SUMMER SESSION
Commonwealth College
MENA, ARKANSAS
June 15-August 22, 1931
Teaching Staff
Clarice Cunningham Effective Writing
Secretarial Courses
William Cunningham Labor Journalism
Clarice and William Cunningham Seminar
in Short Story Writing
F. M. Goodhue
Statistics
Statistically
Samuel Guthrie Labor Law
Kurt C. Hamilton Money's Search for Orientation
Social Investigation of 20th Century America
B. T. Moore
England, Russia, and the
Communist Movement.

Each course offered five periods a week during the ten weeks session. No student is permitted to take more than three courses.

Fifteen hours per week of industrial work will be required of each student in scholarship who requests a laundry service. Tuition fee is $10 for the ten-week period.

Students desiring to enter must send for application forms immediately.

FLAVORS OF PROSPERITY

Daily the Commonwealth College office receives bits of news depicting the struggle of workers in the Southwest to survive this unemployment situation.

L. A. Meek, secretary of the Oklahoma Council of Carpenters, writes "In my craft unemployment is so serious that we are assessing all members who happen to have jobs a certain amount of their wages in order to help those who are unable to find work."

Sam Flint, an Oklahoma farmer, tells a different story. "We've had a drought this last year! So did !!. No crops, no money, no help; but a mortgage, notes at the bank and my seventieth birthday almost here! Wish I could help you."

Trade Unions are having their troubles. Jack Adams, of Fort Smith, president of the Arkansas State Federation of Labor writes "Owing to unemployment situation here the meetings of locals are not very well attended and interest is not very much manifested."

The Union of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers of Little Rock, Arkansas has been a faithful Commonwealth pledgee. But now--"this union is absolutely broke. Our members are being dropped from our rolls because they can't pay their dues and the union has no money to pay them with. Our per capita tax to the International Union is way over due. Our officers have not been paid what little salaries they have coming . . . the union is running on credit."

Workers in the building trades in Arkansas are facing starvation, according to two students who recently visited and interviewed trade union people in Fort Smith, Arkansas. "There's not a hammer to be heard in Fort Smith," they said, "The only construction that of a church--was

[Continued on Page 4]

ISRAEL MUFSON VISITS, LECTURES AND WORKS

Reports on Miners' Convention and Talks on General Labor Situation

Israel Mufson, labor educator and organizer, visited Commonwealth for a week recently. While here he talked of the St. Louis convention which he had attended in St. Louis, lectured on the labor movement to Dr. Zeech's class in Contemporary Labor, and hikes to Rich Mountain.

At the Sunday evening Forum Mufson described the existing situation in the coal industry and the Negro's struggle for better treatment. The hope of the future, according to Mufson, lies in the emergence of sufficient sentiment towards the building up of a new union which would be independent of the United Mine Workers of America. The policy committee appointed by the St. Louis convention may work efficiently to build this sentiment.

Mufson's three lectures on the American labor movement were on: the existing trade unions; non-economic labor movement; and the future of the labor movement. The description he gave of existing trade unions was not very encouraging. In the basic industries labor has little organization and no control. Only a few of the skilled trades are organized and the tendency is for the skilled workers to fall into the class with the unskilled.

On the political side, according to Mufson, is the Socialist Party which has been unable to make headway and which is divided between the militants and the non-militants. The activities of the Socialist Party and of the League for Industrial Democracy, a liberal organization, are becoming more and more identical. The Communist Party, with its present tactics, does not make contact with American workers. Mufson thinks that a Labor Party might emerge from a combination of elements within the labor movement, the C. P. L. A., militant Socialists, and the Lovestone group of Communists.

Workers' education, Mufson said, has lost strength except for some Independent workers' education projects such as Brookwood, Commonwealth, the Y. W. C. A. summer schools and a few others. "In predicting the future I feel safe," he told students, "We'll all have to live a long time to tell. In the future the labor movement may have to go underground. In some industries meetings are already secret ones. Some labor thinkers predict an industrial Fascism. The conservative A. F. of L. may give way to a
The 1931 New Orleans Dockworkers' Strike

By WALTER QUINN, Commonwealth Student.

The struggle of the stevedores of the Gulf ports is an old struggle. There has been union following union and strike after strike. In 1925, after considerable friction, the Longshoremen's Union of New Orleans came to an agreement with the United States Shipping Board which included recognition of the union, eighty cents an hour, and an eight-hour day. The companies affected only ships operating under the United States Shipping Board, other steamship companies operating out of New Orleans sixty-five cents an hour and maintained the ten-hour day.

