SANFORD TO LEAVE FOR WEST COAST JOB
Senior Faculty Member Takes Post on San Francisco Newspaper

Maurice Sanford, senior member of the Commonwealth faculty, is leaving the college about December 15 to take an editorial position in San Francisco with the new workers' newspaper, the Daily People's World, which is due to publish the first of the year in place of the present semi-weekly Western Worker.

Sanford, who has been teaching Labor History this quarter, came to Commonwealth in the winter quarter of 1935 and has been here continuously since that time with the exception of one or two quarters spent in the field on research trips.

A professional newspaper man, Sanford's experience in the labor movement was so extensive that he was able to take over almost any course upon request, so that students frequently referred to him as the "one-man faculty." Originally coming to the college as an instructor in Labor Journalism, he has during his incumbency offered as well full courses in Labor History, Labor Politics, Periodical Literature, and Political History, and in addition has served as a substitute teacher in Trade Unionism, Public Speaking, Orientation, and Periodical Literature. He has also occupied the position of associate librarian, and has worked on a number of valuable bibliographical projects, one of which has already been published and several others of which are to be published in the near future.

Outstanding in Sanford's equipment as a labor college teacher is his remarkable collection of documentary material — newspapers, periodicals, letters, etc. — most of it un reproduced, much of it unknown to the average student of the labor movement in America. His lectures, generally speaking, were based upon this unique material and upon his own experience rather than upon the few books generally available, and in consequence included

ASSOCIATION TO MEET HERE OVER WEEKEND

Labor Leaders to Be Faced by Full Program of Planning and Inspection

Prospects of a crowded weekend for the Non-Resident Board members and other visitors who will gather at Commonwealth on December 4 and 5 for the annual Association meeting are indicated by the schedule so far mapped out.

All non-resident members of the governing body are expected except William Stinner, United Electrical and Radio Workers organizer from St. Louis, who will be unable to come. The eight members whose attendance is anticipated are J. R. Butler, Memphis, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, William Jno., Seminole (Okla.), president of Typographers' Local 78; E. R. Justice, Fort Smith (Ark.), business agent of the Bricklayers' Union in his city; Walker Martin, Birmingham, executive board member of the UCPAFA; Edward M. Norman, Winter Haven (Fla.), secretary-treasurer of the Citrus Workers' Organizing Committee; C. A. Stanfield, Hot Springs attorney; Ols. I. Sayward, Muskogee, state secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union; and John Woodruff, Goose Creek (Texas), American Federation of Teachers leader. In addition to the board members, a number of labor leaders from Fort Smith, Oklahoma City, and other union centers in the Commonwealth area are expected to be on hand.

Those visitors who arrive Saturday morning will be able to sit in on the various classes, and thus see the college in action. After lunch there will be a general tour of the campus, including a trip over the farm.

At 3:30 the formal program will begin with a talk by Director Claude Williams summarizing the purposes and plans of the reorganization policy and its progress to date. Reports will be made by Donald Kohler, secretary-treasurer, and by Henry...

WINTER QUARTER TO OPEN ON JANUARY 5

Winter Quarter to Open on January 5

With the opening of the winter term on January 5, Commonwealth begins its second term since Claude Williams became director under a reorganization plan that has been endorsed by many nationally known labor and professional leaders.

The addition of nine regional leaders in the labor movement to the school's governing body, the Commonwealth College Association, to aid in determining and executing the policies of the school, is expected to strengthen considerably Commonwealth's relationship with the unions in this area. With the assistance of the non-resident members, the college's extension work will be further developed.

The majority of the staff members serving this term will remain for the winter quarter. The curriculum will be changed only slightly to meet the need for more advanced work on the part of those students who are staying over for a second quarter.

The course in Union Methods, a practical study of organizational methods, strike strategy and the principles of unionism, will be continued and will be required of all new students enrolling January 5.

To Prospective Students

Commonwealth's winter term will open January 5. Those wishing to enroll at this time are urged to submit applications immediately. Courses for the winter quarter will include Union Methods, Economics, Labor History, Journalism, Imperialism, Dramatics, Public Speaking, Typing, and Mimeograph Technique.

Tuition is $40 per quarter (twelve week session) and students work 20 hours per week for room, board, and laundry. For application blanks or additional information, write to Donald G. Kohler, secretary, Commonwealth College, Mena, Ark.
Series of Discussions Held
On Cooperative Movement

A series of nine discussions on Consumers' Cooperatives, made available to Commonwealth students as a supplement to the regular courses, began on November 15 under the direction of Peter Wartainain.

