The Fortnightly's one and only "Golding 1910 Jobber" must be replaced immediately and very reasonably, for with it now beyond our means of repair, the campus printery is completely paralyzed.

We are calling for bids on a 12x18 platen press, preferably a Chandler and Price.

Mimeo Handbooks Go As Hotcakes; Supply Limited

All we can add now about Bill Stenell's "Handbook of Mimeograph Technique" is that 25-cent copies of the limited first edition are going out at the steady rate of five or six daily, but just glance at these early comments and don't delay your order:

"I believe it will meet a great need.... Rush us 25 copies so that we can send them immediately to our locals which are issuing mimeographed journals of their own.... I am sure that the name of Commonwealth will be cherished because of this immediate practical assistance you have provided to those workers groups issuing shop papers and local journals."

In writing the above, Mark Starr, International Ladies Garment Workers' Union educational director, urged that Stenell, as page four

Anti-Nazi Aircast

Any of you Fortnightly readers who want to listen to a really worthwhile program entirely free from advertising hooey, get in touch with your local station and ask to hear the regular weekly broadcasts of the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League for the Defense of American Democracy. Until the league's half-hour on the air series goes over a station-wide hook-up, transcripts will be sent to any station upon request to offices at Room 215, 6912 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood.

Those of you who are fortunate enough to possess high-powered sets can get the program now, every Saturday from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. over Station KFWH.

Commonwealth College
Fortnightly

VOL. XIII, NO. 7 MENA, ARKANSAS: APRIL 1, 1937 $1.00 A YEAR

School-Eager Youth Egyow As Scholarship Fund Ebb

by arthur r. skrebber

"A

Effort is being made by a number of Rhodes scholars, interested in workers' education, to raise funds for a scholarship at Commonwealth College.

"It is proposed that a sum of money be sent to the directors of Commonwealth and that they be instructed to use it as a scholarship for an agricultural or industrial worker of their own choice."

"If the response to the present appeal is sufficiently encouraging, and if those who contribute are pleased with the report of Commonwealth on the use of the scholarship, it may be possible to make this a permanent custom among Rhodes scholars who are interested."

"...This excerpt of a letter from Oxford University, England, besides adding another page to the glorious record of student support to the labor movement, shows how it was possible for one of Commonwealth's students to come here and prepare for his self-set tasks. Reuben Cole, a Georgia farm and timber worker, has just rounded out six valuable months on the campus and is now setting off to organize the agricultural workers of his own Southland.

Reason to be Proud

But let a more recent letter from the same source speak further of the work: "The (enclosed) $13 is meant as a renewal of our scholarship contribution of last summer. It represents 25 donations, and we have about 30 more promises which bring in another $17 during the spring. We are anxious to bring the total for this year up to $150, so that the student to whom the scholarship is awarded may remain at Commonwealth for the whole year. I think both Commonwealth and the committee who helped me raise the fund have reasons to be proud of the fine response of the Rhodes scholars: 55 successful appeals out of something less than 100."

Just a British pounds, translated into American dollars, played a key role in early development of southern cotton production, and even today as they represent huge profits reaped from such as the 862 tenants

Spring Quarter Opens With Orientation Talk For New Student Body

Commonwealth's spring term set off this week on its course with a four-day series of special orientation lectures given before the new quota of students by Faculty Chairman Haven Perkins and others.

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WOMEN'S CHARTER MOLDS WORLD BATTLE FOR FREEDOM, EQUALITY

BY BELLE G. REDDOCH

For some 50 years women have been carrying on a bitter but plucky struggle for social, civil and economic rights. Sporadic organizations toward these goals sprang up time and again in various countries, but on the whole this movement has been a slow-moving one and its gains very meager. This has been due chiefly to painful lack of a united broad program that would enable women throughout the world to organize themselves under a common banner.

Despite such handicaps, women of 1937 play a key role in all progressive trends today. In such organizations as the American League Against War and Fascism, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Workers Alliance of America, League of Women Voters and in the labor organization drives especially the C.I.O., the women of America have set a pace outdone perhaps only by their sisters of Spain and the Soviet Union. They do receive the tragic story of enslaved females in the fascist countries.

Yet in our country, as elsewhere, legislation for women has inconsistently been not only deficient but ineffective. Sweat-shop conditions still exist. Women do not always enjoy equal pay for equal work; indeed it is usually less wages for more toil. Better j obs are reserved for men. Efforts to push women back to household slavery have received new impetus from advancing fascism.

At a meeting of a group of representatives from women's organizations, called by Mrs. May Anderson, director of the United States Women's Bureau, the idea of a women's charter was born in late 1936.

Such a formulation of objectives is now a focal point of attention for international women's groups scattered throughout the world.

Here is the text of the draft charter:

Preamble

This charter is a general statement of the social and economic objectives of women, for women and for society as a whole, insofar as these can be embodied in legislation and governmental administration. It is put forward in order that there may be an agreed formulation of the purposes to which a large number of women's organizations throughout the world already are committed. It is recognized that some of the present specific needs which it seeks to remedy should disappear as society develops the assurance of a more complete life for every person; and some of its objectives would establish conditions which should be attainable for all persons, so that in promoting them for women it hoped thereby to bring nearer the time of their establishment for all.

Women's Charter

Women shall have full political and civil rights; full opportunity for education; full opportunity for work according to their inclinations.

