COMMONERS RENEW CONTACTS IN EAST
Koch and Coy Meet Many Old and Many New Friends of School

Revived enthusiasm of Commonwealth's old friends and students, combined with the genuine interest of new contacts gives an optimistic tenor to letters from Lucien Koch and Harold Coy. "I think this trip will do a lot in building support for Commonwealth, if not immediate at least potential," they wrote after they had been in New York two weeks and had seen many of the people who are concerned about the college either because they have been here or because they want to see such a venture succeed. Two days later a letter came saying: "On the whole people here show a real interest, and I think we are laying some good foundations for publicity and student prospects."

These two Commonwealth representatives, Lucien Koch, the director, and Harold Coy, teacher of Foreign Affairs, arrived in New York on December 14, having made stops at Girard, Kansas, and St. Louis. They left the college on December 2. All along the way brief messages were sent back telling of hitch-hiking experiences, various hostelries encountered, the unemployment situation in towns en route, the out-of-the-ordinary people met with on the road,—in short, a fleeting picture of American culture of the Middle West and East.

Upon arriving in New York they lost no time in making engagements for Director Koch to speak before various liberal and labor groups, and for both to talk over Commonwealth's present and future with individuals who are the college's loyal supporters in finances and counsel. Talks were given before such groups as a class in Capitalism and Socialism at a seminar in Trade Unionism at New York University, the Young Circle League, the 1, W. W., the Holo College, the Hosiery Workers' Union in Paterson, a Locomotive group, and many others whose interest and influence will be of great value to Commonwealth. "At every meeting there were always people who expressed a desire to come as students or to keep in touch with what the college is doing."

At the Holo College an entertainment was put on for the benefit of the Commoners, which included recitals of poetry, songs, and a few skits. "Then Lucien sang some Commonwealth songs for them and told them about the college. We had a very jolly time, and they seemed to think we were all right. They elected us to honorary membership in the Holo Fellowship of America, and gave us tickets to an en-

CHICAGO TRIP PLANNED
A publicity trip through the Middle West is now being planned for Lucien Koch, director of Commonwealth, for early summer.

The route will include St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago, Milwaukee, and Detroit. Nearby cities will also be visited if definite speaking dates are arranged. All friends of Commonwealth who have connections with liberal and radical groups before which Koch might speak will please communicate with the Commonwealth office for more detailed information. Lecture topics and cost of trip route and time schedule will be announced in a later issue of the Fortnightly.

ENROLLMENT SHOWS GAIN FOR WINTER
Unprecedented Increase Credited to Efforts of Former Students

With a student body increased by nearly 100 per cent, Commonwealth began its winter quarter December 28. Students from 18 states and two foreign countries are now enrolled. This large increase in enrollment is unprecedented. Usually during past years enrollment for the winter quarter has been less than for the fall quarter.

The increase is attributed partly to an active campaign to reach young men and women all over the nation and to inform them what Commonwealth is seeking to do as an educational force towards a militant labor movement in this country.

More than 300 persons wrote in within a period of two months and continue to come in now at the rate of 20 a day. From this number of interested young men and women come a few of the sort desired by the Commonwealth faculty.

Some come from the factories and mines which have shut down. They are anxious to study and discuss the problems which concern them as unemployed workers during a crisis and as exploited workers during "prosperity." Others come from the orthodox colleges and universities and are seriously concerned about their functions and duties in helping to organize a class-conscious movement of workers and farmers in America.

For the first time in the history of the school Chicago has more representatives at Commonwealth than has New York City. Germany is the best represented foreign country, five of the present group having been born there.

Fifteen courses are being taught by Commonwealth's twelve teachers. The courses are: Economic Problems, Labor Law, American Labor History, Medieval History, Modern Imperialism, Social Psychology, Advanced Writing, Labor Journalism, Effective Writing, Public Speaking, Advanced German, Beginning German, Shorthand and Typewriting. The largest classes are those in Modern Imperialism taught by Harold Coy and Mildred Price, Advanced Writing taught by William Cunningham, and Public Speaking taught by David Englestein.