Most people have only a vague notion of the tasks of the union. The work of the longshoreman consists of the specialized routine of loading and unloading boats. Considerable skill is required to stow away a cargo when the available space must be used to the best advantage and goods must be packed in such a way as not to shift once the ship is underway. For a shifting cargo might cause a boat to turn over in the harbor.

Workers' Grievances

The average wage of the longshoreman of the port of New Orleans was $15.75. This is the official one submitted by the New Orleans Stevedores' Association to the United States Government. This extreme-ly low weekly wage is due to the fact that work is very unsteady and that each man works only two or three days a week.

Not only are the wages of the dock workers low but he is also the unwilling victim of many abuses. The steamship com-

The foreman does thirty cents for placing a bale of cotton in the hold of a ship. Yet he pays each man only a cent a bale and he needs only eighteen men to make up a cotton loading crew.

Besides allowing this loading foreman to make an enormous profit on the longshoremen's labor, the big ship companies are not willing to recognize the union as the bargaining agent for the longshoremen. To have this union make a contract stevedore and pay him a fixed amount for different types of work. He, in turn, hires the longshoremen. For example, this boss steve-
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FELLOW BUILDERS

With this issue we are closing our campaign for the Maintenance Fund. Including those who have appeared on our list, a number of new pledgors have been added. We request that their names be withheld, and those who contribute without pledging, our Maintenance Fund approximates $2,500 annually. We have a large number of pledges since the last issue who have pledged with the request that their names be withheld, and those who should carry on our drives for aid in a number of years.

We are with this issue beginning a campaign for funds for capital equipment. We want to increase our dairy herd, buy hog-tight fences for all our fields, get up-to-date laundry machinery, and do a number of other things to improve living conditions and increase our industrial efficiency.

Some friends think it strange that we should carry on our drives for aid in a time of world depression. They forget that we continue to function—depression or no depression. Educational work is never ending. The need for workers' education was never greater. Depressions make our work just that much harder. We must even work harder and longer to get the little outside aid we must have to carry on.

Next issue we will begin listing grants for capital equipment.

THANKS, FRIENDS

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BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

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NEW ORLEANS STRIKE

(Continued from Page 2) all groups of the city to use their influence in the trouble. The mayor made an attempt, at the request of the union, to bring about a conference but the Steamship Association was not willing, saying that the men were framing up charges thus far brought against them.

Thus, it is perfectly clear that the longshoremen's union was slated for slaughter. The steamship companies took advantage of the unemployment situation to reduce wages and to break the union.

The Strike

When the strike went into effect the Steamship Association boasted they could get five men for every one that walked out. As they imported men from the immediately surrounding country, this boast proved true. However this new labor is very inefficient and unskilled. One ship had to return after starting on a voyage, as the loading of her cargo made her unsalvageable.

During some trouble in 1927, a permanent injunction had been secured by the New Orleans Steamship Association to the effect that men whom they could control would stand on the docks. Due to this injunction the picket line in the present strike is over a block away from the docks. Although the pickets are courageous and loyal, these are not very successful for the scabs are brought to work in trucks under police protection and also by tugs around to the front of the docks. Nevertheless, quite a few scalps have been used and some injured while many strikers have been arrested on various charges.

Altho they have been without work now for over three months, the men are cheerful and ready to stick with the union until matters are settled. The longshoremen claim that the owners will never succeed in starving them out, for as dockworkers most of them have been used to starving for years. Some help is given to the men by the union through a soup kitchen. The American Federation of Labor has been backing the strike to a certain extent. However, the union leader, Charles Stein, is really the brains of the organization. Everything from strategy to running the soup kitchen is under his supervision.

Stein, himself a longshoreman for twenty years, has the complete confidence of all the men and they are willing to stick with him until things are settled and the granting of working conditions cleared up. Even if the American Federation of Labor withdraws the little support it is giving, Stein is ready to carry on for he realizes that if the men lose they will work under conditions that are about equal to slavery.

Outlook Doubtful

As the key man to the situation, Stein is a marked man. The ship owners realize that he cannot be bought and therefore they have tried to frame him on four false charges for occasions. On one occasion the scene was set to "take him for a ride" but he was "tipped off." With Stein out of the way, the men would be like a ship without a captain. However, each of the four framed-up charges has been cleared against Stein have been disproved in court.

