A CALL FOR HELP

Do you want Commonwealth's existence to be imperilled because its 1932 income threatens to run $750 to $1,000 below last year's?

Commonwealth faces a critical financial situation, and that is the question we are obliged to put to our friends.

We believe there are enough persons who recognize the value of what Commonwealth is doing to come to the rescue, even at the cost of some personal sacrifice. The chief danger is that many sympathizers will intend to help but will put off and forget doing so.

We have on the campus a conviction that Commonwealth was never more needed than it is today and that it must go on. Never was it more important that young men and women be trained to face fearlessly the issues of social reconstruction. We make an earnest and urgent appeal for help from our friends off the campus who share that conviction.

Briefly, the facts are these:

For the first four months of 1931 receipts from those who pledge regularly to the Commonwealth maintenance fund were $825. For the same period this year they were $400—not quite half. Letters from former supporters tell of loss of jobs, homes, business. Some of them face actual physical want. They can't pay.

Unpledged donations are about the same for the corresponding periods this year and last, bringing total contributions to $867 this year as against $1,440. Last year Commonwealth received nearly 60 per cent of its contributions during the first four months.

At the present rate Commonwealth will run $750 to $1,000 in the hole by the end of the year. Of course it won't really, because we couldn't possibly find a hole that deep in which to take refuge. So far we have stemmed the tide by borrowing $300 and by reducing the cost of meals from seven and a half cents a person to six and a third cents. We have about reached the limit both in borrowing and dieting.

Commonwealth's teachers and resident workers contribute their services without pay to demonstrate an idea. We mention this, not to publicize our devotion (we wouldn't be here if we didn't enjoy it), but to point out that under the circumstances we have nothing left to give. It sounds incredible that the existence of a school now in its tenth year, which dozens of people have sacrificed to build up and which is now five-sixths self-supporting, should be endangered by lack of $1,000 or less. Yet $1,000 is a lot for a school whose entire outside revenue is normally about $2,500 a year, and failure to enlist new supporters can easily doom the project. Apathy can sentence Commonwealth to extinction.

Commonwealth appeals to friends of workers' education to pledge $100, $50 or $25 this year and for 1933 and 1934 toward the annual maintenance fund of $2,500.

To those who cannot possibly make a regular pledge it appeals for contributions of whatever amount. Won't every reader of these lines take it upon his conscience to send something quickly? A stream of small donations can mean the difference between Commonwealth and no Commonwealth.

To those who think they cannot give at all because their income has been reduced since the crash, we ask: Unless you are actually in want, will you not sacrifice some convenience or pleasure—a week-end trip, for example—so that Commonwealth will not suffer from the loss of your contribution in this crisis? We ask it, not for ourselves, but to preserve and foster the work we are doing.

Will you do this to safeguard Commonwealth?

THE COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE ASSOCIATION
Composed of resident teachers, students and other workers

PLEASE USE THIS COUPON NOW

Date

Commonwealth College
Mena, Arkansas

[ ] I enclose $ as a contribution to the Commonwealth College maintenance fund.

[ ] I pledge a like amount for 1933 and 1934.

Check both if possible.

(Signed)

Address
What Others Say of Commonwealth

Harry Elmer Barnes: Out in the Ozarks there is a college which gives a relevant and realistic education to its students at a total expense of about $13 a month. There is no reason why thousands of such near self-supporting educational communities could not be set up all over the United States.

Roger N. Baldwin: Commonwealth attracts able teachers who remain because they are free and happy at their work and feel they are building something worthwhile.

Oscar Anger: Commonwealth is a good college for a young worker. It gives them the opportunity to work their way through college.

Christopher Morley: A college where there are cream cheeses in the rock cellar and the luxuriant goes lecturing between whiles sounds to us like a good sort of place.

If, Lee Joule, Popula. School, Cincinnati: Commonwealth is trying to stand for social justice in our economic order and for education free from the dominance of vested interests. It looks toward social change and prepares men and women for active part in that change.

Theodore Dreiser: I want to tell you how much I admire the spirit which carried you and your associates to Harlan, Kentucky. If your attitude could pervade more of our college and university life, we could soon look forward to a vast change in such places as Harlan, and elsewhere.

