FALL ENROLLMENT TO BE RECORD BREAKER

Many Trades Are Represented
By More Than Half a Hundred Students

Editor's note: H. Lee Jones, Commonwealth teacher, and Hugo Fischer, student, recently visited the area of the farm strike in Iowa, and Hugo writes for readers of the Fortnightly the following vivid account of his impressions while there.

The farm strikers are just a bunch of hoodlums, according to the shopkeepers, business men and editors in Des Moines and Sioux City.

"The decent farmers stay at home. Imagine our peaceful and law abiding prairie farmer going out assaulting truck drivers, camping in tents, growing long whiskers—it is absurd—it is impossible."

However, when Lee and I met the first picket on Road 141, we immediately learned that these people were not hoodlums by any means. There is not the slightest doubt in our minds that the strikers on the picket line were local farmers. One could tell by the way they were greeted by the people in the cars passing by, and the way they addressed the truck drivers they stopped. A trial against farm strikers before the police court in Sioux City, which Lee and I attended, also revealed this fact. These farmers were sentenced for unlawful assembly and disorderly conduct to fines from $30 to $200. All of these farmers, with perhaps a few exceptions, were living around Sioux City and were at one time prosperous farmers.

Of course it is easy to see why the business men of Sioux City try to malign the strikers. The strike is costing them several thousand dollars every day. That is the reason why two-hundred Sioux Cityans belonging to the Chamber of Commerce asked the governor to call out the militia. The Chamber of Commerce, in order to get the militia and the unemployed in particular, hostile to the strikers, also came out with the statement that the strike was hurting employment in Sioux City.

However, this did not work. The unemployed held a demonstration and adopted a resolution offering the strikers their help.

HAL WARE EXPLAINS PLAN OF RADICAL FARMERS

Considers Present Leadership of Holiday Association Too Conservative

Hal Ware, student of the farm situation, believes that the leadership of the Farmers' Holiday Association is much too conservative to suit the rank and file membership. Ware and Rob Hall, a Columbia University student who led the student delegation to the Kentucky coal fields last spring, were recent visitors at Commonwealth.

Speaking at the Commonwealth forum, Ware told his experiences in the farm strike area. He read a copy of the "Madison County plan," which he predicts will soon become an issue in the Holiday Association. This plan was formed by farmers of Madison County, Nebraska, and has been adopted by several other counties in that state. It bears little resemblance to the "Golden Rule" program of Milo Reno.

This plan demands "cost of production plus an amount which will insure a decent standard of living." It demands a "mortgaging or mortgaging and interest for poor farmers" until prices are such that the farmer has his share of the good things of life. It demands the cancellation of feed and seed loans by the government, exemption from taxes.

COY LEAVES FOR FALL

Because Commonwealth cannot pay salaries to its teachers and because Kansas poll causes hay fever, Harold Coy, teacher of current events, will not be at Commonwealth during the fall quarter.

Mildred Price, his wife, and Christopher, his small son, will be here after October, according to present plans. Harold will work for the Community Fund of St. Louis, at a job similar to the one he held before he came to Commonwealth a year ago.

The Ink forum has been meeting regularly and the organizers of the forum.

PLAN FREE SPEECH TEMPLE

A temple of free speech to be owned by all the people of the world is being planned at Ink, a small town about eighteen miles from Commonwealth. The Ink forum has been meeting regularly but now it has been denied the privilege of using both the church and school house.

Forum leaders are now planning a campaign to raise $300 or more to erect a building. Land has already been donated by Billy Gilbert, one to the organizers of the forum.
The political situation in the Southwest has a peculiar significance for the labor movement. Since none of the states included are "doubtful," party lines may be disregarded, and we may distinguish three important groups: the business class, greedy, corrupt, well-organized but vastly outnumbered; the intelligent section of the farmer-laborer class, restless but leaderless; the moronic minority made up of small business men, tarheel lawyers, fundamentalist farmers and workers, etc., who have little in common except stupidity and prejudice. The latter group is important because it holds the balance of power.

From this situation there emerges a special type of political leader, the moronagogue. In all sections and all nations there have been demagogues, but it has remained for Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and now Kansas to bring forth a new sort of hero to make the demagogue look by comparison like Thomas Jefferson.

The first of these was Jack Walton of Oklahoma and in a sense Jack has set the pace for all the others. Even in prosperous times he made good use of discontent, cleaning up on the Babbitt of Oklahoma City in his campaign for mayor and finally beating the middle class to a standstill in his race for governor. It is said that he has the mentality of a twelve-year-old. Certainly his conduct of the office of governor would indicate arrested development.

After a rumpus that might have ended in civil war, Jack was kicked out. He went into the oil business and, it is alleged, swindled a few of his moronic followers. Now he is back into politics and seems destined to return to his former glory.

Jim and Ma Ferguson rose to supreme power in Texas, were thoroughly discredited, and now are back in the saddle. Apparently nothing can stop them.

