Your Opportunity: Enter
The Subscription Contest
Letter From Debs Found
In Old Fortnightly Files
While there have been many varied
prizes offered in subscription cam-
paigns none has been as unique as that be-
ing offered by Commonwealth College to
the person getting the largest number of
new subscriptions to the FORTNIGHTLY. Ap-
lications are now coming in as the contest
enters its third week.
If you are genuinely interested in the
labor movement, if you want to prepare
yourself for more efficient work in your
union or farm organization, or if you want
to know more about the important eco-
nomic and social problems of the day, this
is your opportunity. The contest closes at
midnight November 30, 1936. The award
will be a $50 scholarship for one-quarter at
Commonwealth with tuition free. Com-
monwealth students work 20 hours a week
in exchange for room, board, and laundry.
The rules are as follows: Send in your
application for entry in the contest and we
will send you notification of acceptance
with a number of blank subscription forms.
Have the new subscriber fill out the blank
form and send it to the FORTNIGHTLY with
a dollar attached. You may receive as many
sample copies of the FORTNIGHTLY as you
need and at your request. Address all com-
munications to Charlotte Moskowitz, Ex-
ecutive Secretary, Commonwealth College,
Mena, Arkansas.
Many contests will find it advanta-
geous to enlist the support of their union
or farm organization in collecting subscrip-
tions. The FORTNIGHTLY has a wide circu-
lation among organized workers and unaf-
filiated sympathizers.
Glancing through the files of the Fort-
nightly, which has been published since
1925, we find the names of many people
prominent in labor and liberal action, of-
fering contributions, words of encourage-
ment and expressions of support. Back in
March, 1935, the great, beloved leader of
the working class, Eugene V. Debs, wrote
to the FORTNIGHTLY, extending his greet-
ings. His letter, as it appeared in the issue

Educating Youth
BY RAY KOHR
The problem of educating the youth
for unionism, it will be readily con-
ced, has received too little attention in
America up to the present time. Until re-
cently, in fact, an interesting edu-
cational program for trade unions was
an unheard of thing. Workers' education cer-
tainly must welcome the growing interest
which the unions are taking in trade union
clases, labor dramas, labor athletics, etc.
Workers' education must also bring for-
ward for discussion, the whole question of
youth organization in the unions.
This summer I spent eight weeks at a
southern camp for workers' children, Camp
Larry is located on the mountain farm of

Hurry Applications
For the Fall Quarter
Perhaps you have been debating
whether or not to take time out
for a course of study at Com-
monwealth College? It's time now to
decide and to send the application in.
The fall term opens on September 28!
Or perhaps other readers of the
FORTNIGHTLY have had in mind sugges-
ting to a worker that he should
study at Commonwealth, but have
deprecated to do so. There is still
time for you to direct a worker to
Commonwealth—but the time is short!
A few final changes have been
made to strengthen the fall curricu-


Peace Campaign Conducts
Anti-War Summer School
Whitten, Reuther, Jessen
Conduct Courses on Peace
The Anti-War School for southern
workers opened at Commonwealth the
week beginning August 31st with three
weeks covering the Historical Background
of War, the Economic Causes of War, and a
Program of Action for Workers under the
direction of Richard Whitten, Victor
G. Reuther and Louise Jessen, respectively.
The school is sponsored by the Labor Di-
vision of the Emergency Peace Campaign
and is the last of a series of such schools
being held this summer in all parts of the
nation under the direction of Nelson H.
Cruikshank.
The initial outlay and the major portion
of the financial support for the Campaign
was provided by individuals motivated by
their religious interest. Chief among these
was a group of Quakers. Additional finan-
cial support is coming from individuals who
became interested as a result of mass meet-
ings held in 278 cities throughout the coun-
try last spring. The Emergency Peace Cam-
paign is not connected with any political
party and does not set itself up as another
peace organization, but rather, it seeks to
establish a fund for the continuation of
present peace organizations and to pro-
mote a co-operative national campaign to
keep the United States from going to war.
Two of the methods by which it seeks to do
this are by: (1) Bringing about such politi-
cal and economic changes as are essential
to a just and peaceable world order, and
(2) recruiting and uniting in a dynamic
movement all organizations and individu-
als who are determined not to approve of
or participate in war.
Cognizance of the important position la-
bor holds in the social scene prompted or-
ganization of a special Labor Division, with
the aim of uniting all present labor peace or-
ganizations into a peace movement that
will be of labor, by labor, and for labor.
Among the proposals which the Labor
Division seeks to carry out during the two
year campaign are: to establish an infor-
mation bureau providing releases to the
Ain't It the Truth?

Origin Unknown. The Fortnightly will gladly give the original author credit if any reader can supply the information.

