ROGERS SPEAKS AT OPENING CEREMONY

El Dorado Attorney Discusses Depression and Its Remedies

"Our government has billions to make the world safe for democracy in time of war, but not one cent to make America safe for the jobless in time of peace," declared Silas W. Rogers, an attorney of El Dorado, Arkansas, who spoke Sunday, October 11, before the largest crowd ever assembled at a Commonwealth College opening exercise.

"Why is it not just as consistent with sound principles of statecraft for the government to commandeer the wealth and man power of the nation against hunger in time of peace as against danger in time of war?" Mr. Rogers asked.

"It is the inequitable and unfair distribution of wealth that is the cause of all our financial troubles. Under consumption and not over production causes our grief. The proper distribution of wealth is just as essential to prosperity as is the abundant production of wealth."

Clay Fults, Commonwealth teacher, well known writer, and one-time Socialist candidate for governor of Arkansas, reviewed the philosophy of the old Socialist party. "Fifteen or twenty years ago," he said, "a group of strange men and women were going about the country with a terrible message—the prophecy of economic chaos and depression. The prediction of these long-haired men and short-haired women, fork-tongued and flannel-mouthed, has come to pass. The present depression is but a forerunner of a group. Commonwealth has come of age."

As has been told, Dr. Zeuch has gone to Europe to study. His plans originally called for a year abroad, but he now anticipates a longer stay. In announcing the termination of Dr. Zeuch's connection with Commonwealth, a few remarks are in order. The passing of the center of gravity from an individual to a group necessitates some change in management policies. In this instance, it is also accompanied by a certain shift of emphasis in the teaching aims of the school.

In all frankness, it must be recognized that in the past Commonwealth to a considerable extent was the school of one man. Others played an indispensable supplementary role, but by virtue of Dr. Zeuch's experience, academic standing and long residence on the campus, a large responsibility—perhaps too large a responsibility—fell on his shoulders. He himself often remarked that this situation should not be a permanent one. No one-man institution can endure forever.

Fortunately, during these pioneer years, the larger group necessary to carry on has been in the process of coming together. Teachers who first made a tentative connection with Commonwealth and then found it remarkably to their liking became absorbed into the life of the school and have developed their courses year by year. Young people who first came to Commonwealth four, six or eight years ago from the labor movement or the universities have been shaped and matured by influences inside and outside the school.

Today Commonwealth has a faculty... (Continued on Page 3)

Harold Coy finds New Labor Spirit

Former Commoner Is Impressed by Student Body and Faculty

Commonwealth has a keen young faculty, a promising body of students, a strong unified group and a dynamic concern with labor problems, in the opinion of Harold Coy, former instructor, who with his wife, Mildred Price, visited the school for a week in the early part of October.

Coy was instructor in English and journalism from 1924 to 1927. Since leaving Commonwealth he has married, visited Europe, worked on a newspaper and engaged in welfare work.

Coy declared that he was greatly impressed by the progress made in physical equipment since his day, but even more by the teaching staff which has evolved and by the excellent morale of the group.

"On visiting classes at Commonwealth," Coy observed, "I was remarkably impressed by the effectiveness of presentation throughout. In some instances the teaching was nothing short of brilliant, both in the clarity with which ideas were presented and in the success with which intelligent discussion was stimulated."

"Here is a keen teaching group that is on its toes every minute of the class period. Here also fortunately is a student group that looks remarkably promising."

"I particularly like the actively pro-labor spirit which animates the school. Of course, we were always pro-labor at Commonwealth, but I think at times we were a little too academically removed and not vitally concerned with contemporary struggles of labor. Today you feel that the faculty is not only better informed and more mature intellectually, but likewise is dynamically concerned with preparing young people to do something about the economic muddle in which the world finds itself."

"Liberals and radicals who deplore the supposed lack of young people willing to carry on the torch should pay a visit to Commonwealth. Here they would find assurance that the good old days are going to be followed by better new days and that there will be clear-visioned, courageous men and women to carry on the good battle."