The Louisiana Kingfish, Huey Long, might have had exactly the same experience, except that he was adroit enough to manipulate the legislature. He wins the votes of the "people" by using loud speakers, the militia, and a steam calliope. Recently he invade Arkansas and carried off all the honors. If Louisiana and Arkansas were a nation, Huey would be a dictator. No middle class hero can stand against him.

And lately Kansas has tumbled for a moronagogue. Dr. John R. Brinkley is called the "goat gland quack" even by the Associated Press. Kicked out of the medical profession, he made such a stir that the simpering sympathy of the state was aroused, and probably he will be the next governor. He campaigns in a garish truck which he calls "Ammunition Train No. 1." He promises to reduce taxes, to pave hundreds of miles of road in every county in the state, to build artificial lakes, to furnish free text books.

All of these leaders have suffered martyrdom and have profited greatly. All of them use the most wildly sensational methods.

Alfalfa Bill Murray might appear at first glance to be of their kind, but Alfalfa Bill has redeeming traits. He continues to hold the respect of progressives and even of certain mild radicals. No one would maintain that he is a statesman, but his office is not in the shambles and he seems to be in no danger of impeachment.

And so the moronagogue has conquered the business-class leaders. It is amusing to watch the efforts of these latter to hold on to power. The Times-Picayune and the Daily Oklahoman as middle-class organs are constantly being made ridiculous. In fact it has been observed for a long time that no one can win a high office in Oklahoma unless the Oklahoman is fighting him. It would be politically expedient for a candidate who could not win the enmity of this paper to throw a brick through the window of its press room.

But if Walton and Brinkley are mistaken for proletarian leaders the situation is hopeless. If mass discontent

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FALL ENROLLMENT TO BE RECORD BREAKER

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the native tongue of all except four of the group. Men students outnumber the girls three to one.

Organizations to which these students have belonged include the John Reed Club, Socialist Party, Y. P. S. L., Pythian Lodge, National Student League, Friends of Soviet Russia, DeMolay, Red Cross, American Forestry Association, German Metal Workers Union, Young Circle League, Masonic Lodge, Hull House Creative Writing Group, South Wales Miners Federation and many others.

Nine of the students are under twenty; three are over thirty. The average age is twenty-four. Forty-five of them have been through high school or its equivalent. One has done graduate work, and five others have degrees. Most of them come from proletarian homes. All have struggled with poverty. A few had managed to get into the "white collar" class before the depression but without exception they have given up their ambition to "make good" financially. All of them knew before the depression that something was wrong with the economic system. Most of them have attempted to do something in the labor movement.

Commonwealth's rapid growth during the past year cannot be ascribed in any large part to the reduced income of the school-attending portion of the population, since there was no gain between 1929 and 1931. About a year ago the school adopted a more militant policy and began to take an active interest in labor struggles. This change, in keeping with the times, is largely responsible, it is thought, for the phenomenal growth.

Adoption of Present Policy

Commonwealth's Enrollment Continues to Grow

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WARE EXPLAINS PLAN OF RADICAL FARMERS

Continued from page One

Commonwealth
Fortnightly

PRINT'D AT COMMONWEALTH
BY STUDENT AND TEACHER LABOR

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Signed articles express only individual opinion.

Editors, particularly of labor and farmer papers, are welcome to make free use of material appearing in these columns. A line credit the Commonwealth College Fortnightly will be appreciated.

WHAT IS COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE?
Commonwealth was organized in 1923 to provide education for workers on a self-supporting basis.

Commonwealth seeks to develop in young men and women the capacity and desire to serve the interests of labor and the common people.

Commonwealth is located in the heart of the Quakibias, the southernmost range of the Ozarks, where it operates agricultural and other basic industries by means of the productive power of the students and tenants.

Commonwealth is the only institution for higher education where both teachers and students earn their keep by hard, full time labor while engaged in academic work.

Commonwealth is the only college owned and operated by its resident teachers and students.

Commonwealth is a non-sectarian, non-factional institution; it sponsors no particular religious, political or economic dogma. It holds that courageous action, based on scientific experimentation, carries the best hope of adjustment or solution of social problems.

It is the purpose of this college to do its share in elevating such fellows, the Southwest is so abundant.

What happens is that they control the dimwit minority, and they do so by a technique which is their specialty. The intelligent farmer or mountaineer or industrial worker, called upon to choose between his avowed enemy, the business man, and his alleged friend, the land owner, he chooses the latter. Thus the overwhelming majorities piled up for incompetence.

There is reason for this choice. Objectional as she is, Ma Ferguson is to be preferred to Sterling. Sensational incompetence is at least better than competitive dishonesty.

The labor movement must of necessity be built slowly. On the political front it cannot be created overnight, as can a Walton machine. It must be fairly honest and intelligent. It must be a movement rather than a man, and therefore it cannot hope to win the support of the minority. Perhaps it cannot succeed politically until the situation has so changed that this minority loses the balance of power.

