THE TONE of life at Commonwealth is of the spirit of the new world of the future. A labor college, it is directed, taught and in a large measure, attended by people who have dared to dream of America's grand future of freedom and enlightenment, and who have set to work toward the concrete proletarian task of making the dream a reality. Hence, Commonwealth College is an educational institution unique in America, at which social theory is studied and at the same time organically verified in every moment of the routine daily life on the campus.

Unlike the bourgeois schools and colleges—which must take students youthful rebelliously against falsified educations, cramped to conform to the status quo and drill their intellects into the iron mould—Commonwealth College, whose first principle is to educate in terms of reality, can perform "miracles" of education. To make education accessible to eager minds, then to put as little constraint and formality as possible between the student and the knowledge he wishes to obtain, this is the guiding theory back of Commonweal. Knowledge combined with practice (thinking and action and then more thinking) is what constitutes an education that is usable, and therefore worth its own while, and this principle, also, works gloriously at Commonwealth. Students of proletarian literature are, at the same time, writers of proletarian literature, student and teacher working together in a mutual attitude of friendly criticism. Labor journalism students constitute a working staff of journalists, writing and editing a publication, a satirical wall paper (The Scoop) and a press service (CPS). Political Econo-
Mena Local Of S. T. F. U. Organized

A Mena, Arkansas local of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union was formed last Sunday afternoon at a meeting at Commonwealth College called by J. R. Butler, president of the S. T. F. U.

With a number of farmers from the vicinity of Mena present, Butler spoke at the meeting on organization. Declaring that Polk County farmers were expelled by an interest system equivalent to the rent system prevailing in eastern Arkansas, Butler presented organization as the only means of fighting for relief and against evictions.

John Barnett, Commonwealth teacher who spoke following Butler, showed how unions throughout the country had already won many of the demands of the small farmers. Farmers, he said, need more organization to win more concessions. Fear of criticism or opposition, he declared, should not stop the small farmer from organization.

The first action of the Mena local was to draw up a protest asking that direct relief be given to J. M. LaCasse of Mena. LaCasse, who is past sixty, had been given a work card by the W. P. A. The card, however, required a walk of ten miles to the work location. Due to his age and the illness of his wife, who required care, this ten mile walk became impossible. The protest is to be forwarded to the Workers' Alliance at Mena for additional signatures, after which it will be presented to the W. P. A. officials of Mena. It was announced that meetings of the new Mena local are to be held regularly on Sundays.

A Step Out Of The Government Slavery

NOTE: Walter Moskop, sharecropper and Commonwealth student, and two other sharecroppers were sent by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union to Washington to deliver lobbies of signatures from the mass conditions such as Mrs. Morelock, also a Commonwealth student, describes in her article. Although they represented a whole class of Americans in desperation, they reported after two weeks that nothing was done.

I speak from personal experience. In 1935 the government started the Arkansas Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. We got a mule the 10th of March and on the 12th we drew six bales of hay and ten bushels of oats. On the 15th we got a $5 order for two weeks, which was what the contract called for. We were supposed to get $12 a month ($72 for six months). Under the contract we had to pay for the mule in three years. The contract also promised us $35 worth of clothes. Our mule cost $185.50. One middle-buster cost $14. A turning plow cost $12.50. A doubleshoe boll $7.50. These prices are so low we can remember because we did not get a price list from the government.

Also the furnish must be remembered. We got the first furnish on March 15th. It was $6. April 1st we got $5. The next one came ten days late. It should have come on April 15th and it came April 25th - $5. May 1st furnish came June 1-$4. Then there was a period of time until August 15th in which we got $6.20 and $3 for hay out of the $12.50, which left us $6.20 to live on through September, October, November and December to pick our cotton.

The first of June we planted cotton in water and mud. The planter would mire up in the mud.

We worked some in clods which were caused from wet weather turning off dry, and we had half enough to eat and the baby had no milk, and it sat at the end of the row and cried for milk while we worked expecting to have something in the fall. I worked as hard as a man and was also with child. We only had one meal a day and it was vegetable without any salt or grease.

We would go to the nearest mail route. We lived two miles from the route. We would go to the nearest mail route. We lived two miles from the route. We would go to the nearest mail route. We lived two miles from the route. We would go to the nearest mail route. We lived two miles from the route. We would go to the nearest mail route. We lived two miles from the route. We would go to the nearest mail route. We lived two miles from the route.

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next day we would start for home and maybe meet the supervisor in town and he would say, "Well, what is the reason you are not working?"

"Well, we are hungry."