The class, which meets three times a week, opened with a study of cooperative principles, and proceeded to the origin of consumers' cooperatives and their development in America. Other points taken up are the matter of credit unions and insurance, and the practical methods for building cooperatives and utilizing them for social advancement.

Wartainain, who came from his home in Fitchburg, Mass., to lead the course, has a wide background of experience in cooperative management and study. A native of a community with decades of cooperative tradition, he has participated in the movement both locally and nationally, being a member of the board of directors of the Fitchburg Farmers' Cooperative Union, and former secretary-treasurer, educational director, and editor-for-the Massachusetts League of Cooperative Clubs, as well as belonging to numerous national organizations.

Three Members Added
To Advisory Committee

Three members of Commonwealth's National Advisory Committee not included in the list published in the last issue of the FORTNIGHTLY are Jerome Davis, president, American Federation of Teachers; George Clifton Edwards, attorney, Dallas, Texas; and Victor Reuther, organizer, Local No. 174, United Automobile Workers of America.

Jerome Davis is a distinguished scholar and unionist. He is serving his second term as president of the American Federation of Teachers, is the author of several books, and a former teacher in the Yale Divinity School.

George Clifton Edwards has distinguished himself for his defense of labor's rights and civil liberties in Texas and has been a staunch supporter of Commonwealth for several years.

Reuther was a teacher in the Anti-War school sponsored at Commonwealth by the Emergency Peace Campaign in the summer of 1936. In accepting a place on Commonwealth's advisory committee, he writes in part, "It is good to learn that Commonwealth is still forging ahead.... the need for a genuine labor school like Commonwealth is most apparent."

Farmers Take Stand With Progressive Forces of Nation at Oklahoma Meeting

Plan Organizational Drive In Cooperation With Labor Union Leaders

BY GUY KNOBEL

(The writer, a Commonwealth student, has been president of his local of the Farmers' Union at Jamestown, N. D.)

The actions of the national Farmers' Union convention, held in Oklahoma City November 16-18, mark a considerable step toward united action by American farmers and workers in a program of social reform. Besides electing a thoroughly progressive slate of officers without opposition, the convention went on record as favoring cooperation with union labor. Endorsed the Black-Conway Fair Labor Standards bill, and set in motion the machinery for an organizational drive among farmers in the South.

John Vesecky of Kansas was elected president of the union, replacing E. H. Ever­ son of South Dakota, who had been aligned with the Coughlin faction in the organization. H. G. Keeney of Nebraska was chosen vice-president, and J. M. Graves of Oklahoma secretary. Those elected to the board of directors were George A. Nelson of Wisconsin, chairman, Morris Erickson of North Dakota, James Patton of Colorado, Emil Loreeck of South Dakota, and M. H. Miller of Missouri. Of these Erickson, Patton, and Loreeck have been especially active in fighting for farmer-labor unity in their respective states.

Donald Henderson, president of the Unit­ and Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied workers of America, was present as CIO representative, and addressed the convention. As a result of sentiment indicated at the meeting, the board of directors, immediately after its conclusion, launched plans for a major organizational campaign in the South along the lines of those recently made by the SWOC and the TWOC, in which the CIO and the AFL will be invited to cooperate.

Among the resolutions adopted was one introduced by W. C. Irby of Alabama calling for limitation of private fortunes, "re­ possession" of railroads, banks, trust and insurance companies, mines, factories, and other "resources of exploitation of the people", and the setting up of a national board, popularly elected, to set equitable prices and wage rates. Other resolutions embodying progressive measures included little difficulty of passage, withstanding efforts at amendment or tabling by the Eisenhower forces.

TEN COMMONERS GO
TO FARM CONVENTION

The Youth Legislative Assembly, a mock law-making session composed of representatives from seventeen Southwestern colleges who met in the Oklahoma state capital on November 20 and 21, found its membership unexpectedly increased to eighteen when Rosalie Stinson appeared and requested participation as a delegate from Commonwealth.

Welcomed to a seat in the Assembly, Rosalie was placed on the Labor Committee, where she helped to draft progressive "legislation" for passage by the body.

The Assembly was arranged by a number of college debating societies in order to give their members practical experience in parliamentary procedure and party government. Rosalie, who remained in Oklahoma City for the Assembly after the Farmers' Union Convention, reported that many of the student delegates were interested in the policy and program of Commonwealth as a labor college.

