Moths Flee, Needles Fly
As ‘Grads’ Don City Garb

City shoes, neckties and shirt buttons all assume prime importance these hectic last days of the winter quarter. Once again mirror, razor and comb enjoy prestige on the campus. Mothscarcity for cover, shoe shines dazzle anew. And the thin spots in hargy trousers—through which the last minute want-ads could be read—tax students’ patience as well as their unskilled hand at emergency tailoring.

Reason: The quarterly evacuation of Commonwealth “graduates” is under way. This time a majority of the school population is poring over road maps, freight train schedules and bus rates. Nearly all are going “back home” where endless labor and farm organizational duties demand immediate use of the intense training absorbed here.

What the Fortnightly observed years ago on a similar occasion will undoubtedly hold true today: departing Commoners look all right when they pile into the campus truck for their ride down to Mena and thence to all points on the campus, but after the first day out some little things will loom terribly large, quite embarrassing. For instance, the horizontal crease that months of closet-storage produces upon pants to be worn in a world that takes its pressing vertically. Or that Commonwealth haircut which evokes semi-ambiguous comments from passengers in the seat behind.

Last minute trading activity around the dormitories over-shadowed much else for the while, too. A battered sandofer for work on the college farm hardly suits an ambitious young organizer when he lands in the Ohio valley steel towns. Nor do ex-students’ stockingless shoes go well back on the city streets. Hence, a lively scramble develops among the deporters for the best exchange bargains to be gleaned from newcomers, who arrive with envied city trappings but lack the rugged oughts in style here.

Books are another commodity passing from hand to hand now. Departures find that, unlike overshoes, these do not jam into a suitcase very well, so in desperation they are sacrificed to remaining students. On the other hand, much effort is entirely

Spring Marches on!

All prospective spring quarter students are urged by Charlotte Moskowitz, secretary-treasurer, to speed the Commonwealth as a scene, starlit night, thus avoiding unnecessary delay in starting classes March 29th.

Twain Meet: Northeast,
Southwest Marry Here

A new Reddoch of Nogales, Arizona, and Belle Gelber of The Bronx, New York City, got a marriage license on the afternoon of March 8th and used it up before midnight that day at the Folk County Court House in Mena.

As Arcus’ just-deserted roommate and Commonwealth student body president, Cullen Ott, saw the day through as best man. Charlotte Moskowitz, college secretary-treasurer, represented the campus in the role of best lady. The faculty had its witness in Ray Koch, trade unionism instructor.

The bride, “Buddie” to her friends, is a stenographer who has been a student at Commonwealth for the past six months. Her first and avowedly last husband is instructor in public speaking here, formerly a student.

With their nervousness bravely half-concealed, the couple were quietly ritualized out of single life by Justice of the Peace W. P. Mount, to whom both declared convincingly, “I do.”

Preceding a very mild charivari, a sort of symposium on “How to Succeed in Wedlock” was tendered the pair with coffee and cakes at the Commons as a scene, starlit night eclipsed the unexpected day.

Under Koch’s mastery of ceremonies, Ott wondered young Reddoch from the yet stamned ranks of campus bachelors. Rev. Haven Perkins, faculty chairman, immediately arose, however, to hail him into the married fold. Winifred Chappell, imperialism instructor, likewise voiced the youthful bride a good-bye in behalf of the independent campus women, while Clara Mae Perkins, assistant lecturer in orientation, reconciled her to the new status.

Liberal Bloc at Capitol
Hailed for Bill Defeat

Due credit should go to those liberal Arkansans legislators who showed sincerely progressive tendencies by defeating the “anti-education” bill with such an impressive majority.

This message was “brought home” to the campus by Clay Fulks, veteran writer and former teacher, when he returned to Commonwealth last week after an energetic month at the Little Rock capitol as spokesman for the college.

In stressing to Commons the encouraging amount of forward-looking sentiment he found among the representatives who stood firmly against the bill and the senators ready to fight it, Fulks cited that this progressive strength was not limited to the mountainous counties and mining towns of western Arkansas. He perceived it also in certain solos from eastern counties—the very heart of the cotton belt, where forces behind the attempted repression of workers’ education and civil liberty were the strongest.

