PEAS BURGEON FORTH IN COMMONERS’ SOUP

Season of Fresh Garden Stuff Raised on Campus Under Way

In late spring and summer the monotony of the "plain but wholesome food" which must necessarily a year the Commonwealth table most of the year is broken to permit the appearance of fresh garden stuff raised on the campus. These vegetables are written by the inspiration derived from the succulent young peas and carrots which nowadays b.s.pinkle our soups and stews.

Later on there will be rotating ears, melons, squash, lettuce, okra, tomatoes, cabbage and green beans, as well as the omnipresent sweet potato and peanut.

Crops are late in maturing this year. They got off to a bad start on account of a freeze or two every in the spring, followed by cold nights which are lasting up to the present time. One theory is that the plants are putting in half place and growing at this growing, being inhibited at night. The turnips were frozen out altogether, as was the first batch of cabbages. The loss of the turnips, however, occasions no grief to four German students carrying memories of lean war years. Apparently a whole generation of Germans have been conditioned against the really estimable turnip.

Several thousand quarts of vegetables and fruits will be canned this summer for an anticipated large 1932-9 enrollment.

MOTORING HERE FROM EAST?

Anyone driving to the Commonwealth College Summer Session and Camp, especially from the city of New York or New England, who wishes to cut down expenses by taking one or more passengers is invited to communicate with the college.

If any man tells you he loves his country, yet hates Labor, he is a liar.

—Abraham Lincoln.

Wanted: Jobs for Students

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of jobs which might be filled by young men and women from Commonwealth is implored to communicate with the college. Whether many Commonwealth students can return to school in October depends on whether they can find the work to earn next year’s tuition. There are students qualified to do many different kinds of work from typing to mule-skinning and ready to go to any part of the country. The spring quarter ends June 18.

Cool Water, Tennis Planned for Summer

Preparations for the largest summer session in the history of the school are being made, according to Acting Director Bill Cunningham. Several visiting faculty members, whose names will be announced later, are to be added to the teaching staff. These will include instructors in psychology, sociology, labor problems, labor drama and English.

An enrollment doubling that of any previous summer is assured four weeks before the session is scheduled to begin. Summer campers may swell the population to break all Commonwealth records.

Preparations for the entertainment of the campers and the instruction of the students include work upon the tennis courts (the erection of backstops, etc.) and the improvement of stage facilities for labor drama. The work upon the new well is being completed to assure a supply of cool, clear water in the hottest weather.

The new teachers come from various parts of the country and from different walks of life, so that an interesting exchange of opinions is inevitable. Material is being prepared by the present staff for the various topics of discussion that have been announced, and the newcomers are being asked to aid in this work.

KOCHE FINDS THINGS TO DO THOUGH ‘LOST’

Busy Midwest Trip Takes Him Before Diverse Groups; Interest Growing

A flurry of newspaper publicity occasioned by the "disappearance" of Lucien Koch, Commonwealth director, during his stay in Chicago is less significant than the many solid accomplishments reported as a result of Lucien’s midwest trip.

The "disappearance" story gained currency when Lucien failed to appear at a scheduled meeting. Reporters and police, recalling recent happenings in Kentucky, suspected kidnapping and foul play. The real case turned out to be one of those inevitable misunderstandings incident to a crowded lecture schedule — in this case, a confusion between streets bearing the same name in Chicago and its suburb, Evanston.

Fascinating newswriters suggested that Lucien’s unerring woodman’s sense, acquired by long residence in the Ozarks, had become bewildered in a maze of surface and elevated traffic. But it was not his first trip to the big city. While working his way through Commonwealth, Lucien spent several summers in New York as a carpenter.

Dozens of labor unions, university clubs and classes and liberal and radical organizations in Chicago, Milwaukee and Madison are hearing about what Commonwealth is doing. The breadth of contacts on this trip is indicated by such varied engagements as the Chicago Federation of Labor, Y. W. C. A. groups, the Chicago City Club, the Hobo College, Socialist locals and the I. W. W. May Day celebration.

A 15-minute talk over WCFL, the Chicago Pederation of Labor radio station, brought numerous inquiries to the college. At the City Club busy business men questioned Lucien for an hour following his talk. An informal gathering with University of Chicago social scientists and others broke up at 2:30 a. m.

Lucien will return to Commonwealth early in June.
NCE there was an Indian who turned radical. But even he was asked, "If you don't like this country, why don't you go back where you came from?"

So there was little chance of our delegation of five, carrying relief to the miners of southeastern Kentucky, escaping charges of being un-American from the forces of reaction. Nevertheless and nonetheless and nevertheless and all Americanism, and some of us bore more than the usual insignia of sterling Americanism.