Married couples are more numerous this year than is usually the case. Girl students are decidedly in the minority, the proportion being four men to one girl. Al- though the boys are still the fewest in the girls' quarters, the dormitories occupied by the boys and the married people look very much occupied.

(Continued on Page 4)
The Left Wing and the Various "Isms"

By Alice Ettinger

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following experiences and conclusions of a nineteen-year-old Commonwealth student are of interest et connotations indicating what at least some members of the "younger generation" are thinking. The author was formerly a student at the University of Chicago.

Recent activities on the part of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action, Revolutionary Age, the Lovestone publication, the Daily Worker, and other labor groups--miners' heads are being broken in Pennsylvania, radical re-alignment and consolidation of militant factors in the labor movement. The conviction that there was a tremendous need for re-alignment came to me at a time when I was introduced with the lethargy of the Socialist Party, dominated as it is by conservative "Old Timers"; appalled at the rutted firewalls of the Communist Party, and fiercely determined to solve the Socialists would be part of an American labor movement for intelligent, revolutionary action. I helped in the formation of a left-wing group of young people in a Socialist local in Chicago this fall, and we ran up against an awful indisposition on the part of the older members in power to do anything but talk. The only action we got from these Socialists was immediate action to suppress our militant group. I have attended several Socialist meetings and found a disposition of indifference, confusion, and the phraseology of 1917 Russia, along with what seemed to be genuine revolutionary leadership. My experience with the Socialists has taught me one thing, and that is that we must stop making a fetish of democracy. We must stop naively assuming that America can be treated as a political democracy, that when we know that power is held absolutely by an economic oligarchy. We must stop talking legislative reformism, when we know that the best American way to avoid doing anything about an issue is to write it as a law into the statute books. We must stop insisting upon the letter of democracy as regards internal organization, for while workers are not on the job, the number of delegates each group may elect to a grand convention is determined by the membership of delegations; each group may elect to a grand convention is determined by the membership of the group. The old idea of a wage-cut tomorrow, no job next week, lung poisoning in ten years, or homelessness at any moment, and say to them in the simplest words we can find that we offer a way out if they will get together on their common dissatisfaction and put a political party into power which will give them neither empty talk nor a full dinner pail, but jobs, status, security, common ownership of land and industry--which will give their country back to them.

In such a way we must adapt our propaganda to the psychology of the American wage-earner and the historical background of America, so that it seems more concerned with the worker himself than with any "ism" or future goal. We must gear the objectives of the revolutionary labor movement in the terms of the average man in the street--terms which answer the needs of the American workers today. We must set to work at once to become leaders of their industrial and political organizations. We must recognize, but not urge, the possibility of an armed, violent class conflict in the activities of the labor movement at any time. We must, as intelligent militants, constitute ourselves a group of what Lenin called "professional revolutionists" to direct the American masses to a position of economic power and control of the government.

I think there are a great many sane people in America who subscribe to such an attitude and want to do something. I have great faith in the new trend toward militant re-alignment, if it really means to build up a consolidated, fighting organization and not merely to go to opposition parties. If the new group is sophisticated as to propaganda technique, not afraid to be "agin the government," and does not pretend that an all-out effort to have...
Imagine having bathrooms with hot water all the time—and all the butter you want, and cream in your coffee?

DOROTHY MAYER,
Former Commonwealth student now at Brookwood.

You may tell all my friends that I had a terrible time to get down to earth when I returned. I tell everybody that I enjoyed the three best months of my life at Commonwealth.

SAMUEL J. GURRARD,
Philadelphia Attorney, former Commonwealth student.

I attended a couple of hearings of the committee on unemployment insurance. Representatives of the employers showed that employers are now on the verge of bankruptcy and would likely be completely out of business if a bill were enacted. Why should a man be paid a dole when he doesn't work? Besides, we are Americans and believe in the divine plan of individualism, private initiative, private responsibility, etc. etc.

Former Commonwealth student, now at Wisconsin University.