Many legislators, he observed, flouted the ridiculous attacks upon Commonwealth because they had long ago satisfied themselves as to the real character and lawful purpose of the college. Some indicated their admiration, too, for Donald Kobler, who as a former Commonwealth student joined Fulks in presenting the campus’ position on the issue to various of the lawmakers.

Fulks concluded that by now a goodly number of legislators see the nonsensicality of reactionary bills and the necessity of much progressive action. He added, however, that the people all over Arkansas must give them support, without which reactionary elements still in the legislature can defeat the best efforts of this liberal bloc.

While the college itself congratulated the 46 representatives whose vote spiked the second ill-fated assault upon Commonwealth within two years, it was disclosed that they received many letters of satisfaction from other quarters.

A significant sample may be seen in the following excerpt from an open letter sent by Earl S. Belman, Hyattsville, Maryland, to Chairman E. L. McHaney, Jr., of the

COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE
FORTNIGHTLY
VOL. XIII, NO. 6 MENA, ARKANSAS: MARCH 15, 1937 $1.00 A YEAR
Mimeographing Handbook Out Today
As Early Orders Mount; Get Yours?

RUSH your orders for the "Handbook of Mimeograph Technique" while its limited first edition lasts!

With the 30-page booklet out today, two weeks ahead of its scheduled release date, Commonwealth College's publication committee backed up this advice by disclosing that several advance requests for copies at 25 cents apiece have already been received from activists and groups in the labor movement. From now on the policy is "first come, first served."

Commonwealth's graphic arts instructor, Bill Steed, prepared this practical, comprehensive guide to effective and inexpensive mimeographing, has added five more pages to it for additional details.

- The bulk of the material between its handsome, durable covers is devoted to clear-cut explanations and illustrations of the best and cheapest methods for quick mass production of educational and publicity matter. Indispensable suggestions are included in this section that workers should have on the job.
- The methods are especially prepared for the everyday work of workers who have had no particular skill or training in the graphic arts which have become so vital to successful organizations. Every organizer, educational director and publicity committee in the farm and labor movements can well afford to have one of these guides on how to produce more and better material for less time and money.

Copies will be sent postage prepaid upon receipt of orders with 50-cent, stamps or a money order to Charlotte Moskowitz, college secretary-treasurer.

- By the first week of March the college published "A Bibliography on the Revolutionary Approach to the Negro Question in America" by Marvin Sanford, associate librarian and instructor in labor history.
- This compilation lists practically all material bearing directly on the Marxist approach to the Negro question that has appeared in the United States since 1900. More than 50 different periodicals were exhaustively checked during its preparation.

The list is 15 pages long and sells at 15 cents a copy, with 20 per cent reduction on 10 copies or more. Orders should be sent at once to Charlotte Moskowitz, Commonwealth secretary-treasurer.
- Fortnightly readers are urged to watch for early announcement of other publications to be issued by Commonwealth College. Plans are afoot now to publish similar handbooks on several other practical subjects, all intended to meet sharp needs arising in daily union activity.

Behind the Dust

In a recent inspection of the Laundry Department I was amazed to find a valuable document. It was covered with dust and brown with age—older than an Eddie Cantor joke. Unfortunately laundry managers of the past failed to find it, but I looked behind the dust.

This document was entitled "Routine of the Laundry Dept." and was written by Gene Feldman, well known ex-laundriyian. Following are a few extracts from it:

"Since the personnel at Commonwealth can stay for only a short period of time, and Commonwealth's industrial departments suffer sorely from such a lack of continuity in management, I am setting down in writing the organizational routine of the laundry and problems concerning certain imperfections in this routine. This is for the benefit of those who will succeed me in my skillful work."

"Article 1. Checking in Clothes: It is best for the laundry workers' convenience to receive clothes during one specified period. If two or three periods are permitted, students become lax about bringing in their laundry and as a result the laundry workers must give more time and accept more bother than is actually necessary."

"Set absolutely no exception to this rule, for they are dangerous precedents. Each bundle of clothes must be handled by laundry workers in the presence of and with the cooperation of the student or instructor."

