A code for the "forgotten industry" of education has been drawn up by Commonwealth College and presented at Washington by David Englestein, Commonwealth teacher, for consideration by the NIRA.

Important provisions of the Commonwealth code are:
1. All teachers, maintenance and office workers in the Education Industry shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing.
2. No employee in the Education Industry, and no one seeking employment therein, shall be required as a condition of employment to join any union or to refrain from joining a labor organization of his or her own choosing.
3. No employee in the Education Industry, and no one seeking employment therein, shall be discriminated against in terms of wages, hours, working conditions or in any other manner, because of sex, race or marital state.
4. Minimum rates of wages, maximum hours of labor, and other working conditions in the Education Industry shall be as follows:
   (a) Minimum wages for
      1. Teachers in kindergartens and elementary schools: $1600 per year;
      2. Teachers in high schools: $2200 per year;
      3. Teachers in colleges, professional schools and universities: $3000 per year;
      4. Teachers in vocational training schools: $2500 per year;
      5. Teachers in night schools: $1000 per year;
      6. Office workers: $1600 per year;
      7. Maintenance workers:
         (a) Custodians and janitors: $2100 per year;
         (b) Mechanics and repairmen: $1800 per year;

   (b) Mechanics and repairmen in the Education Industry:
      1. Elementary schools: $2200 per year;
      2. Professional schools: $2500 per year;
      3. Vocational training schools: $2350 per year;
      4. Colleges: $2750 per year;
      5. Teachers in high schools: $1600 per year;
      6. Teachers in colleges, professional schools and universities: $1800 per year;
      7. Teachers in kindergartens and elementary schools: $1500 per year;

CARLSON SLUGGED BY IRATE OFFICERS BUT RELEASED WITH APOLOGIES

A delegation from Commonwealth has organized the workers of the Weaver Pants Company of Corinth, Miss., into a local union of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Oliver Carlson, Commonwealth teacher, is head of the delegation. Other members are Eugene Morse, Jim Porter and Al Lehman, students.

The delegation went to Corinth in response to a telegram from an official of the Amalgamated asking for an organizer.

As the Fortnightly goes to press the workers at Corinth are preparing demands to be presented to the management of the factory. If these demands are not met a strike will be called.

Members of the delegation were arrested by the local sheriff at a meeting August 5. Carlson was dragged from the meeting, plugged and cursed. He was charged with impersonating a government agent.

DEMONSTRATION AT COURTHOUSE

A crowd of workers followed the sheriff as he conducted the Commonwealths to the courthouse. Some of the workers demanded that they be permitted to remain in the prosecuting attorney's office while the questioning was going on, and one was permitted to do so. The others staged a demonstration on the courthouse steps.

The prosecuting attorney, after a long secret conference with the mayor, the sheriff, the chief of police and the company officials, announced that their information had been wrong. He deplored "there was no hard feelings." The sheriff, he apologized, for his conduct.

After this incident the work of organization proceeded very rapidly. The company made an attempt to form a company union, but only a few workers joined. On one occasion some women workers tore the shirt from a
Jews Without Money

A Review of Michael Gold’s Book

By BOB HARTING

Hugh Gore, 21, and neighbor to Commonwealth, is a farm organizer. As state secretary and an organizer for the Farm’s Protective Association, Hugh is, without a doubt, one of the busiest persons in the state of Arkansas. It can be truthfully said that he holds one of the most important jobs in the state. And in spite of his high position of trust and of great responsibility he does not receive one cent of pay for his work.

Hugh is a farmer himself. Born on a small farm, just eight miles from Commonwealth, he was reared in the midst of poverty and provincial backwardness. He knows the Arkansas farmer. He knows intimately their problems. How they barely manage to live from the rocky and brush-covered land... their struggles for an education... their primitive passion for a simple and healthy life.

From county to county he travels, by freight and by foot, ferreting out the most remote and isolated hill villages and the huck-fall hill farmers who have been reduced to a starvation fare during the depression years. Hugh understands their problems. He unites together an organization of the local farmers and through this organization they are able to make demands and to receive immediate relief for their starving families.

The mining area in several of the northern counties and the cotton belt in the southern part of the state have also come under the influence of Hugh. Practically all of the industrial counties have local organizations now functioning while approximately one third of the farming counties have active organizations. Vast amounts of relief have been afforded the starving farmers and miners.

Hugh is not satisfied with the “New Deal.” He is doing a job vastly more important and productive from the standpoint of the de-franchised farmer and worker. He is leading his landed kin into a new social order.

Hugh Gore, organizer and leader.

Gold has not reached this stage. His editorials are stiff, strained, harsh—as all conscious writing is: in his novels he relapses into the petty-bourgeois outlook of his childhood.