R. W. Aubel, in the Evangelical Stochastic: We would like to see a college which can show how other serape enough money together to pay the required annual tuition fee of $120 for three years and feed for Mena, Ark.

Brandon E. Evans in the Pineville (Ky.) Sun: There appeared in the newspaper the announce that the Arkansas men here presumably representing Commonwealth College. Many papers refer to them as "college boys" or "kids" out on a hank. They were mature men, schooled in communism. "Just a bunch of college kids out for a hank." And supported by the communist American Civil Liberties [sic] Union.

Walter B. "(I'm the law)" Smith, County Attorney of Bell county, Ky.; Commonwealth College is a godless, Communist, atheistic school.

A Group of Harlan County Miners: Let us as mine's extend to you our sorrow for getting heat at the hands of our so-called law in Harlan county. . . . You have accomplished a great deal for us.

SOCIETY NOTES

Clarence Senior, national secretary of the Socialist Party, and Neuman Jeffreys from the University of Kansas dropped in for a couple of hours enroute from the Oklahoma state Socialist convention to Girard, Kansas. They spoke informally at lunch time.

Succession.—Bill Cunningham, instructor in labor journalism, became acting director on Lucien Koch's departure for his midwest trip. Then Bill got a check for $20 for a short story, and knowing the transient nature of this world's goods, decided to invest it prudently in a long-needed ton of strawberry jelly. During his absence in Texarkana for the operation, David Englestein, treasurer and instructor in world history, was acting acting director.

It's strawberry time in the Ozarks. Clay and Mabel Fulks, to replenish their personal funds, have taken a few weeks' leave of absence to do an accounting job for a strawberry association at McAle. Commonwealth is having a bumper crop too, and Common- deraring are having a high-stirred是一位 strawberry shortcake and (once) strawberry pie. It was the first pie in months. Dollars of gallow are being put away for next winter by Bud Follon and Ok Hitternauch, the hard-hitting canning team who literally turn the midnight oil to have uninterrupted use of the kitchen. Volunteer crews gather on the front porch of the Commons after supper and stem the perishable berries, fingers incandescent in the twilight.

Belt. — When Alfred Fortmüeller, student teacher of German, sailed westward across the Atlantic, his baggage carried to America the first copy of "The Belt Moves On," a specimen of the new proletarian drama which declares that "art is a weapon." It gained favor on the epicure of the Proletarian and in its English translation with other workers groups in New York. On International May Day it received its premiere at Commonwealth. Impromptu presented, it never before presented the dramatization of form inherent in symbolic pantomime, mal' ence rhythms, quick maximes and spirited mass recitation. Besides this dramatization of anti-speed-up revolt, there were songs, talks and recitations of revolutionary verse.

On page 3 of this issue an article is published on "What Is Commonwealth College?", together with a list of courses and faculty. This is published for the information of readers to whom the Fortnightly is new. To whom the facts in the article are an old story, an apology and a promise of a more newsy Fortynightly next time.
COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE is a school dedicated to the cause of labor and the common people. There are enough schools now to train those boys and girls who can be absorbed into the professional and business classes. More and more, young people trained for business and professions are being obliged to seek overly or poorly paid ‘white collar’ jobs to make a living. Is the young man or woman who works in a shop or on a farm entitled to seek an education?

Commonwealth says emphatically yes, and adds that this education should have a definite connection with a worker’s life and a worker’s problems. Vocational education is not enough. Such education, by itself, would train young people merely to be cogs in an industrial machine. Intelligent, alert youth wants to study how it can improve its lot as a working and farming class; how it can help build a better social order for the great majority of the American people.

A new type of school is called for, and Commonwealth, for nine years, has been doing pioneer experimental work as a labor school of the social studies.

At a Cost Working Youth Can Pay

Commonwealth is a labor school in another sense too. It has found a method of bringing education within the financial reach of young workers and farmers. Commonwealth students pay tuition of $40 a quarter (twelve weeks) or $120 for the nine month term and earn their room, board and laundry service while in attendance by 20 hours work a week. This arrangement is possible through the fact that Commonwealth operates its own farm and carries on its own communal activities by the part-time labor of its teachers and students.