Of particular note was the great interest shown by the Farmers' Union Juniors in the cooperative movement, as evidenced by their speeches and essays. The Junior organization, established seven years ago, has done outstanding work through summer camps, contests, and other methods in acquainting young farm people with cooperative thought, educating them in the workings of the economic system, and overcoming the anti-labor bias that might exist.

Mrs. Gladys Talbott Edwards, of North Dakota, founder of the movement, was elected Junior leader, replacing Chester Graham of Michigan, who declined re­ nomination. The convention formally voted its approval of Junior activities for the first time, and appropriated $2000 for office expenses to carry on the work.
Wheel and Alliance Program Was Directed Against Growth of 19th-Century Monopolies

BY HORACE BRYAN

[NOTE: This is the third of a series of articles dealing with little known chapters in the history of workers' and farmers' movements in the South. Readers who have participated in such movements or who have access to books, pamphlets, or other material relating to them are asked to get in touch with the Commonwealth College Research Department.]

Speaking of the origin of the Agricultural Wheel in his official history, W. Scott Morgan says: "It was the outgrowth of necessity, the result of oppression. Like other great organizations that have for their goal the amelioration of the condition of the human race, many false impressions and exaggerated statements relative to its origin, growth and object have gone out to the world."

"The question has often been asked, what gave rise to the Wheel?" remarks W. W. Tedford, one of the seven men who founded this farmers' organization in 1882 and saw it grow to national power. "That question is as easily answered as asked. Monopoly!

"Monopoly is the true cancer," he goes on, "like other cancers it roots penetrate the entire body on which it subsists—in consequence of which we challenge the world to produce the equal of some Arkansas monopolist on a small scale."

Anti-monopoly—that was the spirit and program of the Wheel and Alliance, as it was the backbone of all those farm and labor organizations which made up the body of the Populist revolt at the end of the last century.

The Wheel and Alliance, like the whole Populist movement, was a product of that period of American history which gave birth to the modern corporation and to monopoly. The rise of the corporation and of monopoly meant that the small farmer, the home owner, the shopkeeper, were being swallowed by the larger and more powerful. The voice of the Wheel and Alliance was the voice of the little man—his protest against expropriation.

These little men, farmers or laborers, were against anything which resembled monopoly. They were against monopoly of exchange, of trade, of transportation, of land, of press, of ballot. They saw monopoly as the source of graft, corruption, and crooked politics. They believed in government by the people, rather than by the monopolies.

Against monopoly of exchange they proposed "free silver." This issue, although only one of their many planks during the earlier period, later became the only plank. "Free silver" was the god which would ally all their suffering. Their desertion of the more fundamental reforms for the Bryan-sponsored panacea accounts, more than anything else, for the disintegration of the Wheel.

Against monopoly of trade they called for anti-trust laws, and it was during this period that the first anti-trust legislation was passed. Income tax laws were also enacted, but were declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Monopoly of transportation and the general conduct of the railroads were a sore spot with the Westerners. The railroads had captured all the better lands and exercised a host of privileges. The farmers proposed government control and reduction of freight rates.

Monopoly of land—the growth of the plantation system and the dispossession of small farmers—was another great evil. Mortgages as such seem to have been the immediate issue which prompted the Arkansas farmers to organize the Wheel. At the time there was in effect in the state the Anacoda mortgage law, which held the rural population in virtual slavery. Even the physicians of Lonoke county met and decided not to serve any family indebted to them unless they were given a mortgage. "All that we could hear in Prarie county was mortgages, mortgages. mortgages!" says W. Scott Morgan. The farmers finally succeeded in getting the Anacoda law modified.

The Wheel and Alliance fought for the universal franchise, for equal representation of all parties in the election machinery, for direct election of senators, and for primary elections to make party nominations. They raised the question of woman suffrage, and in the South, although it was a ticklish matter, the right of the Negro to vote. Today it would seem astounding to see white workers and farmers defending the franchise of the Negro workers and farmers, but that is exactly what happened at the time.

Some opponent of the Populists referred to them as "the anarchists who raise our wheat." He might have added "who grow our corn and cotton and run our factories."

Fulks and Chappell Talk At Sunday Night Forums

Continuing its series of forum presentations for Commonwealth students and visitors each Sunday night, the Public Speaking class during the last two weeks has sponsored talks by Clay Fulks on "Political High Spots in Arkansas" and by Winifred Chappell on "The Chinese-Japanese War and its Implications."