Lucien Koch, director of Commonwealth, "youngest college president in the United States," and former University of Wisconsin instructor, is so conspicuously blue-eyed and blond as to defy being back-tracked to southeastern Europe.

Sam Greenberg has the type of non-Anglo-Saxon name that County Attorney Walter B. Smith likes to make fun of, but his name did not disqualify him for war service. He was wounded in action in France and spent five months in the hospital.

Leo Grulov was formerly city editor of the New York Democrat and reporter on various New York dailies.

Isaac Greenberg is so thoroughly American in his wise-cracks and mannerisms that his popularity won him election as president of the student council.

The writer is eligible (but does not belong) to the Sons of American Revolution, the Society of Mayflower Descendants and the Ku Klux Klan. One branch of his family was living in Kentucky before the nineteenth century began, and some of his people were Cumberland Presbyterians nearly a century and a half before Cumberland Gap became the point of ejection for dis-entente.

But for all the good our Americanism did us, we might as well have been Stalin, Sandino, the Pope, Chiang Kai Shek and Mahatma Gandhi.

College Spirit

The Commonwealth group gave its delegation a wonderful send-off. At breakfast time the decision to go was made and the five delegate were elected. The delegation left 24 hours later. During the interval every Commoner toiled prodigiously helping make ready. Committees were formed, duties assigned. Sam Vandeck's Dodge coupe was overhauled. Relief complaints were added. A rumble seat was installed. Letters and telegrams were dispatched for speaking and sleeping arrangements enroute. Statements of purpose were mimeographed. Luncheons were prepared. Five thousand copies of the Bill of Rights were printed, and when the motor broke down relays of two boys each, stripped to the waist, turned the press by hand until well past midnight.

As the relief car went into high gear and passed down the winding road into the pine woods that lead to the highway, we could still hear the spirited strains of the labor songs our comrades behind were singing.

III

Yea, Yipscis!

The St. Louis Yipscis Young People's Socialist League) are a lively bunch. Not only was $600 for relief raised at their meeting, but they organized teams and scouted around until they had collected four bags of clothing.

Perplexing Problem

What should a person do when a Kentucky gunman demands, "Do you believe in God Almighty?"

There are four possible courses.

Say yes (and get called a liar and beaten).

Say no (and get called an atheist and beaten for it.)

Give a qualified answer, as did Einstein when he said his God was the God of Spinoza (and get called a quibbler and beaten for it.)

Or say nothing (and get beaten for it.) We chose the fourth course.

Passing the Time

"How did you feel while you were being whipped?" people asked us.

We felt pinned. Some of us counted the lashes to pass the time. Lucien had the most to count. In Harlan the more exalted your rank, the worse they beat you up.

Relief Organizations

Contributions from Commoners plus $30 from new newspaper articles paid the cost of the trip. The money raised from the sale of the Bill of Rights went for relief. This amounted to $122.39. This "&viow's mite" was divided as follows: $10.29 to the Pineville Welfare League in response to the scriptural injunction (Matthew v: 22; $56 to the American Friend's Service Committee, 20 South Twelfth St., Philadelphia, for the Quaker relief work in Bell County, and $56 to the Workers' International Relief, 650 Gillespie Ave., Knoxville, Tenn. A share might well have gone for the relief activities of the General Defense Committee, 555 Lake St., Chicago, but we were not in touch at the time.

Labor relief organizations work under great handicaps and persecution, but manage to get a certain amount through.

VII

A Murderous Year

On his return from Kentucky, Isaac Greenberg, with the aid of a file of Federated Press sheets, made a good resume of a year's happenings in Bell and Harlan Counties. Here it is:

"During the first week in April, 1931, the coal operators in Bell and Harlan Counties, in southeastern Kentucky, began a wholesale firing, eviction and blacklisting of miners who attempted to reorganize the old locals of the United Mine Workers of America. To intimidate the several hundred evicted miners, the mine operators hired scores of mine guards who were deputized by the sheriffs.

"It was inevitable that the hungry and homeless miners, refused employment because of the blacklist, should clash with the bloodthirsty hired gunmen, who became bombard after the title of deputy sheriff was conferred on them. The several minor conflicts that followed the evictions were climax ed by the gun battle, May 5, 1931, at Evarts in Harlan County, a battle in which three deputies and a miner were killed and several of the combatants were wounded."

(Continued on Page 3)
MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME
(Continued from Page 2)

"A reign of terror has been instituted in Bell and Harlan Counties, headed by the wealthy coal operators and their tools, Judge D. C. "Baby Face" Jones who married into a wealthy coal operating family; Walter B. (I'm the Law) Smith, county attorney of Bell County, Sheriff Blair of Harlan County and others — with their countless deputies and "vigilantes" composed of business and professional men from both counties.