Thus at a cost of about $13 a month it is possible to live and study in this educational democracy, where students and teachers associate not only in the class room but on the job—sawing firewood, mending fences, mixing concrete, preparing meals, raising peanuts and garden stuff, wielding hammer and saw, setting type in the print shop or doing any of a hundred and one other community tasks. Overalls or work clothing are always proper dress here.

Commonwealth’s Entrance Requirements

There are no hard and fast entrance requirements at Commonwealth, such as a certain amount of formal schooling. Students are accepted on the basis of written application on a form which may be obtained from the Executive Secretary. Classes are arranged to meet the need of students with varying educational backgrounds.

Ability to learn and a desire to do something with the knowledge gained are expected of students. No degrees are granted; whatever the student takes away he must carry in his head. Commonwealth is located near Mena, Ark., in a mild and healthful climate in the wooded Ozarks, not far from the geographical center of the United States and hence accessible to students from all parts of the country.

The school is operated by the Commonwealth College Association, election to which is open to teachers or maintenance workers who have served three quarters or students who have studied six quarters. Commonwealth is a non-partisan, non-sectarian school, encouraging its students to work with their fellowmen in the various economic, political and cultural activities which may be inclusively described as the labor movement. Education, it believes, should not only make people broad-minded; it should make them militant doers.

Commonwealth seeks to be entirely self supporting. It is not quite so yet, but raises the larger part of its own food and does its own chores around the place.

Commonwealth teachers and workers contribute their services without compensation except bare maintenance. They do this because they are free and happy at their work and feel they are building something worth while.

Hard work and plain living make it possible to get along and accommodate 35 to 50 students on outside help of only $2,500 a year. This represents one-sixth of Commonwealth’s support. Five-sixths comes from tuition fees and work done on the campus. Thus Commonwealth matches gifts five to one.

Additional capital equipment—a few more cows, electric plant, a cannery, printing equipment, etc., would increase the degree of self support. Such improvements depend on recognition of the value of Commonwealth’s work.

COURSES OFFERED

The courses Commonwealth is prepared to offer are classified by years merely as a suggestion to students. Commonwealth is no educational treadmill, and permission is readily granted to qualified students to take advanced courses, even in their first year. Likewise, special elementary work is arranged on sufficient demand. A short labor course of one year or less is available for students unable to remain longer. Students may take three courses at one time and may also take a language or commercial course or audit a fourth course. Informal groups interested in writing, modern poetry, current events and so on are open to all.

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<td>French, German or Spanish</td>
<td>Labor Law</td>
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<td>Summer Session (10 Weeks) Begins June 27, 1932.</td>
<td>Fall Quarter Begins October 1, 1932</td>
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FACULTY

LUCIEN KOCH, Director of Commonwealth, Labor History and Problems  
M. A., University of Wisconsin, '34; Carpenter; former Commonwealth student, faculty member Experimental College at Wisconsin

DAVID ENGLESTEIN . . World History and Public Speaking  
Former teacher World History, Workers’ College, Montreal

CLAY FULKS . . . . . Labor History and Public Speaking  
Member Arkansas bar; contributor to American Mercury and other magazines

HAROLD COY . . . . . Current History  
A. B., University of Arizona, '24; newspaperman, labor research worker

GEORGE YEISLEY RUSK . . . . Psychology  
Ph. D., New York University, '24; writer

MILDRED PRICE . . . . Sociology and Current History  
B. A., University of Chicago, '28; formerly high school teacher, Y.W.C.A. industrial secretary

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM . . Labor Journalism and Writing  
B. A., University of Oklahoma, '29; formerly teacher sociology and English; Illinois Miner; newspaperman and writer

RAYMOND KOCH . . . . Economics  
Six years student and teacher at Commonwealth; former counselor Pioneer Youth Camp

CLARICE CUNNINGHAM . . Labor Journalism and Commercial Courses  
Studied at University of Oklahoma; writer of Little Blue Books, articles and stories

WILLIAM REICH . . . . Methods in Labor Education  
M. S., University of Illinois, '32; former high school principal, director Pioneer Youth Camp
MANY LEARN OF MINE OUTRAGES IN HARLAN

"Despos del este estos hechos, consideramos de vivir al Sur del gran pais que pretende llevar la civilizacion a Cuba, Nicaragua, Filipinas, Puerto Rico y Haiti."
(After reading of these happenings, we are satisfied to give some of the great country which pretende to carry civilization to Cuba, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Porto Rico and Haiti.)