Over the Hill trailed a man behind a mule drawing a plow. Said the man to the mule:

"Bill, you are a mule, the son of a jackass, and I am a man made in the image of God. Yet, here we work, hitched up to-gether year in and year out. I often wonder if you work for me or if I work for you. Verily, I think it a partnership between a mule and a fool, for surely I work as hard as you, if not harder. Plowing or cultivating we cover the same distance, but you do it on four legs and I on two. I therefore, do twice as much work ker leg as you do."

"Sure, we'll be preparing for a corn crop. When the crop is harvested give one-third to the landlord for being so kind as to let me use this small peck of God's universe. One-third goes to you and the balance is mine. You consume all of your portion with the exception of the coals while I divide mine among seven children, six hens, two ducks, and a banker. If we both need shoes, you get 'em. Bill, you get the best of me, and I ask you, is it fair for a mule, the son of a jackass, to swindle a man—the Lord of Creation—out of his substance?"

"Why, you only help to plow and cultivate the ground, and I alone must cut, shock and husk corn while you look over the pasture fence and hoe-haw at me."

"All fall and most of the winter the whole family, from Granny to the baby, picks cotton to help raise money to pay taxes and buy a new harness and pay the interest on the mortgage on you. And what do you care about the mortgage? Not a damn! You ornery cuss. I even have to do the worrying about the mortgage on your tough ungrateful hide."

"About the only time I am better is an election day, for I can vote and you can't."

"And I can't be as Foley as a great jackass as your papa, Verily I am prone to wonder if politics were made for men or jackasses, or to make jackasses of men."

"And that ain't all, Bill, when you're dead that's supposed to be the end of you. But me? The person tells me that when I die I gotta go to hell forever. That is, Bill, if I don't do just as he says. And most of what he says keeps me from getting a kick out of life."

"Tell me, Willkum, considering these things how can you keep a straight face and look so dumb and solemn?"

The Scoop

DURING THE past summer session there appeared on the Commonwealth Campus a mimeographed paper called "The Scoop," which was put out in that section of the course in Graphic Methods of Propaganda that dealt with mimeograph techniques. Bill Stewart, Dean of Students, put it out to give the students practical experience in that line.

As ked as to whether he considered The Scoop a success, Bill replied with an enthusiastic "Yes! Of course it isn't perfect, but there is promise of a real Campus paper here before the fall quarter is over; after but six weeks all the members of the class had made sufficient progress to bring out two issues of the Campus paper—one a four-page issue and the other a six-page.

Bill came here at the beginning of the summer session as a student, but because of his experience in mimeograph work arrangements were made whereby he taught a very practical course in that subject. Twelve students took advantage of the opportunity during the summer period and the course will be continued in the fall quarter in conjunction with the course in Graphic Methods of Propaganda.

With the publication of The Scoop added to the activities of the paper, Bill says he really enjoys the work. "Mimeographing is so essential for work in the labor movement. Organizers must either be able to do their own, or else go to someone else to do it. And it is much better to be able to do it yourself. I should say that more than two-thirds of the summer class plan to utilize the training they have received in some phase of organization activity in the near future."

The Scoop, in its first two issues contained many different features: campus gossip, editorials, criticism, "Inquiring Reporter," a number of "sports" pages, poems and cartoons by Belle Davis and others. The nameplate on the first issue was an illustration of a sugar or flour scoop, with the "The" forming the handle and the word "Scoop" on the side. The second edition was more imposing with a cover symbolizing the United Front silk-screened in red.

Recalling that Bill promised to have a "real campus paper" by the end of the fall quarter, I asked: "In what way do you expect to improve it?"

"In many ways—cover designs, contents, and we expect to change the format every issue for variety and experience. We also expect to correlate the work with the activities of the school; to feature better articles and cut out so much of the gossip and make a real representative paper."

"You must understand," continued Bill, page three.
I Went to Commonwealth College

by Mathematics Smith

National Organizer, the American Writers Union

Hep! Hep! I had a good job and I quit; first they hired me, then they fired me, then, by golly, I quit!" This defiant dictum comes back to me now as I recall why I went to Commonwealth College in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas.

I went because I needed a let-up from being tossed around. With forty thousand others I'd been cut, this spring, from the Works Progress Administration's payroll. I had fifty bucks that I'd managed to hold on to and pocketed in a bank. The College catalogue said, "room, board, and tuition--three months--fifty dollars," so after I was let out I went hitch-hiking from Storria to Arkansas.

Up in the Ozarks in the south-central part of the county I found the tenants, farmers, six farm wives, sixteen unemployed white collared university graduates, four miners, a printer, an artist, six wheat farmers, six published authors, eight full-time union organizers, a factory girl and a bellhop. Ages nineteen to sixty-three. Entrance requirement: fifty dollars and the desire to learn.