"Since this rule of the rod and gun was instituted, four miners and a store-keeper friendly to the miners have been killed, and several miners, two Federated Press reporters and a truck driver delivering relief to blacklisted miners were shot. Many investigators and miners, three union organizers, three attorneys and a prominent New York writer (Walter Frank) were beaten. Scores of persons have been jailed, including miners, organizers, investigators, an attorney and two professors.

"A relief kitchen and an automobile belonging to the International Labor Defense were blown up. Two newspapers were fined by Judge Jones for contempt of court, one for reporting the news and the other for taking a picture. An unknown number of miners have been illegally prevented from entering the counties and several have been forcibly ejected from the counties after they had entered. A number of miners are living in exile in other parts of Kentucky or in other states after they had been either warned to leave or had been put out by the deputies.

"This, in brief, is a history of law enforcement in Bell and Harlan Counties during one year, from April, 1931 to April, 1932, when Commonwealth College sent its delegation of five to the Kentucky coal fields to distribute relief to starving miners and copies of the Bill of Rights to sheriffs and to test our civil rights."

It may be added that since that time James Price, attorney for the General Defense Committee, was kidnaped and brutally beaten, the Civil Liberties delegation was refused entry, and Jack Vanettel, I.W.W. coal miner was shot and killed.

COVINGTON HALL PAYS VISIT

Covington Hall, well known poet and labor journalist, and Willie Sue Blagden, of Memphis, Tenn., are recent arrivals at Commonwealth.

Covington, a former Commonwealth teacher, is here on a short visit. He is being kept busy lecturing to various classes and reconating for informal groups his experiences in the labor movement.

Savings in Printery; Some Things Needed

Additional equipment is needed by the Commonwealth printery to bring it up to date. A linotype machine, a 26-inch paper cutter, another job press, a wire stitcher, lead and slug cutter, mitering machine, display type and type cases, could all be used to advantage. Consolidation of printing plants has been going on steadily for several years. Expensive equipment, no longer required, is occupying valuable storage space and rusting away through disuse. For such equipment — which we cannot afford to buy — Commonwealth would gladly pay the freight charges.

We have heard rumors of printers wishing to dispose of such materials and would appreciate definite information. At a cost of less than $100 a greater and more varied quantity of college printing has been turned out during the first ten weeks of the print shop than in any previous year. The print shop, letters heads, envelope corners, publicity for the summer camp, the Bill of Rights used by the delegation to Kentucky, and other work was printed at Commonwealth.

All the type was set by hand — and hand setting means slow, arduous work at best. A linotype machine can produce more type in a day than a hand compositor can do in a week, in addition to saving distribution (putting each type character back into its individual box.) Paper cutting is expensive when done outside, and a cutter would soon pay for itself. The present amount of type is inadequate. The limited funds available for the shop made it necessary to buy only immediate essentials and display type is especially needed.

"1931—" DRAMA OF JOBLESS
IS PRESENTED AT COLLEGE

"The recent Broadway production, "1931..." dealing with the present economic situation, is the latest presentation of the Commonwealth labor drama group. A student cast, under the direction of Alice Ettinger, student teacher, staged the play before a good-sized audience of Commoners and neighboring farmers.

To balance the serious theme of the drama, a Polk County ventriloquist gave a program at the conclusion of the presentation. The entertainment came from Jerry Baxter, student, who sang blues songs at the opening of the evening's program. Paul and Claire Sifton wrote "1931..." and it was through their kindness that the local group was permitted to stage the play. The drama is in twelve scenes and portrays the effect of the depression upon a typical factory worker. His loss of a job, inability to secure another and the subsequent moral, physical and spiritual going-to-pieces are brought out.

As the hero goes down in the economic scale, becomes dependent upon charity and finally desperate, he seems headed for inevitable ruin of character and morale, but in the end identifies himself with a militant movement of protest.

The part of Adam, the male lead, was taken by 'Bob' Fallon and that of Adam's girl, by Anna Fisher.

The sieve says to the needle, "You have a hole in your tail."
—Bengalite Proverb.
PEGASUS UNSHOD
As Ridden by Commonwealth Versifiers

STEP-AN'-A-HALF
BY WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM

Peddler Joe, pushin' his cart,
He says to me, why ain't you peddlin',
Step-an'-a-half? Why ain't you peddlin'?
Pencils an' pins?

Ain't we all peddlin'? I asked him,
Preachers peddin' hope,
Ditchdiggers peddin' muscle,
Judges peddin' revenge,
Bread peddin' pleasure.

Peddlers ain't wearin' the same kind of coats.
But under their coats the same kind of bellies.
I got my business
Here on the sidewalk
Where the sun shines.
I got my crippled foot
And my empty eye.
I'm peddin' sorrow.