To be specific, there is no social propulsion in the novel. The failures of the characters are not irrevocable. There is no picture of masses caught in a maze of economic circumstances. The characters are not proletarian (though Gold wants them to be). They are merely poor people who aspire to become petty bourgeois. No reference to the mass. Though written of a district with an intense class-consciousness—a district in which labor conflicts are daily affairs, there is no mention of the great short-strike, the Triangle fire, or any organized labor activity whatsoever. Anotionalism—strong feeling of Judaism also obscure class issues.

Gold does deal feelingly with the suffering and maladjustments of these East Siders. But, emotional sympathies cannot be depended upon to reveal the actualities of the class-conflict.

To do this, the destructive forces of the class-struggle in every little detail of life—socially, sexually, ideologically, artistically, and economically—and above all, one’s absolutely inevitable and complete identification with it—must be pointed vividly.

In spite of its defects: defects arising directly from the fact that America has no class-conscious proletariat to speak of as yet and therefore can have no proletarian culture: defects which permeate the works of contemporary American radical writers giving that confused, indecisive blurred impression; defects which are typical of the vanguard in a period of transition: I think Jews Without Money, one of the most brilliantly fascinating, most forcefully written, most intensely provocative novels I have read; marks a distinct step in the evolution of an American proletarian culture. Of all the contemporary American writers, Gold, I think, will contribute most toward the development of American proletarian literature.

The tendency to ascribe undue significance to one’s own difficulties is a common human failing. John Mars, Commonwealth, eager to tell this story to himself, a bug flew in his ear while he was at work with the mules and made so much noise that he pulled back on the lines and yelled “what?” fearing that the mules would be frightened.
Commonwealth Press Service To Be Sent To Labor Editors For Five Cents A Week

A weekly press service for labor papers at a cost of five cents per week has been started by the labor journalism class at Commonwealth. It consists of five or six pages, type-written, single-spaced, of labor news, with an occasional editorial upon a labor topic or a review of a worthwhile book. Most of the news stories are very short and are intended for use as filler.

Any editor may get this service for five cents a week. This amount barely covers the cost of postage and paper. No charge is made for the work of writing, copying, mailing, etc.

This is merely a rewrite service and of course does not attempt to compete with any other labor news service.

The following material, which made up one of the six pages sent out July 27, is a sample of that covered by CPS:

LOS ANGELES—(CPS)—A ten per cent increase in the rental of unoccupied apartments went into effect here August 1.

SOUTH BEND, Ind.—(CPS)—Roosevelt’s “New Deal” is bringing back prosperity to the bosses—with

The Financier
A Traveler at Forty
A Titan

BARRUSSE, HENRI
Light
Chains
I Saw It Myself

TROTSKY, LEON
Literature and Revolution

MORRIS, FRANK
The Organus
The Pit
McTeague

PHILLIPS, DAVID G.
Susan Lenox
Degame’s Wife

LEWIS, SINCLAIR
Arrowsmith

DELL, FLOYD
Souvenir
Love in the Machine Age

LUMPKIN, GRACE
To Make My Bread

PLOUVIER, THEODOR
The Kaiser’s Coolies

MOODY, WILLIAM VAUGHN
Sonnets

free labor. Instead of hiring drivers to transport new cars from South Bend to San Francisco, a firm advertised for experienced drivers who wished to get to California without paying for transportation, to drive their new cars in. The drivers have to pay all their own expenses.

MOSCOW—(CPS)—Soviet Russia is planning to provide medical service for the workers of its far-flung area by means of airplanes equipped as hospitals and ambulances, according to an announcement by the Commissariat of Health. These hospital fleets may prove useful during war.

LITTLE ROCK—(CPS)—The Arkansas legislature is doing things for the people. If a bill, greatly publicized by the State Chamber of Commerce is passed, the people instead of having to dig down in their pockets to pay taxes each year, will have the privilege of digging down from time to time, a year, and making the payments in quarterly installments.

Farmers whose one cash crop is in the fall of the year cannot see just how their burden is being lightened, says the Chamber of Commerce. “This plan would be of vast benefit to the small taxpayer who nearly always finds it difficult to raise the necessary amount of cash at that period of the year when taxes are due.”

Imagine anyone in Arkansas finding it difficult to pay his taxes.

HOLLYWOOD, Cal.—(CPS)—A strike of 665 sound technicians for a uniform wage and hour contract is paralyzing motion picture production in the major studios.

Other topics covered in the July 27 release include: the activities in Eastern Pennsylvania; prosperity of Secretary of Agriculture Wallace’s 635 acre farm near Des Moines; the recent survey by the Department of Labor of conditions in nine states; the recent bombings in Illinois; the vote of the Miners’ Federation, meeting in London, to join a general strike in case of war; activities of insurgent miners around Scranton, Pa.; the plight of Arkansas farmers; the discharge of 1,500 Panama Canal employees; the International Congress of Women held recently in Chicago. The July 27 release contains also a page editorial by Horace Bryan on the plight of the miners of the Southwest.
(c) Assistants to janitors: $500 per year.
8. Principals and assistants: $3000 per year.