Altho the members of the union are showing great solidarity, the ship owners

SUMMER CAMP

Notices have appeared in several past issues of the Fortnightly concerning the Commonwealth College, which will operate in the Commonwealth College campus for the ten weeks period beginning June 10th. (Ever $85 for the ten-week period—$40 weekly). For boys believe in the scheme, and of; all. Parents who wish to register their boys are urged to contact Charlotte Moskovitz, camp secretary, Commonwealth College, Men. Arkansas.

SOCIETY NOTES

Zeuch Facts—cooks rejoice. For a week, no culinary allowance had to be made for Zeuch. He was cooking for the family by not eating, and rapidly approaching the top-notch of health, and a dashing figure (again, and maybe!). Then the strawberries began to come in, and here begins another tale.

Two Greens—but one retains the aristocratic flavor of a final "e." Greene Ernest Green blen in (a Texan always "blows in") from Sherman, non-committal in public but not so in private, or even informal groups, such as those hanging around the kitchen watching him dry dishes. Aside from that, he formerly looked after Upton Sinclair—managing his publishing interests and is now aiding his candidacy for the Nobel prize. Close on the heels of Ernest, came Malcom—just plain Green. However, he graduated from the University of Texas, and has been managing chain stores ever since (Note: think twice before marrying a Green—they seem to run to the supervising type). Mal gave us the "once over," and left to return with his trunk. He can do everything—write poetry, and he doesn't even try to do that—the likeable chap!

No Cymbals Clashed—but only because no cymbals could be found on the campus, otherwise Chucky's birthday was given all the furbelows. With her red braids set off by a wreath of flowers, Chucky looked swell enough, Emily considered, to deserve the magnificent and symmetrical cake the latter made and set before her. The honoree's dress is not remembered, but the cake was five inches of Devil's Food ornamented with nuts—not to speak of white frosting and pink candles.

Lou and Gabino—hike to Dallas, laden with love to Rigo from all the girls. What a man!

Temporary Exit—the Fulk family to the strawberry industry. Clay is in the business in a big way at McKea, Arkansas, and Lou and Gabino are managing the business in a big way, and Jimmy doing full justice to private consumption.

In Late June—or early July, Mr. and Mrs. Koch with Lucien and younger children, will visit Commonwealth en route to Oregon. The family home will be re-established there, even without Lucien, who falls to our good luck.

Younger and Brighter! Recently Ben, the fourth Engelstein to appear on the campus, dwelt among us for a glad while. Firt came David, probably the most courageous in the family. Then Joe and his wife, Bella. At present Brookwood is dividing honors with Commonwealth—Joe (Continued on Page 4)
At a recent meeting of the Scribblers' Club, where the creative writing efforts of the members of the group are read and criticized, a particularly "modern" modern poem was read and generally ridiculed by the "older generation" since members of the faculty over thirty-five—who declared that, "anyone could rattled off that formless stuff. It takes no skill to write poetry like that. Anyone can spew out such a poem in no time." "All right," the younger group challenged them, "go ahead and try it. Here. We'll give you each fifteen minutes right now and let's see what you can do." We are here publishing three of the poems which resulted—those of Richard Bosch, W. E. Zeech, and F. M. Goodhue. The other three—those of Clay Fulks, Earl Hanyone, and George Y. Rusk will be published in the next issue.

We will let our Fortnightly readers be the judges!

**FANTASY**

In the twilight of sleep
I see you
in a silvery twilight.

Dimly
Your body glanes
through floating leaves
— a pale shadow
flushing
with effortless fleetness.
I am motionless,
yet my yearning
soars
me to you.
It spells your flight
and
draws you to me.
—No words
thoughts
in time or space—
We are a rhymic
throb
in oblivion.
—R. B.

**POSSIBILITY**

Sententious
Yet corruscating,
Nascend, overwhelming.
Absolutes in vacuo—
Presses the urge.

The Flush in the East
Broadens and brightens—
Saw thou that dark threat,
Portentous and avid?
Prove and impotent,
Its wing shattered
Pool, don't you know
Yet that the chances are—
Yet
—F. M. G.

**ISRAEL MUFSON VISITS**

*Continued from Page 1*

growth of independent unions organized on an industrial and progressive basis.

"On the political field workers might fight through a political party for civil liberties and against capitalist class legislation. Most important for the immediate future is mass education and the development of labor leaders."