"When I speak of courageous young people I am thinking both of students and faculty. On such people it is worth while pinning one's faith in the future."

"It is a pleasure to see the earnestness and sober judgment with which this group manages its affairs, whether it be drawing up a schedule of courses, writing labor news for the campus call newspaper, planning the opening exercises or getting in the peas... (Continued on Page 3)
The Paterson Strike

By David Kaplan.

The Union situation prior to the strike was in confusion. Three unions were in the field claiming jurisdiction over the silk industry: the United Textile Workers, the P. L. A., and the Associated Silk Workers. The P. L. A., under the leadership of F. L. of Paterson, had several locals of the more skilled crafts such as loom fixers and weavers; the Associated Silk Workers who had a membership composed of the silk weavers and a number of Communist workers organized within the National Textile Workers Union.

Some months ago, in answer to a call from a group of local members for an organization campaign, the Conference for Progressive Labor Action stepped into the Paterson area. The A. P. L. A. insisted upon (1) the amalgamation of the existing U. T. W. locals with the Associated Silk Workers; (2) that the amalgamated organization be connected with the United Textile Workers and thus connected with the American labor movement, but that the Silk Workers establish an autonomous federation of the U. T. W. analogous to the Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers Federation; (3) that there must be a vigorous campaign of organization and education leading up to a general strike. The aid of the American Fund for Public Service was enlisted and an appropriation of $5,000 for organization work in Paterson was granted through their representative Ben Gitlin.

Presently negotiations for the amalgamation of the two unions began in Paterson. Permission was granted by the United Textile Workers for the establishment of an autonomous Silk Workers' Federation within their ranks and on July 17 the Associated Silk Workers voted to amalgamate. The committee in charge of the amalgamation conferences with A. J. Muste and Louis Frances Budenz, both of the C. P. L. A., as chairman and secretary, was transformed into a joint committee to take upon organization work and prepare for a general strike.

In the meantime the Communists under the leadership of the National Textile Workers began a spirited campaign among the Paterson Silk Workers and called a general strike under their leadership for July 22nd.

Under pressure of Communist activities and the urging of the C. P. L. A. representatives the Joint Action Committee of the Amalgamated Unions voted on July 20th to call their general strike for August 3rd. The occurrence of the N. T. W. strike call, while not bringing many shops out on strike, brought considerable confusion into the situation. Earnest union men who were not in sympathy with the strike happened to call their general strike for August 29th in order to save that month for work. The result was that they faced with the situation of walking through the N. T. W. picket lines. Some shops which were not in sympathy with the N. T. W. quit work ahead of the strike date so as to save them from the embarrassment of being in a picketed shop. To avoid the confusion and disorganization which the N. T. W. were causing in their ranks, the Amalgamated Unions pushed up the date of the strike to July 22nd.

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SOCIETY NOTES

Peanut Hay has given a definite tone to society in the so-called "Married People's Dorm." The peanut plants were pulled up some time ago and stacked in teepee-like stacks, tops in and peanuts out. But it became evident that someone had blundered, for the tops began to mould. The hay is an important part of the crop. Thus the attacks torn up and the crop was spread in various places out of the rain, which we hope will come eventually. The porch of this dormitory was one such place, and the boys who live there (this year it is a boys' dorm) must wade up to their ankles in hay to get to their roots. An outbreak of hayfever was anticipated but none has been reported.

"Peanut Hall," by the way, might be a good name for this dormitory. "Married People's Dorm" is an awkward makeshift. "Hymen Hall" has been applied but does not stick. It seems too classical for the wealth's student body. Likewise no good name for this dormitory. People's Dorm" is an object that the name is given. But it was anticipated but the girls who now lives there, dislikes the name, a new name for the place. At first we are ever grateful for help. What shall we do with the institution long enough for Commonwealth ways to harden. With Dr. Zeuch here, the school is now able to come eventually. The Commonwealth, of course, can no longer be the handmaiden of no dogma or no faction within the labor movement. Perhaps a clarification or re-interpretation of what is meant by "non-propaganda education" is necessary. Some have assumed that such education resolves no doubts, hastens no decisions, urges no action. Such a devitalized kind of education could have no place in a vigorously progressive labor school like Commonwealth. Perhaps "non-factional" would convey this particular teaching aim of the school with less confusion.