(b) Until the maximum wage for each category or classification in (a) is reached, teachers, office and maintenance workers, and principals and their assistants shall receive an annual increase of five (5) per cent of their wage.

(c) Maximum hours for all teachers and office and maintenance workers shall not exceed thirty (30) per week, during which time teachers shall not be called upon to do more than twenty-five (25) class sessions of instruction.

(d) Working conditions:
1. All employes shall be assured of not less than forty (40) weeks' employment in one year.
2. They shall be removable only for cause and after a fair hearing.
3. They shall receive full wages when absent because of bona fide illness.
4. They shall be entitled to a full year's leave one year in four at half the wages received in the last preceding year before such leave.
5. They shall be assured of adequate pensions, with retirement to begin at the age of sixty-five (65), under a solvent plan in the management of which they shall have adequate representation.
6. All licensed and unemployed teachers shall be paid not less than two-thirds the wage of the classification to which they belong; if not previously employed, then two-thirds the minimum entrance wage rate for their classification. Such wages shall be paid by the official relief committees of city, county, state or nation. These unemployed teachers shall be assigned educational work among the unemployed.
7. The number of students in all classes shall be limited to twenty-five (25).
8. Special classes shall be set up for atypical children.

5. No tax-supported school of any character shall require the payment of an admission fee by any student.

6. All persons under eighteen (18), unless prevented by physical, mental

foreman and chased him from the shop.

Armed guards are stationed at the plant and both sides are preparing for a struggle.

The delegation reports that the workers show a great deal of militancy. "They mean business, not only in the task of forming a union here but are keenly interested in organizing their entire industry in this state."

Members of the delegation were warned that gangs would attempt to get them, and one such attempt was made. Three cars tried to surround them on the street one night, but they escaped to the house where they were boarding.

Before beginning work in the open, the Commoners made an investigation of labor conditions at Corinth and at several towns in that vicinity.

They discovered that the Weaver Pants Company at Corinth is owned by the Lissner Pants Company of Reading, Pennsylvania. The Reading plant of the Lissner company has been closed by a strike and the company has turned its orders over to the Weavers plant at Corinth.

The Weaver plant has been running at top production in order to handle the company's orders. 75 per cent of which goes to the Sears-Roebuck mail order business. Recently 150 machines were transferred from the Reading shops to Corinth in order to handle the transfer of the business from the north.

The Corinth plant has openly ignored the minimum wage clause of the blanket code. Although a 40-hour week has been established and a 20 per cent increase in pay given the workers, their weekly earnings are now several dollars below the old scale. The present wage for cutters and pressers averages around $10 per week. The plant employs 600 workers and has long been operating as a sweatshop factory.

or other ailment or by detention in state institutions, shall be required to attend school.

The code further provides for a national education committee, to consist of six members from each state. Three members from each state are to be elected by the teachers in all classifications; one member to be elected by maintenance workers and office workers; and two members to be elected by the principals and superintendents and members of the boards of administrative officers.

The code has been "filed for consideration," and that is perhaps the end of it, unless various teachers' organizations can be induced to push the matter.

Brannin Talks On Organizing Jobless

The Commonwealth group has just finished a fortnight's study of the technique of organizing the unemployed. Carl Brannin, co-founder of the Seattle Unemployed Citizens' League, lectured and led discussions upon this topic.

Brannin told in detail his experiences in the Seattle organization from its founding to the present time, traced its growth, and explained the local economic and political situations under which it developed. He has been for many years an active student of the labor movement, an editor, writer and teacher, so that he has a wealth of material and is well qualified to present that material to a student group. The regret was often expressed while he was at Commonwealth that he has not made this material available in book form for advanced students of labor problems.

However not all of his lectures were on the subject of the unemployed. He talked upon the labor movement on the Pacific Coast, and labor education in that section. He also told the labor journalism class some of his experiences as a labor editor.

One of his most interesting talks was upon a trip which he and Mrs. Brannin made to Russia a few years ago. In this talk he did not make sweeping generalizations as to conditions in that country but rather confined himself to a simple narrative of their experiences.

"Soviet authorities," he said, "do not attempt to steer tourists away from those places where development has lagged. We were allowed to go where we pleased and we saw the most backward as well as the most progressive communities." Their general attitude toward Russia is, of course, one of great enthusiasm.

Bobbie Brannin, age 8, drove the college mules, visited the barn and the farm, went to the creek and otherwise made a thorough investigation of Commonwealth.

THANKS FRIENDS

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