"Well, the checks will be there soon."

But we still were hungry and we would go on home hungry. When we quit the crop for a day or two days to work for something to eat they would come and criticize and tell us that they had done for us, and we should stay in our crop, we would be surprised in the end and we certainly was surprised.

We had one piece of garment apiece and it was patch on top of patch, and we washed them at night and slept on a cotton sack ripped open for a sheet.

I was expecting my baby and I tore up my old dress I was patching and made my baby a dress out of that, and used a cotton sack and a sock dres-sy for myself. Under the AAA plan we were allowed to grow 500 pounds of lint cotton. We were allowed ten acres of corn and seven tons of pea hay. We grew it all and they took it back on the debt and then they taken everything back and told us we were no good to farm.

Under these conditions I joined the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union looking to work with all other workers to help change things.
Butler Comments On
Arkansas Parallel Of
Minn. Credit Crisis

BY HELEN NORFJORD

This reveals the attempt to grind the small farmer off the land, to force him onto subsistence farms, in order that the large landowners may take over the land.

J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, made this comment concerning an article on the Minnesota credit crisis in a recent issue of the Farmers' National Weekly in which the following facts appeared:

Minnesota farmers in obtaining feed seed loans must give a prior lien on this year's crop, including in the lien all delinquent loans of past years—which heavy terms would absorb the year's profits in areas suffering short crop or crop failure.

"Arkansas farmers face a system even more harsh," declared Butler. "Here the government is concerned with only those farmers who give evidence of being good investments. Those who, according to the judgment of the county advisory committee of the Resettlement Administration, are incapable of farming successfully, or are unfortunate enough to be situated on poor land, are not considered for loans.

"Those who are eligible," he went on, "must submit to the farm and home management plans worked out by local committees. Liens are taken on capital stock and crops. Rent, seed, fertilizer and subsistence loans must be repaid at five per cent interest within one or two years. Conceivably, drought, flood or crop failure will interfere with the payment of many of these.

"The Resettlement Administration of Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana," he remarked, "shows its hand on the question of subsistence farms in a pamphlet issued by them in which they outline a plan whereby 1800 families from these three states are to be moved to subsistence farms to be established on small tracts of land as a demonstration project."

In Minnesota according to the Farmers National Weekly, the Farm Holiday Association met the credit crisis by demanding cancellation of debt and the right to repay loans bushel for bushel. In the Resettlement Division, where loans are refused by all government agencies, farmers wired their senator to demand that loans be granted.

In Polk County, whose population is composed chiefly of small farmers, a local of the STFU has formed which as it grows will be able to meet the situation here in much the same way as the Farm Holiday is doing in Minnesota.

"In fact," Butler said, "only through this organization will the small farmer be able to realize his needs. Adequate relief and loans will be fought for as well as the right to repay such loans on a fair basis."

Library Book Needs

Theodore Brameld, Philosophic Approach to Communism.

Franz Mehring, Life of Karl Marx.

F. L. Schuman, The Nazi Dictatorship.

Gustave Mayer, Friederich Engels.

Harry W. Laidler, Socializing Our Democracy.

Julius Heeker, Religion and Communism.

Kenneth Burke, Permanence and Change.

Gordon MacCraugh, The Last of Free Africa.

R. P. Vance, Human Geography of the South.

Martin Anderson Nezo, Pelle the Conquerer.

Mikhail Sholokhov, And Quiet Flows the Don.

Isidor Schneider, From the Kingdom of Necessity.

Romain Rolland, Death and Birth of a World.

Grace Lumpkin, A Sign for Cain.

Fielding Burke, A Stone Came Rolling.

Emile Burns, Handbook of Marxism.

Maxim Gorky, Belomor.

Sidney and Beatrice Webb, Soviet Communism.

Mikhail Sholokhov, Seeds of Tomorrow.


Earl Browder, What Is Communism?

Guy S. Ford, Dictatorship in the Modern World.

Ferdinand Lundberg, Imperial Hearst.

LaFollette Asks Investigation Of Civil Liberties

BY HORACE BRYAN

Senator Robert LaFollette, Progressive of Wisconsin, has introduced a resolution into congress calling for a Senate investigation of the rights of free speech and assembly and undue interference with the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively.

The Hearst Press, the American Liberty League and Democratic and Republican administrations who have called out troops to break strikes are up in arms to prevent this investigation from going through. Every trade union, farm organization, organization of the unemployed, and individual who is interested in the preservation of the democratic right of labor should bombard Senator LaFollette, demanding that the investigation be made and that it be a real investigation.