This few fading words immediately caught my eye. So, the very next day I announced that the laundry department would tolerate no exceptions, and that smiles or beautiful hair had nothing to do with checking in clothes. But here comes the sad part of my story: there was a victim of this harsh rule.

One of the fairest AX'I was crushed under a mountain of dirty clothes. She was a victim of Gene Feldman's document on laundry efficiency.

BOOKS

Change the World!

Mike Gold is CHANGE THE WORLD (International Publishers New York City, $2.00) is a refreshment you can ill afford to miss. Through the 272 pages of the book, in sketches and essays, Mike Gold is at war against all that is shabbily in life. But all that is progressive and hopeful is in Mike's writings—the inspiration of an artist who is helping to change the world. It's a book you want to read through again and again! R. K.

Trade Union Handbook

"It's swell! Order me a copy! Me too!"

That is the way the "Handbook of Trade Union Methods" was greeted by the trade union class at Commonwealth. This 96-page booklet, published by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, has already won widespread praise in labor circles. It would also repay all union sympathizers and progressives to study the pamphlet and thus keep posted on modern organizational methods.

Under the directorship of Mark Starr, the I. L. G. W. U. educational department has compiled in one concise pamphlet a wealth of practical information and suggestions for trade unionists:

- How to maintain organization; methods of negotiating agreement; when and how to conduct strikes; strike publicity problems; winning support of public opinion; managing financial records and strike relief, etc.

The handbook will serve as a life-line to the workers now joining the trade union family. The price is 25 cents a copy. For unions, 10 copies for $2; for $3.75 or 50 for $5. Orders should be sent to the union's educational department at 3 West 16th Street, New York City.

R. K.

Local H. S. Economics Class

Recent Visitors to C. College

Two carloads of students comprising the Rural Economics class of Cove High School, near Mena, came in a body recently to visit Commonwealth, inspect the campus and ply interested questions about our educational program. Particular attention focused upon the Farm Problems course, since it deals with conditions of direct concern to many of the visitors.

Casual visitors arrive more frequently and in greater numbers than ever before, especially since it has become widely known that the college welcomes "outsiders" at any time.
Protest Echo From Afar: 41 Rhodes Scholars Act!

A brief but vigorous petition to Little Rock and a cable to Governor Bailey from Oxford University, England, sent by 41 of some 90 Rhodes scholars there has just come to light as an encouraging and remarkable feature of the recent people's victory over the ill-fated Arkansas "anti-se- dition" bill. One of the transatlantic protesters was a student from this state.

With delayed word of this admirable action came a 13£ postal order, equal to $63, from 25 scholars and others at Oxford, toward a year's scholarship at Commonwealth. This is a renewal of a contribution made toward the same purpose last summer. Additional funds are still being raised to enable some young worker or farmer to make toward the same purpose last year. He said that the Farmer-Labor Party had accomplished many good things for the poor people of his state, and that some of its achievements during years of the nation's greatest economic stress were:

- The Homestead Tax Law, which lowers the tax levy on farm homesteads 20 per cent by exemption on homesteads valued up to $4000.
- The Mortgage Moratorium Law, the first passed in the United States, by which common welfare supersedes property rights. This law has been used as a model for other progressive states.
- The Old Age Assistance Law, which is $30 per month. The Farmer-Labor Party is fighting to amend it to $45.
- A Statutory Income Tax Law, which is a replacement tax levied in accordance with ability to pay.
- A Relief Bill, which, coupled with federal funds, saved thousands from destitution.
- Increased aid to schools, permitting poor children to receive the same educational advantages as those of the wealthy, and reducing local taxation.
- Aid to high school and college students.
- Pensions for the blind.
- A chain store tax to aid the independent merchant in competition with the chain stores.

Eving Ingebrigtsen, who was a candidate for state representative in the 1936 Minnesota primaries, is now a student at Commonwealth College. As a member of the Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota he ran on that ticket in the campaign. Eving states that the Farmer-Labor Party is strongest in the northern part of Minnesota and dominant in the Twin Cities, where the people are in greatest need.

Current Events, Forums Extra-Curricular at C. C.

Current Events and the Sunday night Forums at Commonwealth have extra-curricular activities of serious intellectual value, bringing to students and teachers the specialized knowledge of Commoners on important present day problems and a weekly summary of the news from a working man's point of view.

