middle-aged women, beautiful children; raggly young mountain boys; girls, just gay kids with painted lips, wondering; old men who had worked in the mills for fifty years; and young married men, looking ahead hopefully to better times—these were the workers, and the Union was a tremendous event in their drab lives.

In Danville, Va., today the mill workers are on strike for the recognition of their Union. This struggle has been going on for months and the newspaper reports read like extracts from "Strike!"—the call of the mill, evictions from hill homes, arrests, and the courageous spirit of the workers. Here the workers have pledged themselves to hold out until they win. In a labor paper we read: "It was a pledge to those through; out the land who are sending help. The words surged forth, like a great poem, setting to music in cadence after cadence, the courage of a people, the unshakeable faith of a people, and the hope of a people." Another "Strike."

Mary Heaton Vorse has not only made a valuable contribution to American literature by the simplicity, directness and forcefulness of her narrative, but has created a masterpiece which will make many a worker think. —D. E.

Industrial Work of Quarter Is Summed

The labor of students and teachers during the twelve weeks of the Fall quarter has accomplished the cutting of 145 ricks of wood fuel, the laudering of 4,413 pieces of clothing, the nailing on roof of 20,268 shakes, the preparation of 252 meals, office work and publicity, care of library and store, teaching, some masonry, some landscaping, and numerous odd jobs.

Wood, which would build a pile four feet high, 16 inches wide and 580 feet long, has been cut by four men working 850 hours. It has supplied ten stoves and eight fireplaces.

Washing 4,413 pieces of clothing has taken 286 labor hours, which gives an efficiency of 16½ pieces per hour. In 90 hours 533 pieces have been ironed—a rate of 9½ pieces per hour.

Two carpenters have driven 40,516 nails into 20,268 shakes in 226 hours—approximately 100 shakes per man hour.Seven roofs have been covered. The kitchen work has required 1,332 labor hours—111 hours per week.

The office has carried on its work, usually with two people, on a total of 600 hours. Two people have spent part time in care of the library. The purely maintenance crew—wood, kitchen and laundry, have taken one-third of student labor time. Teaching time has not been mentioned. Such is industrial life at Commonwealth, now largely self-supporting.

(Continued from Column 1) has decided to enroll for this quarter. Paulet plays the piano well and charms the students who gather around to sing folk songs and jazz or just to listen to the music. Among his accomplishments is that of art painting; plans are being made to put this talent to good use on the campus.

Soccer—has become an important part of our social program. Every week-end one afternoon is devoted to the game. Chuckie and the men gather on the campus for a rough and tumble game. The line-up of the teams has never remained the same from game to game. The alignment was the All-American team versus the Foreign team. The German boys formed the backbone of the Foreign team with Rigo to add to their strength. Each game brings forth a new hero with a limp or brusie as a mark of battle. Of all the soccer players Walter Nieck stands out as the player.

Zeuch's farewell party—at the "house in the woods" gathered all the students and faculty members to give the director a good send off the eve before his departure for his trip North and East. Being in a holiday mood the group opened the party with an enthusiastic popularity and 'handsome man' contest. Mr. Rusk was voted the most handsome man and as a result had to ac­company Dorothy Albro to the kitchen to get the coffee for the party. After our usual medley of songs the party began to talk of serious matters, led by Raymond Koch, on plans to benefit and how the school would use 'fifty thousand—say'. Mr. Zeuch responded with a short farewell to the group and the party ended.