Conditions are critical in the extreme here. Multitudes are already destitute and many more, farmers, store keepers and bankers, find bankruptcy and economic ruin staring them in the face, with cotton selling for less than 7c a pound. Such a price is decidedly below the cost of production. I understand gainers are going to attempt to keep the price of ginning up to last year's when cotton was selling for twice what it is now. Negro wage slaves are now working here on the municipal water mains digging ditches for 12 1-2c an hour. The new paper is not a rival publication, but has an entirely different function than that of the "Bluff." The "Peril" is a journal of controversy and comment. All contributions are published and comment. All papers are "wall newspapers." The material is typed and tacked upon large bulletin boards which are placed in the Commons, as the dining hall is called.

The new publication contains a great variety of material ranging from weather reports to lyric poetry. It gets its name from the fact that it uses only pink paper. Among the most added to is "Life in the Rough," by Marion Hille. Marion declares that "I wandered over the whole world in search of the true proletarian culture, and always I was met with sardine cans and an occasional wisecrack. Often I have been on the verge of giving up the search. But something told me that somewhere there must be the simple life of the proletariat, undefiled by bourgeios influence. And my search has been rewarded. At last I have found it in the bathroom of one of the cottages on the campus of Commonwealth. . . . The sole furnishings are a nail and a toothbrush near a box of soda, and a box of gold dust near a wash cloth. On the nail is a towel. And I am satisfied that I have seen life in the rough at its roughest."

Another article entitled "Suggestion at Commonwealth," defines the term "suggestion," gives instances of the working of the power of suggestion. At Commonwealth, and concludes that "the rain, the sunshine, visitors, new students, letters, cheese, crackers, a wisecrack, or even a ready-made cigarette" may become potent influences in the life of the group.

Eighty-eight eggs to be fried, scrambled, or disguised in paunch or French toast is the monumental problem of our breakfast cook, now that the student body has grown so large. Mixing up batter for the morning meal has reminded more than one number of the kitchen crew recently of a stone mason mixing cement. Most people are never at their best before breakfast, anyhow, and a hungry crowd of forty-four clamoring for eggs at 6:30 a.m. is enough to dishearten any cook. Due to the influence of Clarice's biscuits, the new ordinance is that everyone must wait in line for his morning meal has reminded the Pilgrim vacationers was Barney, the nuce, who departed for points west during the holiday week. He forgot to leave behind a forwarding address where he might be reached, so for several days there were frantic search warrants covering the entire state for his address and return. But Barney is an independent soul, as Bill Sligh who drives the team knows from experience, and he came trotting home after Christmas with a happy smile on his face and an air of mystery. Confronted with persistent cross-examination, he would not disclose the nature of his vacation. As this paper goes to press, Barney still refuses to talk.

"A Symphony in Dynamite" would be a good title for the impressive music played for us each afternoon by Clyde Washington. Clyde is a neighbor who contracted, last summer, to dig us a well behind the sweet potato dryer. As might have been expected, he struck solid rock a few feet below the surface of the ground, whereupon he began his thunderous music. To ease somewhat the shock upon our nerves and to give us an opportunity to get out of the way of falling rocks, Clyde blows a long blast upon a police whistle as he lights the fuse. Then we wait tense until thunder smites our ears and the ground quakes beneath our feet. Clyde plays with fingers of dynamite upon a great instrument, the earth itself, and his concerts are soul-stirring.

I wept when I was born and everyday explains why.—Spanish Proverb.

February 1, 1932
COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE FORTNIGHTLY
Page Three

CORRESPONDENCE

New Paper Appears On Commons Wall

"The Pink Peril," a new campus paper, has recently made its appearance at Commonwealth. "The Campus Bluff," has been covering the news for many years. The new paper is not a rival publication, but has an entirely different function than that of the "Bluff.

The "Peril" is a journal of controversy and comment. All contributions are published and comment. All papers are "wall newspapers." The material is typed and tacked upon large bulletin boards which are placed in the Commons, as the dining hall is called.

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Other features include a column of appropriately comment by Flora Watson, five cartoons, a long article entitled "Should Students Be Driven?", and another article answering this one, a news story telling that a former Commonwealth student long given up for dead is alive and well, and two poems.