In her address last Sunday Miss Chappell, who is instructor of the Imperialism and Fascism class, described the progress of the invaders into China, showing that the present Japanese attack is part of a long-time ruthless plan of expansion. She discussed the relation of the fascist powers, the Soviet Union, European "democratic" countries and the United States to the Far Eastern conflict. She pointed out the present shaky economic position of Japan, the rich resources of China, the roll of the China Red Army with its able leadership, and the status of the Chinese People's Front. Finally she told about the "Don't Buy Silk" campaign as one way of putting a crimp into Japan's aggression and bought the Commonwealth residents, especially the women members, to cooperate in this effort.

Miss Chappell's talk at the Commons was given by the dim illumination of two or three oil lamps, the power plant having broken down.

Fulks, who has played a prominent part in the political, literary and cultural life of Arkansas for many years, reminisced about the people he has known and the curious incidents in which they have figured. As candidate for governor of the state on the Socialist ticket, teacher, lawyer, authority on folk songs, and contributor to such magazines as the old Mother Folks acquired a rich field of experience in every aspect of Arkansas happenings before he retired to farm life at Commonwealth.

for the movement literally swept the country. In many Southern and Western states it became a major political factor. The total number of voters it polled will never be known, because there was no honest election for the farmers and workers.

The Populist movement did not succeed in establishing many of its proposed reforms, although it left its mark on most of the states in the form of legislation.

A more recounting of its program, however, amounts to listing the most important legislation passed in this country during the last twenty-five years.

The Wheel and Alliance and the other Populist organizations pushed out of existence as the new era came, but their place lived on in the hearts of American farmers and workers until it was finally enacted into law.
Dramatics Class to Produce Original Play
For Commonwealth Association Meeting

A new original play, "Ninety-seven Cents," written and produced by Lee Hays' class in Workers' Dramatics, will be presented to the Commonwealth Association, student body, and visitors Saturday night. The performance will constitute part of the program for the annual Association meeting on December 4 and 5.

Taking as its theme a vital Southern social problem, the invasion of small Southern communities by Northern industries in search of cheap labor, the play draws largely for source material upon Thomas A. Stokes' pamphlet, "Carpet-baggers of Industry," published by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. The scene is laid in a courtroom, and the action is part of a trial arising from conflict between a typical "carpet-bagging" industry and its employees.

The play has been dedicated to George McLean, editor of the Tupelo (Miss.) Journal, as "one of many Southern voices courageously exposing industrial carpet-bagging." McLean's newspaper has been especially active in fighting exploitation of Southern labor and resources—an exploitation that has been fostered by Governor White of Mississippi on the ground that it is a necessary step in the industrialization of the South.

Decision to write an original vehicle was taken by the Dramatics class after weeks of studying all the available workers' plays. The theme was selected because of its pressing interest all over the South and its direct relation to the labor movement, nationally; since only labor organizations can effectively resist exploitation, and unless "carpet-bagging" is successfully resisted, all Northern industry will join in the general movement southward to evade the higher standards forced by the Northern unions.

Technically the play is so devised that it can be presented with a minimum of properties and on the most unpretentious stage. Simplicity of production was kept in mind partly because of the physical limitations of the Commonwealth stage and partly because other dramatic groups with even more rigid limitations may wish to present it.

"Ninety-seventy Cents" is the second presentation of the Dramatics class this quarter, the first having been Florence Lassner's skit, "Who Is Getting Excited?" published by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which was given on November 6.

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Black, librarian, after which each of the instructors will speak briefly, describing his course.

An original play, "Ninety-seven Cents," written and produced by Lee Hays' class in Workers' Dramatics, will be presented at 8 o'clock Saturday evening.

After a group breakfast and community singing Sunday morning the Non-Resident Board will meet in executive session to elect officers, consider alterations in the constitution, and discuss the expansion and development of the college's extension program, a matter in which their wide variety of background and contacts should enable them to render invaluable service.

The concluding items on the scheduled program are a talk at 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon by Marvin Sanford on "The South Today," and a panel discussion at 7:30 in the evening by the Non-resident Board members and other guests on Southern labor problems.

The meeting on December 4 and 5 will be the first gathering of the full Commonwealth Association, resident and non-resident, as set up under the college extension plan adopted last fall. It is expected that such assemblies will be held annually hereafter.