There were several small children on the Campus but they were extra-curricular--I mean they didn't attend classes in "History of the American Labor Movement" or "Farm Problems" or "Political Economy"; although little thirteen-year-old Lunnie Moskop did at times wander into the Creative Writing class. Sometimes she'd be chasing a ball on the Campus, and if it happened to light under the particular tree where class was being held, why Lunnie would just naturally stick around and pick up a few pointers. You see, Lunnie had once saved his dad, a sharecropper organizer, from lynching-death, so Lunnie was eager to know what it was all about.

All lived in large white frame cottages and studied in a large white frame library and ate in a large frame Commons. The most advanced of them were the teachers and the least informed were the pupils. Towards the end of the three months term things got all mixed up--the students were delivering the lectures and the teachers were soaking it up. You are primarily bankrupt school teacher or college professor take leave from your graveyard of ideas and hie yourself away to Commonwealth. Buy yourself fifty dollars worth of contemporary truth, then watch it run up into new generations.

Swimming in the mountain streams starts in early April. Square dancing with the neighboring farmers is a year round sweat. Rabbits are in the bag if you stand at the window of your room with a shot-gun. In the dead of night, pig a bullfrog as he stares at the white beam of your flashlight; tastes like chicken when fried. Write a play, direct it, and act in it, then produce it for the students and neighbors some Saturday night. It's great fun.

Everybody works; Commonwealth, so I did my share, too. I washed dishes, picked berries, sawed wood, painted buildings, and "skinned" mules. Others worked on the farm, milked cows, minded babies, laundered clothes, hauled rock, or printed the Commonwealth Fortnightly. Some did office work. Four hours a day for students; three a day for teachers.

Everything taught and discussed from a point of view of class, working and sweating out. The best labor college in the United States, bar none. Co-operation in teaching, learning, working.

That's what I call a college!

WHAT IS COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE?

Commonwealth College is a non-sectarian labor school which has as its function the training of adult political leaders for active service in some militant organization in the labor movement.

Its courses, which include economics, history, labor problems, proletarian culture, creative writing, public speaking, journalism, psychology, etc., are taught from a point of view particular to the working class.

Most of the food consumed at the college is grown on the college farm. The school has its own laundry, canteen, outfit shop, etc. All work is done cooperatively by members of the group. The school pays no salaries or wages. Teachers receive only their maintenance.

Students pay $50 tuition per quarter term (three months) and receive their board and room in exchange for 30 hours work per week during full winter and spring terms and 15 hours per week during the summer term, or in the college, the garden, office, library, etc.

Commonwealth is located near Mesa, Arkansas in the Ouachita Mountains, the Ozark ring, of the Ozarks.

September 15, 1936

Commonwealth College Fortnightly

Page Three

Reuther, Peace Organizer, Worked in Soviet Union

The discussions on the Economic Causes of War and the Effect of the System on Workers, one of three courses being taught at the Anti-War School at Commonwealth College from August 31st to September 19th, are being led by Victor G. Reuther of Detroit who, with his wife, is visiting the College for three weeks.

Reuther is an auto worker and a graduate of Wayne University, formerly the College of the City of Detroit. For the past six months he has been working as national organizer for the Labor Division of the Emergency Peace Campaign, which is sponsoring the school against war. During this time Reuther taught a course similar to the one here, at Brookwood Labor College, Katonah, N. Y.

With his brother, Walter, also an auto worker, Reuther recently completed an extended tour of Europe and Asia, studying the economic conditions and the industrial and agricultural situations in the many countries visited.

Leaving the United States in the spring of 1933 they arrived in Germany three days before the Reichstag fire, thus seeing at close range the establishment of fascism in Germany as the immediate result of this plot against the Communist Party. For ten months they toured Europe on bicycles, traveling a distance of 12,000 miles and visiting nine countries. Early in 1934 they went to the Soviet Union, where they worked in the auto factories located at Gorky. In all they traveled about 18,000 miles in Soviet Russia, covering many of the industrial and agricultural regions there. Continuing on through Siberia, they arrived in Manchuria and China, where they saw the devastating effects of war. They spent six weeks in China. Here they found British textile factories operating with cheap labor and manufacturing textiles that are sold to people all over the world, including the unemployed of the British textile industries of Manchester.

Following their visit to China they cycled a month in Japan, inspecting factories and observing the life of the Japanese peasants. They worked their way back to California on a boat, having traveled a total distance of 45,000 miles in three years.

Through personal observation of the commercial rivalry and expansion in Europe and the Orient, the erection of forts and gun placements on the Soviet-Munichian border, Reuther can speak with sound knowledge of our present drift toward war and fascism and the need of unity in understanding the economic causes of war.