SOCIETY NOTES

CHICAGO EDUCATOR VISITS FOR CARNEGIE CORPORATION

W. H. Randall, representing the Carnegie Corporation of New York, visited Commonwealth recently for one day, getting acquainted with teachers and students, looking over the plant and equipment, and discussing the educational aims of the institution.

Mr. Randall, who is on the faculty of the University of Chicago, was much interested in the unique features of the school. In return for an explanation of how Carnegie operates academically, he described the new educational plan at Chicago.

Man is a reasonable being—when his reason has access to the knowledge which is its natural food.—Alfred Zimmern.

The LEFT WING and THE VARIOUS "ISMS"

Our heads blown out in a "free-for-all" with the United States militia, it can gather together the scattered radical elements of the labor movement, and wield them into a strong instrument of class struggle.

[Continued from Page 2]
THANKS, FRIENDS

CASH

Elisabeth Brandes, Washington, D. C. $ 25.00
Fred Ramove, Baltimore, Md. 1.00
E. C. Keupel, New York City 10.00
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BOOKS AND MAGAZINES


ENROLLMENT SHOWS GAIN FOR WINTER

The student body is made up of masons, tin smiths, stenographers, machine shop workers, farmers, telephone operators, book-keepers, miners, mechanics, carpenters, nurses, and textile workers.

Hitch-hiking is still the popular mode of travel with Commonwealth students, all except seven of the present group having arrived by that method.

Life is made up of sobs, snatches and smiles with snifflles predominating. - O. Henry.

If you receive and enjoy the Fortnightly, if your subscription is unpaid or overdue and you wish it continued, please fill out the blank below and mail it, with one dollar, at once.

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BOOK REVIEW

AN ANTHOLOGY OF REVOLUTIONARY POETRY edited by Marcus Graham, $2.00, 225 pages, published by the author, Stetson, N. J.

Poets are commonly thought of as nostalgic creatures, meandering over the lost glories of departed experiences. But here is a collective note of verse enunciated by poets who are uncompromising enemies of the status quo. The discontent with the tyranny of circumstance, which the various selections portray, symbolizes the birthpangs of the co-operative commonwealth. The ideal of human brotherhood has intrigued every social-minded artist, and The Anthology of Revolutionary Poetry is a many-winged messenger of that ideal. Marcus Graham is to be complimented for his judgment in the selection of the contents, as well as for the variety of poets represented. After years of labor he has produced an anthology of rebellion which includes extracts from the ancients, such as Euripides, the "fore-runners," such as Shelley and Swinburne, and the moderns, typified by Edward Carpenter and Arturo Giovannitti. Covington Hall and Williams Kennedy Moyer, two former members of the Commonwealth Community, are also among the many whose verse is included in this volume.

In such an eminently collection it is difficult to single out poems for individual reference. "The Cry of the People" by John G. Neihardt may be said to typify the spirit of the anthology. I quote the first verse:

"Tremble before your chattels,
Lords of the scheme of things!
Fighters of all earth's battles,
Our is the might of kings!
Guided by seers and sages,
The world's heart-beat for a drum,
Snapping the chains of age,
Out of the night we come!

—Harold Preece

NEIGHBORS VIEW EFFORTS OF AMATEUR DRAMATISTS

(Continued from Page 1)
play, preferably one written on the campus, every two weeks. "Hunger," the adaptation of a radical short story, and "The Red and the Blue," a short satiric comedy by Marian Hille, a student, were presented before the college group and neighbors on January 16. A mass recitation, "Russia 1917-21," will be part of the Lenin Memorial Program for the following Saturday. There are about fifteen students now participating in the dramatic group, either writing, acting, or staging, and it is hoped that a real experimental theater will develop. A raised platform to serve as stage is being built at the north end of the Commons, but until further improvements can be made, the productions will be performed in the Auditorium.

In other men we faults can spy,
And blame the note that dims their eye,
Each little speck and blemish find,
To our own stronger errors blind.

—John Gay.