Arkansas should get its share of probing under such an investigation. In the eastern part of the state the attacks on the rights of the sharecroppers to organize, and in Little Rock and Sebastian County intimidation of the unemployed which began with the relief strike in February, 1935, and continues until this time, mark two of the "sore spots" in the nation. Such an investigation, if it goes to the bottom of the mess in these two areas, would reveal a series on undemocratic and un-American acts which would put Hitler's fascist mad-dogs to shame. In both areas there has been the closest cooperation between local politicians of the Democratic machine, the industrialists and landlords, and armed bands of strikebreakers.

Members of the General Assembly of the Arkansas legislature who are interested in bringing before the people of Arkansas "things they ought to know about," and evidently there are such people judging from the vicious "investigation" of Commonwealth last year, can do the people of the state a real service if they will remember these two sore spots, and bring them up for investigation at the next meeting of that body.

Every individual and organization in the state interested in civil rights should send demands to Senator LaFollette that the Southern Tenant Farmers Union and the figures connected with the relief strike in Fort Smith and Sebastian County be called before the Senate Sub-committee to testify as to the violations of civil liber-
Eight Weeks For
$40
PLUS 15 HOURS WEEKLY WORK
(Meals, lodging, and laundry included)

Commonwealth College
Holds Demonstration

At 11 o'clock on April 23 the campus bell tolled loudly, calling Commonwealth College to join with the hundreds of thousands of students who, through the length and breadth of America, were giving voice to their opposition to war and fascism.

Rex Pitkin opened the demonstration, held under the directorship of the public speaking class and the student council, by briefly tracing the development of the American Student movement from a few discussion clubs at the City College of New York to the powerful American student union of today.

John Barnett, faculty chairman, acted as chairman for the meeting and stressed the need for a militant farmer labor party as an effective weapon against war and fascist reaction. Mort Brown spoke of his experience in a high-school student strike, contrasting Commonwealth's demonstration with the intimidation and victimization that greeted students in other high schools and colleges, who dared voice their opposition to imperialist wars. Ed Pickering, student and organizer for the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, gave a "unionist's plea for peace" and pointed out the value of unions on the peace front.

Mary Brown, also a student, spoke on the plight of women under fascism and emphasized the importance of enrolling women in the fight against war. She also described the Soviet Union as being the only place where women are given full equality. Russel Butler, a local instructor and president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, gave a graphic account of the愚蠢 cost in "dollars, death and despair," of the world war. He concluded by telling the youth of the world to "put up an intelligent fight against war, and refuse to be made cannon fodder for the protection and perpetuation of your oppressors." Ralph Field, maintenance worker, was the last speaker and closed his talk with a stirring plea for peace.

Charlotte Moskowitz, Sec'y-Treas., Commonwealth College, Mena, Ark.,
[ ] Please send application for summer session.
[ ] Keep me posted on summer session plans.
[ ] I am interested. Please send me your regular catalogue.
[ ] I enclose a dollar for a year's subscription to the FORTNIGHTLY.

Name

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PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE PLAINLY

Program from page 1

my students go to the very base of economy, the Arkansas workers, for actual practice to combine with their theory, testing their knowledge in action until it becomes irrefutable. Students of public speaking have the opportunity to speak in public, assisting at meetings of the Alder Springs local of the glorious Southern Tenant Farmers Union. Leaflets, banners, letter posters, bulletins, shop papers are studied and developed at the same time, under the direction of a specialist.

A description of the daily practical life at Commonwealth could not but read like the glowing effusions of an advertisement for a summer resort—swimming, fishing, volley ball, tennis, hiking along the old Indian trails in the foothills of the Ouachitas; dancing, social activities, quartets and chorals; real folk dancing with the neighbors, whose folk culture is that of early America, with a cultural interchange between students and neighbors valuable to both.

All the sports and social activities are interspersed skillfully with classroom and farm work, in a way that fills every moment in all of the activities to its full content. of life and growth. There is no neurasthenia of all application of the mind and none of the physical self; giddy and conscience-hurting preoccupation with pleasure, no dulling effect of all work and no play.

Everybody works at Commonwealth. Learned professors use their muscles at the woodpile (it keeps their brows from getting too snowy) and in the student library. All the sports and social activities are interspersed skillfully with classroom and farm work, in a way that fills every moment in all of the activities to its full content of life and growth. There is no neurasthenia of all application of the mind and none of the physical self; giddy and conscience-hurting preoccupation with pleasure, no dulling effect of all work and no play.

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