The new arrangements will likewise inevitably modify the internal government of Commonwealth, not so much in its formulated policies as in the way in which these policies are carried out. While Dr. Zeuch now on, depends on its own strength and staff, a genuine problem at Commonwealth, and the intervention in 1916, becoming the bank department of the Haitian government.

COY FINDS NEW LABOR SPIRIT
(Continued from Page 1)

Pegasus Unshod
As Ridden by Commonwealth Versatiles

DISTORTED BEAUTY.
By Agnes Cunningham.

You would sing of the beauty of a wild white horse perishing, scaring its flowing mane to the wind—untamed beauty

You would sing of the beauty of a storm cloud green, withering boiling up from the horizon—threatening beauty

You would sing of the beauty of tawny cannabis painted, gibbering dancing its hideous death dance—savage beauty

You would sing of the beauty of a wind-torn ocean plunging, thundering belching froth at the sky—fierce beauty

I would sing of the beauty of starved humanity pain-racked, enwrapped clutching its shivered body and screaming oaths at God—distorted beauty.

Everything would go right if it were not for the "buts."—English proverb.
Print Shop Equipment
Purchased By College

Grant From Elmhirst Committee is Being Spent With Great Care

The Commonwealth print shop, long planned as a necessary part of the community, will be a reality shortly and it is hoped to send out a "Printed at Commonwealth" edition of the Fortnightly by the end of the first quarter, late in December.

Equipment for the shop was bought following months of correspondence and investigation, and will include one press, 12x18; type to print the Fortnightly, the Eagle, and will be located within a short distance of the Common-wealth. It will be handled by Lucien Koch, who has held that of CCC from time to time. "Other- wise the financial affairs of the college would impose too great a strain for any individual to bear.

When the bank balance stands at zero, when the kitchen is out of flour and salt pork, when students and teachers have contributed all of their own cash, and when the mail man brings only bills on accounts overdue, then indeed it requires a robust faith to say, 'We'll be getting a check to-morrow.'

"It is said that when a Mexican is hungry and can get no food, he sires his children and sends them to the nearest store to buy the necessities of life. Thus the Community College, who is always ready to help his fellow man, is to enjoy a 'Mexican lunch.'"

A 'friend of Commonwealth who sends money to the school may be sure that his contribution arrived just in the nick of time, for 'with us any time is a nick.' We operate on a careful budget, our accounts are scrupulously kept, and yet we are always poor. We are confident that Commonwealth is the most economical college in the world. Our specialty is getting along on almost nothing."

"It might seem that this financial uncertainty would indicate instability; however, Commonwealth carries on year after year, improving its capital equipment and increasing its good will, in spite of this extreme poverty. We are beginning to feel that the institution is permanent. It survives at a time when other institutions, with larger endowments, are in a financial bind."

"The readers of the Fortnightly should bear this in mind when they read the words, 'Thanks Friends,' over the list of current donations. It is apparent that our thanks are sincere."

The tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not so dangerous to the public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in a democracy.

De Montesquieu.

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COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE FORTNIGHTLY
November 1, 1931

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Work on the shop building is to be started within a short time and lumber has been prepared. It will be located near White Lodge and will measure 20x30 feet, with the basement on a storage for paper stock. Group labor, as in all Commonwealth construction work, will be used and Director Lucien Koch is expected to handle a large part of the carpentry.

The present format of the Fortnightly is to be continued, except for 10-point type instead of the 8-point which has been used for recent issues. Century, a clear-printing face, will make up the body of the paper with headlines unchanged. One hundred pounds of body type alone is required for a single edition.