Any number of interesting questions might be raised. Here is one: Would it be wise or expedient for a Socialist candidate to accept an offer to campaign with a caliope and "singing cowboy", and if so, who is going to pay the campaign expenses?

taxes to take place before December 1, and a moratorium on rents. It demands that there be no more evictions and promises united action for this purpose. The Madison County farmers will "give free food and milk to the unemployed and needy of the cities.

NO DUES

These farmers are "resolved that the Nebraska Holiday Association shall be representative of farmers only." The by-laws declare: "The day of the salaried 'leaders' is over. Therefore no dues shall be collected nor shall any officer or organizer receive a salary."

Ware also presented to the Commonwealth group a plan that has been drawn up by Arkansas tenant farmers. It reads in part as follows:

"We tenants and croppers who face hunger, ruin and starvation when our leases expire in January must have emergency relief from the government."

"Under our contracts we have no security in our homes, and the natural resources in which all society is interested are wasted by forcing upon us a form of 'catch as catch can' agriculture that robs us but robs the land. The tenant farmer has nothing to encourage him in building, beautifying, or improving his home. We know from bitter experience that we can expect no mercy from our creditors. We know that our landlords have the power to sell us out without any consideration of the human suffering that will follow."

"We know that the fertilizer companies make profits on manufacturing and then add illegal rates of interest to these debts. We know that all our creditors have piled up upon us the same load by criminal statutes."

"Therefore we resolve to organize and elect representative farmers from our community to join with the rank and file farmers throughout the country by sending a truck load of delegates to present the following demands to the Farmers Emergency League Relief Conference called together in Washington, D.C., at the time that Congress convenes."

DEMANDS

"1. We demand immediate cash relief for the tenant farmers from the federal government and the banks. There must be paid to each tenant farmer and each day laborer a sum of $15 for himself and $15 for each member of his destitute family. We demand that these funds be administered and accounted for by a committee of tenant farmers who will see to it that the waste, the graft, and the dirty principle of putting profits and our very lives in the hands of favored business men who live on our labor shall be stopped now and forever."

"2. Because the products of the farm are necessary to all and must not stop, we demand that p'oids, debts, interest, and personal taxes be waived until sufficient income is deducted to keep the producers of farm product in health and decency.

"3. The government has canceled the debts of the European governments. We demand, therefore, that collection of seed and feed loans owing to the government and loans owing to the intermediary Credit Corporation be postponed until the income from the farmers' products be above the sum necessary for a living standard of health and decency.

"4. We demand that the law guarantee to tenants security of residency up to the expiration of the contract. Any interference, threats, or demands of the landlord shall be considered a violation of this law and shall be punished as necessary.

"5. We demand that there be no evictions. We demand that the governors, sheriffs and law enforcement officers publicly pledge themselves at once against evictions. If our lawfully elected representatives fail in this, we pledge ourselves ready to save our own farmers from eviction by united action."

Ware and Lem Harris, who together studied the farm situation in both Russia and the United States, recently started "The Farm News Letter," a weekly publication to be issued from Washington, D. C. This publication will be sent free to all farmers who are willing to contribute to it.

Rob Hall, who is accompanying Ware on this trip, will take over the job of editing the news letter after he has familiarized himself with conditions in the various sections of the country. Hall was one of the organizers of the National Students League and he explained to Commonweathers the purposes of that organization.

IT HAS BEENOVERED . . . .

The Post Office Department in its infinite wisdom to charge publishers for notification of changes of address in mailing lists. Hence the Fortnightly pays when you move and don't tell us. You can have a better paper and help us by dropping us a line before your address changes. Thanks.
It's been a rare town trip the last few days that hasn't brought at least one new face to the campus. With the fall quarter in the offering students are beginning to file in. From all places they come: a sandy haired Vermonter, a brace of hitch-hikers, one from Connecticut, the other from New York City; two girls from the East, a former student who has followed the harvesting crews all summer. Dorms are beginning to fill, room mates are getting acquainted and the stage is all set for Commonwealth's "best-yet" quarter.

A brace of hitch-hikers, one from few days they come: a sandy
harvesting City; set for Lucien Koch and his famed carpenter
approximately will be installed, a ceiling built (most for ble-topped serving tables in the kit-
little of either product. In lieu of marble quarries. Commonwealth
material, which does just
wrings
Pm'ian
metal-topped tables,

tors was Dick Briggs, of New York, "The White
pas~es
and
"The White House Cookbook" and
awest. Gradually the culinary
stand. So now the
strains. So now the
classroom that
"behaving room" is done... The first forum got under way Sunday night with talks about the farmer... But we said we'd give you local color and leave the serious stuff to other columns of the paper... An ex-Clark University collegian brought down some sort of tag football that is played in front of Chestnut at dusk now, replacing the stocholomous baseball.

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