**SOCIETY NOTES**

*Continued from Page 3*

having gone there to study and Ben to visit him.

**SHOT ON SIGHT!**—The most gruesome announcement to be made in the Commons this year came at the beginning of the strawberry season. After a quiet winter of no more lurid announcements than "Laundry at twelve-thirty" and "Scribblers' Club at nine o'clock tonight," Mr. Bosch at one fell swoop destroyed our peace and serenity of mind, dashed to oblivion our fond hopes to acquire a strawberry or two on the side, and injected the fear of the Industrial Management in our hearts. "Anyone found in an unofficial capacity in the strawberry patch to be shot on sight."

In the evening—in the twilight, after denouncing hither and yon over the campus for a whole merry day—merrier still if it's raining—in stately, single file the ducks head for home, looking neither to the right nor the left. Can anyone's soul be so dead as not to thrill at this? Think how the Little Match Girl's eyes would pop out were they all roasted!

Fine Arts Department—incorporated in the public, yet, but surely Professors Hugo Fischel and Bill Leach would allow an eager student to pursue with them a course in the Aesthetics of Snake-kid tattooing. They prefer to experiment with rattlers, and refuse to divulge the number they have brought down, alone and unaided.

Still Another Southerner—Time was when to be a southerner at Commonwealth was a novelty and a privilege. Not so now. Slow to catch on, of course, but gaining momentum. This time it's Kentucky represented, in the person of Tipp Griggs, to stay and work with us a while, and help bring the campus speech down from Yankee "jargon" to "God's own drawl."

**PREMONITION**

Out of the depths,
up from the shadows,
rises the Form.

Girded with armour,
armed as for battle;
stern his countenance,
slight with purpose;
slowly,
silently,
massive,
mighty;
out of the mists of night
into the morning light
comes the Form.
—W. E. Z.

**WHAT IS IN A NAME?**

Cool late spring night winds howled about the wide eyes of the House in the Woods. Inside Father Zeech, stretched in his faded grey robe on an Indian-blanketed day bed in the soft reflected rays of an oil lamp, was chuckling over Van Loon's "Rembrandt," occasionally reading a choice passage to David who was immersed in a stack of books to prove that there are really historical social laws, mainly Marxian. Geraldine, faithful flame that she is, glowed softly in the corner of the room.

Suddenly a staccato of quick sharp rapping at the door startled the two readers. "I wonder who that can be at this time of the night," said Zeech in low tones, then raising his voice he called, "Come in!"

There was a queer sound of fumbling for the latch and of stumbling over the steps ending as a firm hand grasped the knob, swung the door wide and stepped into the lamplight. There was that brief and often embarrassing pause always discernable when utter strangers stand face to face. The night guest smiled. Darkly tanned of face, with greying hair and a compact body in walking clothes presented an agreeable picture. He bowed from the hips in an old-fashioned way as Zeech arose, and said "Dr. Zeech, I presume?"

"Yes," answered Zeech offering his hand, "and you?"

"I am Aabaa Zzyzz," he replied, shaking hands.

"Abe what?" asked Zeech with a puzzled look.

"Aabaa Zzyzz, A-a-b-a-a Z-z-y-z-z," he spelled it out smiling.

"What a name," laughed Zeech, "Why don't you call yourself Abe Ziz and be done with it?"

"Why don't you call yourself Bill Zzyk, Z-o-y-k and be done with it?" he countered.

"Wish I could," said Zeech, "but I had one of those stiff-necked fathers of German descent who would have nothing to do with simplification."

"And I was born nameless and named myself," Aabaa replied.

Then he started quite casually, as would be natural for one coming in, a stranger, at such an hour, to give a brief account of his most extraordinary life—an account which lasted, however, until three o'clock in the morning when David and Zeech made up a bed for him in the chimney corner next to Geraldine. That tale must wait, however, until another time.

Aabaa Zzyzz—AABAA ZZYZZ.
But after all, "what's in a name?"

**FLASHES OF PROSPERITY.**

*Continued from Page 1*

nearing completion. The one to have two lucky.

Homes have been mortgaged and everything salable has been sold. Some Arkansas workers have gone to Louisiana, Texas and Missouri. Children have been taken from school because it takes money to send them and to keep them in clothes for school.

According to President Adams there is no construction work in view for Arkansans. Workers have been helping each other but that cannot continue for long. And, as a bit of unconscious satire, the Chamber of Commerce asks these men to contribute to the Community Chest.