The forums are given by both faculty and student speakers and cover topics all the way from experience with liberal student groups to the Spanish situation and discussion of Joe Jones' mural. A committee selected by the students chooses the topics and speakers. General policy is to have the speaker draw from his real life experience.

The Current Events is given each Friday night by members of the American Studies class and serves the double purpose of giving students experience in talking and of keeping every Commoner posted on latest world and national developments. One of the newer ideas is to give a test at intervals on the news so that Commoners may judge how well they are keeping up with the papers.

—Areus Reddoch

Early Sowing Sets Spring Ahead on Farm Calendar

Spring is here! We don't wait for March to tell us. We wait for George Milhin, our farm manager, to start seeding oats. Fifteen acres, he says, in all. Makes really nice feed, and the cows and mules like it, too.

George is again sowing an ax, digging postholes, telling stories and stretching with his pipe.

The other day, while walking through a briar patch, he picked up a little baby goat whose mother had evidently abandoned it to the cold and rain. We found George feeding it milk with a tea-spoon. He now predicts that it will live and be worth a dollar! (We don't keep goats for profit, but they do come in handy eating up saw-bris.)

George is sort of a "romantic old curm." He builds houses for birds to mate in! One adorns each gate post at the entrance leading to his house. He's got several more around the barn, too. He must have been some "Romeo" when he was young.

—Fred Rehmer

Books Needed by Library

Behind the Spanish Barricades, by John Langdon-Davies.

Biology and Human Behavior, by Mark Mark.

American Labor Struggles, by Samuel Yellen.
Student Industrial Work is Novel Feature

Most people who are acquainted with Commonwealth know that all of the work of operating the place is done by the volunteer labor of teachers and students. Assisting them are several maintenance workers engaged because of some special skill, such as a printer, carpenter, and farm manager. This is one of the unusual features which sets it off from all other schools. However, this novel arrangement did not originate, nor is it maintained, as a principle deemed essential to its educational policy. It arose as a necessity, in order that the tuition fee might be kept within reach of low-income students. Provisions were made to arrange work as half of the estimated cost per person. Furthermore, no salaries were to be paid.

As matters stand today, this feature is simply one of practical necessity. That applies particularly to that part of the labor expended on such tasks as the raising of much of our own food, and of cutting all our own fuel. These are continued simply because they cut down, substantially, the cash expenditures. Aside from that, the only consideration might be the healthy effects upon a student, especially if he comes from an indoor occupation. This would, however, obviously not count for much in deciding the continuation of such a policy.

And less and less so as the attendance becomes increasingly that of farm workers, hardly in need of outdoor exercise!

Increased cash income from sources other than tuition fees, alone, will make possible a change in this method of operation. When that time comes some undertakings can be dropped entirely and the required time sharply reduced. In the meantime students will continue to work twenty hours per week.

A FARMER-LABORITE TELLS OF THE NORTH

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Liberal Bloc at Capitol Hailed for Bill Defeat

house committee on education:

"It is most heartening to realize that my 'home folks' are staunchly refusing to permit themselves to be made into cat's paws for reactionary interests which are now seeking to negate the recent victory for intelligence in American political, economic and social life.

... Your victory of a few days ago was the more heartening because it confirms your action of two years ago when reaction was also rebuffed in its attempt to undermine the very foundations of democratic government in Arkansas. I am proud of the way the Arkansas house has acquitted itself in its battle to preserve freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion in worship and devotion in any fashion. In my estimation, the enactment of that bill which you laid very low, by about three to one, would have destroyed all the basic civil liberties."

from page four

COMMUNERS GO NORTH

While the winter quarter exodus depopulates the campus until March 29 when the spring influx of students is due, a trio of Commonwealth will spend the interval at St. Louis and Chicago. Ray Koch will be in the former city several days on college business, as Margaret Sloan and Henry Black go to the latter for the Socialist Party national convention.

ROCKY CAGERS TRIM C.C.

Hard fighting prevailed throughout the season's first basketball tilt between Commonwealth and the Rocky Independents on March 11th, when the warriors won 22-14.