So commented La Presea, large Mexico City daily, following its lengthy account of the assault on members of the Commonwealth College Delegation who recently returned from the coal fields of Bell and Harlan counties, Kentucky.

The article was adjacent to a picture of the syndicated and laconic back of Harold Coy, Commonwealth instructor. This only gone into a circulation of several millions under newspaper captions ranging from the whimsical 'Back from Kentucky to the sentimental Beaten for Mercy Er­rond. For the moment its fame exceed that of any Ziegfield Polleys star, but of course the public memory is fickle.

The general reaction to the expedition, which had as aims distributing relief and testing civil liberties, was surprisingly friendly. The delegation reports that outside of Bell and Harlan counties only one person voiced active hostility. Many went out of their way to express sympathetic interest, even in Kentucky. A few were a bit rarefiedly distressed at the state capitol at Frankfort; a good many were merely curious. Editorial comment reflected growing concern for the intolerable conditions which exist in the mine area.

One Kentucky woman visited Knox­ville to offer the Commonwealth group the use of her estate for a summer school for mine s. Dr. John R. Neal, noted Knoxville attorney and outstanding southern liberal, was bo.t to the delegation following the expulsion. It’s worth a beating to meet him.

A flood of correspondence applauded the courage of the trip and the solidarity of a workers’ school with workers in distress. Only two or three letters were abusive. One, from a Kentucky chemist, remarked:

"I have always looked for the best, the high spot, the brightest, the att active spot. If you want to visit real mines, there are many coal fields to visit that are not strife to me like those in Bell and Harlan counties."

Acting Director William Cunning­ham replied:

"Did you ever in the chemical lab-

Koch to Be at Wisconsin
Six-Week Term for Workers

Lucien Koch, Commonwealth’s di­rector, will teach economics at the six­week session of the Wisconsin Sum­mer School for Workers in Industry, to be held on the University of Wiscon­sin campus beginning June 26th. This is one of the group of schools com­posing the Affiliated Summer Schools for Workers in Industry, the others being held at Bryn Mawr and Barnard.

At the Commonwealth College Sum­mer Session and Camp arrangements are being made for visiting instruc­tor to carry the course in labor history and problems and the discussion circle "The Labor Movement Today". Among those who have talked of coming to the Ozarks for the different kind of vacation be­ing worked out at Commonwealth.

At the People’s School Jones has worked extensively with young adults, specializing in personal and social problems. The school is an activity of the nationally-known People’s Church of which Herbert Bigelow is pastor. It is a favorite gathering place for liberal-minded Cincinnatians. When the Commonwealth delegation was on its way to Kentucky, the church grandly extended every facility, includ­ing its hall for a meeting.

Members of the regular staff who will be in residence part or all sum­mer to teach and lead discussions are Director Lucien Koch, Raymond Koch, Clay Fulkas, Harold Coy and William and Clarice Cunningham.

A leaflet just issued describes the summer session and camp and is available to friends for personal or distribution.

Enrollment Growing But
Student Funds Are Low

A labor school like Commonwealth gets it coming and going these days, financially speaking, even though there is more interest in its work than ever before. Friends find it harder to give, and students find it harder to pay even the small tuition fee.

The college community at Common­wealth has increased by half over last year. Normally this should relax the financial pressure somewhat, since the overhead per student is less. How­ever this year nearly one-third of the students are working out their tuition, either by putting in extra hours or staying to work after the term is out. This extra labor helps make Common­wealth a better place in which to live, but it is not quite so indispensable as cold cash.

Slowly we are learning to be more hard-boiled in saying “No” to students out of money. It is hard to do it when the education of a young man or woman who is eager to learn and with whom you have been in daily associa­tion in classes and at work is at stake. But there is an irrecusable minimum below which even Commonwealth cannot operate without money.

H. LEE JONES HERE
FOR SUMMER CAMP

Arrangements have been completed with H. Lee Jones of the People’s School of Cincinnati for him to visit the Commonwealth College Summer Session and Camp and offer the course in psychology. He will also aid in the discussion groups planned to trans­fer to the Ozarks who expect to be in the Ozarks for the different kind of vacation be­ing worked out at Commonwealth.

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