Join the Fortnightly Subscription Contest! Help Commonwealth and help yourself to a worker's education!
Larry Hogan's father, near Old Fort, North Carolina. One passes Larry's grave on the way to the camp. The Hosley Workers of America are raising a tombstone at the grave of this southern hero, who died a year ago while organizing for the union.

Camp Larry was born in the year of the Marion strike. Today it carries on the tradition of Larry Hogan. The camp is one of the projects of Pioneer Youth of America, an non-partisan organization which is truly a pioneer in the field of youth work in the labor movement. Pioneer Youth has conducted many successful summer camps for workers' children. In the last two years it has begun to organize youth auxiliaries for trade union children.

Camp Larry seems to me to be a step toward meeting the great need of educating the youth for unionism. I know that the twenty-five children, Negro and white, who attended Camp Larry already have developed a strong union loyalty, and an understanding of labor's problems beyond their years. Most of these twenty-five will go back to their towns and work in youth clubs in Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem, Murphy, North Carolina; in Roanoke, Virginia, in the coal towns of West Virginia. There they will spread their ideas to同志. They will sing their labor songs, put on labor plays for the unions. In this way, as it should be, the trade union becomes a family affair.

The staff of Camp Larry, composed largely of southern trade unionists and educators, were united in the opinion that the camp environment provides an excellent educational opportunity for teaching children the fundamental lessons of unionism, of solidarity and working together. The children co-operate in preparing meals, gathering wood. They learn to conduct meetings. They learn the necessity of discipline through their own 'campers' court,' Play, discussion, dramatization, campfires, likes singing all combine to form a rich and creative experience which the campers will not soon forget.

The big job seems to be that of making the union conscious of their responsibility to the trade union youth and to win their support. The twelve million young people between the ages of 12 and 19 years will determine the fate of the trade union movement tomorrow. I heard one southern union organizer say: 'The young people are interested only in jazz.' We have to ask ourselves: why is this? This same organizer said they tried special programs to attract the youth one- and lost their older members.

All this indicates that the problem is not so simple and requires real attention. The fact remains, however, that the southern industrialists with a semi-paternal labor policy, are paying attention to the young workers. Reactionary organizations generally attempt to influence the youth. The progressive union movement cannot afford to neglect the question of winning labor's youth for the labor movement. For one thing, we need more Camp Larry's!

Don Kohler at Little Rock

Donald G. Kohler, who taught Workers English at Commonwealth for the past two quarters, left Commonwealth at the end of the summer session to take an active part in Socialist Party work in the state. Kohler is Arkansas state secretary of the Socialist Party. He will be associated with Claude Williams of Little Rock, candidate for senator on the Socialist Party ticket, and will help with the campaign.

While at Commonwealth, Kohler was chairman of the school's United Front committee, helping to organize the united support of students and teachers behind labor and progressive movements in the state: Workers' Alliance, Southern Tenant Farmers Union, and the movement to build up the Arkansas State Federation of Teachers.

Sam White Visits School

Sam White, southern organizer for the ILGWU, visited Commonwealth recently over the weekend. He attended some of the classes of Commonwealth's Anti-War Summer School.

White still carried a black eye given him by anti-union thugs in Kansas City. White was leading a strike being conducted by his union in that city. He left Commonwealth to continue organizational work in Houston, Texas.

White has a special interest in workers' education. He is associated with a group on the west coast which is planning to start a labor school there, based on the trade union.

He expressed hopes that arrangements could be made for the ILGWU to send some of its southern students to Commonwealth on scholarships. He plans to return and spend a week studying Commonwealth methods after the fall quarter gets under way.

Tere Haute, Ind."

(Covington Hall was instructor in labor problems at Commonwealth at that time and occasionally lectures at the College during his visits here.)

In the "Communications" column of the issue of March 15, 1926, there appeared the following:

"When I next chance to be down your way I shall certainly do myself the pleasure of a visit with you," writes Eugene V. Debs in a recent letter to Commonwealth College. "Gene Debs recently sent a contribution to the Four Squat which he says 'carried a million good wishes'."

The FORTNIGHTLY has continued to improve in contents and appearance, the issue of September 1st marking the first time it has appeared in two colors.

Books Needed By Library

Inside Europe, by John Gunther.
International Politics, by F. L. Schuman.
Germany Prepared for War, by E. Banse.
Revolt on the Campus, by James Wechsler.
The Third International after Lenin, by Leon Trotsky.
The Big Money, by John Dos Passos.
Meaning of Hitlerism, by H. W. Steed.
War, Peace and the Soviet Union, by G. Graham.
The Secret War, by F. C. Hanighen.
Europe Under the Terror, by John L. Spivak.
Lords of Creation, by F. L. Allen.
Marxism, by J. M. Murry and others.

[LOUISE JESSEN from page two]