Note to St. Louis Readers

Do any St. Louis friends wish to donate books or equipment for which they have no further use? The Commonwealth College truck will be in St. Louis for some four days beginning about June 4 to pick up supplies and bring back the school's director, Lucien Koch, now on a midwest trip. One St. Louis friend is giving the college a typewriter, another a set of books for the return trip. If any others wish to donate a book at once to Commonwealth in care of Brown, 1416 Athert Ave., St. Louis (or phone Chestnut 0725)? Books, tools, wall maps, cots, a victrola, a bookbinding machine, a 12 to 15 cubic foot refrigeration cabinet, office fixtures (especially an addressograph), printing, cleaning and laundry equipment or anything else useful to a small educational community can be used.

THANKS FRIENDS

CASH
T. Barker, O. D. Wagner, Justus Ebert and Jennie D. Carlin, Ethel Hillestatt, Dr. A. F. Green, Florence Appleyard, Anonymous, Dr. F. Kettner, Herbert Huizer, Mrs. E. F. Comings, J. L. Feb., each $1
J. S. Rogers, Laura M. Kinkade, Elsie Brand, Dr. Vete E. Rechtien, Victor W. Hough, W. S. Huntting, Daniel Harthorn, R. F. Kenne, each $1
Samuel Sisman, Dorothy D. Hill, each $1
Gordon Ward, Boris Weite, Mary Rosal Millis, Myron S. Blumenthal, Alice M. Tachau, C. A. Shepherd, W. A. Jackson, Jacob Weinstoite, Dr. William W. Gassen, Sumner Slipher, Harold B. Keen, Herschel Alt, each. $5
Mildred Hurton, Irene S. L. Libman, A. Williams, Percival Chubb, Max Tumpey, Fred W. Watts, each $1
Robert and Dorothy Keiper. $2
Evan Gladie. $15.00
William Thom. $10.00
Ally L. Dodge. $2.00
A. Weintech. $25.00
Melvin M. Knight. $25.00

BOOKS

A man may hold a candle to enlighten the people so as to burn his fingers.

Proverb.

What $1 to $2,500 Would Mean to Commonwealth

As the Fortnightly goes to press, contributions toward the 1932 maintenance fund are being received from a number of friends, but the inflow is not rapid enough to save Commonwealth from danger.

The school faces an emergency, a crisis, and unless several hundred dollars more than is now in sight can be raised, Commonwealth will be without the means to continue through 1932.

We are struggling desperately right now to fight off this threatened shortage in our annual $2,500 maintenance fund—a shortage which, if it materializes, can engulf us, even though we are five-sixths self-supporting. But we sometimes like to think of the wonderful things we could do if we had money. Not much money, just a little.

Some friends have advised us to set forth in concrete terms just what different amounts of money would mean to Commonwealth. We are glad to do this herewith:

ONE DOLLAR

Three thousand persons following Commonwealth's progress through the Fortnightly and paying $1 a year for it would make Commonwealth self-supporting. In other words, now that we have our own print shop, 3,000 subscriptions would take care of the $2,500 maintenance fund.

TWO DOLLARS

At current prices in these hills, $2 will go a long way in purchasing the 25 per cent of Commonwealth's food which it cannot yet raise for itself. Two dollars would buy 25 dozen eggs or 25 pounds of beef.

FIVE DOLLARS

Commonwealth students and teachers put in 16 hours of work, maintaining and building up the college, for every dollar they ask for maintenance. A $5 contribution therefore makes possible the investment of 80 hours of work as well.

TEN DOLLARS

Ten dollars represents the cost of 150 meals—enough to feed the entire group for a day.

TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS

One hundred friends who would pledge this amount—less than 50 cents a week—could completely underwrite Commonwealth's maintenance fund (and save many a gray hair from growing on a Commonwealth head).

AND UP

Here we get into the realm of phantasy—what could be done if certain items of capital equipment were obtainable. But while we are wishing we might as well wish for a lot. $250 would install modern laundry equipment. $600 would provide materials for a needed new dormitory, and students and teachers would provide the labor. $2,500 would buy a small dairy herd, with auxiliary barn, utensils and land for raising fodder, permitting milk and butter regularly on the Commonwealth table. Somebody well enough off to give $2,500 a year: outright could guarantee Commonwealth's continuance and probably release enough energy thereby to start a branch school in another part of the country.

"FROM EACH ACCORDING...

One dollar to $2,500 is a big range, but within it there is room for everyone to help where he believes there is something in the Commonwealth idea. The need is urgent and we appeal to everyone who has an interest in what Commonwealth is doing to HELP NOW. Please send something quickly!

COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE
Mena, Arkansas