The shop will be in charge of Harry L. Cohen, who returned to Commonwealth during the summer after an absence of one year.

The purchase of the shop was made possible through a grant from the Mrs. Leonard Elmhirst Committee. The printery is expected to save about $300 a year for Commonwealth.

THE PATERSOIN STRIKE
(Continued From Page 1)

The demands for which the strike was called are principally: the restoration of the eight hour day; abolition of overtime; not less than 35 per cent increase in piece rates for broad silk weavers, proportionate increases for auxiliary help; a minimum of $24 per week for dyers' helpers, the union scale for all loom fixers, and recognition of the union.

The strike scene at Paterson presents an instructive example of strike activity amongst the unorganized and unskilled workers in the United States. The labor organizations involved here do not confine their activity to any trade or locality, but reach into every community, and every one of the strikers organized.

The style of the American unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. receives no more support from the organization than the loan of their name and a half hearted approval of the leaders and initiative of the strike are members of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action. The avowed program of the C. P. L. A. is to organize the unorganized; bring militancy and democracy into the Trade Unions; replace timid and reactionary labor leaders with more vigorous and progressive leadership; and the establishment of a Labor Party.

On a united front with the C. P. L. A. in this strike are the Lovestone Communists, the so-called "right opposition" within the Communist movement, who were expelled from the Communist party. Although differing from the Communist party on certain questions of economic analysis and tactics, they are essentially communist and stand for the radicalization of the working class, complete destruction of capitalism, revolution and proletarian dictatorship.

The National Textile Workers' strike is led by members of the official Communist party. The National Textile Workers' Union is made up of Communists, a radical wing of the National Textile League, a Communist party subsidiary on the industrial front. Their program, industrially, is to break the conservative A. F. of L. unions, and to organize radical unions under Communist leadership; to organize the unorganized; unite all workers industrially under the banner of the T. U. U. and politically under the Communist party.

Members of the "Left Opposition" Communists, and the so-called "left wing" of the Communist party, sometimes known as Trotskyites, are working within the National Textile Workers' Union.

A split from the Left Opposition, known as the Communist League of Struggle, offered their assistance to the N. T. U. but were bluntly refused. When they insisted on a hearing, they were ejected from the hall, and the chief, Albert Weinbrech, leader of the 1926 Passaic strike, was given a hearty thrashing.

Students of labor schools are showing their value through participation in this strike. Among them are three Commonwealth students. Bella Englestein, a Commonwealth student, has the distinction of being the most arrested picket in the A. F. of L. Union's ranks. Bella is a picket captain and relief worker.

Strikes have been recorded in the Paterson Textile Mills for one hundred years. Many of them are important episodes in labor history. Unions have been built almost overnight on a wave of strike enthusiasm and then have deteriorated. There were but little over 1,000 members in the combined unions when the present strike was called. About 4,000 new members have already taken out union cards in the A. F. of L. Union alone.

Under circumstances of this kind it is difficult to predict the outcome of the present strike or to forecast whether the Unions will succeed in holding their membership.

The Silk Industry is in a precarious state of over-expansion and needs to be stabilized. There are 750 establishments in Paterson, including dye shops, operating in the production of silk fabrics and employing 15,000 workers. Twelve of these mills employ about one-half, or 7,500, of these workers; thirty-eight other mills employ about 6,000 workers more; the other 11 mills employ the remaining 1,000 workers.

The above figures reveal the extent to which the industry is harbouring the house- hold manufacturer, (the unionists call them cock-roaches), a small producer operating few looms and employing chiefly himself and family. The majority of these 790 concerns are sub-marginal producers who exist only because of the long hours they work. They are a demoralizing force in the industry, engaging in cut-throat competition, lowering standards and wages and working conditions.

A strong trade union organized over the entire industry that could succeed in equalizing wages and conditions and stop the war on labor would of itself be a tremendous stabilizing force in the industry, and a boon to some 130,000 workers employed in silks in the United States.