BOOKS

ILLUSTRATED IMPERIALISM

J. F. Horrabin's "An Atlas of Empire" (Alfred A. Knopf, New York City, $2.00) is worth its weight in gold to the student who would know his world. On every left hand page—70 in all—is an excellent map. There are thirteen maps, no less, of Africa and its parts—Africa which contains Ethiopia; and the colonies which Germany lost to Great Britain and France and Belgium after the world war and which she is now demanding back—at the price of another war. There are maps of the Far East where the great powers have found such good pickings; where Japan is making her succession of incursions on China. There are maps of India, of the Near East with its mandates, of the Mediterranean, of the Americas.

On every right hand page there is a text containing the gist of the colonial history of the map it accompanies. The author is a historian as well as map maker. His economic slant on things appearing occasionally as when he comments that to have included spheres of influence and areas of economic penetration "would have been to map five-sixths of the world" or that the populations of the German colonies were not consulted when they changed hands; or—satirically—that Europe's peoples belong "to the superior white race which has been entrusted with the mission of civilization in other parts of the world." W. L. C.

SHARECROPPER

When they rode up at first dark and called his name, He came out like a man from his little shack. He saw his landlord, and he saw the sheriff, And some well-dressed riffraff in the dark.

When they fired questions about the meeting, He stood like a man gone deaf and dumb, But when the leads were left his saddles, He knew then that his time had come.

In the light of the lanterns the long cuts fell, And his wife's weak means and the children's wails Mixed with the sobs he could not hold. But he wouldn't tell, he would not tell.

The union was his friend, and he was union, And there was nothing a man could say. So they truesed him up with stout plowlines, Hitched up a mule, dragged him far away Into the dark woods that tell no tales, Where he kept his secrets as well as they.

II

He would not give away the place, Nor who they were, neither white nor black, Nor tell what his brothers were about.

They lashed him, and they clubbed his head; One time he parted his bloody lips Out of great pain and greater pride, One time, to laugh in his landlord's face; Then his landlord shot him in the side. He toppled, and the blood flowed out. But he didn't mumble ever a word, And cursing, they left him there for dead. He lay waiting, quiet, until he heard The groans and the matters dwindled away; "Didn't tell a single thing," he said. Then to the dark woods and the moon He gave up one secret before he died: "We gonna clean out dis brushwood round here soon, Plant de white oak and de black oak side by side."
Women's Charter Molds World Battle for Freedom, Equality

individual abilities, with safeguards against physically harmful conditions of employment and economic exploitation; they shall receive compensation, without discrimination because of sex. They shall be assured security of livelihood, including the safeguarding of motherhood. The provisions necessary for the establishment of these standards, shall be guaranteed by government, which shall insure also the right of united action toward the attainment of these aims.

Where special exploitation of women workers exists, such as low wages which provide less than the living standards attainable, unhealthful working conditions or long hours of work which result in physical exhaustion and denial of the right to leisure, such conditions shall be corrected through social and labor legislation, which the world's experience shows to be necessary.

IT IS THE duty of every women's organization—whether trade union, social, civic, political, cultural or unemployed—to study this tentative charter carefully and to be ready to submit reports or participate actively for the final formulation of the plan, with a view of affiliation to the Women's Palæ.
School—Eager Youth Beg Entry

As Scholarship Fund Ebbs Low

men in the factories would really be need

ed there."

What solidarity! What group spirit!

What collective determination to go for
ward, to find and effect a solution not only
of their own problems, but of all the work
ers in their entire region! Out of their own
pockets they raise the necessary funds for
one of their number to improve himself
and become their leader.

American students at Oxford University
will have many occasions to be proud of
Reuben's work in the future. As the cotton
began to sprout this spring, he will be on
the scene for the Farmers' Union in Louisi
ana.

Across the ocean, students who cannot
leave their studies feel so keenly the desire
to aid those who make the world go 'round
that they lay their pounds on the working
class side of the scales of justice. And over
here workers with thick-calloused palms
but clear heads, unable to leave their jobs,
gather evenings to tackle their problems.
"Yes, Fred," they say as they pledge their
support. "You must go. . . . We cannot leave
our families. . . . We will go back to the
shops and prepare for your return."

Time marches on, and as gigantic prob
lems challenge the workers, they prepare
to meet them.

Cry for Organizers

Not enough is done. All over the country
the need for trained labor leaders cries out.
Throughout the 48 states rings the call for
people to bring the workers and farmers
into unions. And once in the unions, then
to educate them, so that these organizations
shall remain live, vital bodies to defend
their members' interests against the inevi
table onslaughts of reaction.

From every section of the country come
letters written by young workers and farm
ers, eagerly seeking an opportunity to get
education in organizational problems. For
most of these ambitious union-builders, es
pecially those from southern farms or mills
where annual income is measured often in
less than even three figures, the small $50
quarterly tuition fee at Commonwealth is
as insurmountable as if it were $500. They
must be helped, so they can help you and
help overhaul our country.

Training Is Best Aid

Certainly there are also in all parts of the
land thousands of you in the same position
as the Rhodes scholars and the Davenport
workers. If you, too, cannot leave tempo
rarily your family, your job or your study,
you can follow their example and contrib
ute toward the onward march of organized
workers and farmers by helping us train
leaders for full-time duty in the fast-grow
ing movement.

FARM TO TABLE—No middleman is
slicing anything for himself out of the
slim Commonwealth budget; student-
teacher labor under expert guidance of
George Martin, a veteran farmer, cuts
food costs bone-deep and makes soup of
the rest.

What better way is there to assist these
young organizers than to help them get
the preparation they so much need? Help
them attend Commonwealth! Help Commo
nwealth make good the many scholarships
that have already been granted.

We have given more scholarships to eag
er youths, some of whom have already
proven themselves, and the rest have shown
sufficient real promise. From Oklahoma,
Texas, Kentucky, Kansas and Arkansas
such students have already been accepted.
Their backgrounds and references were so
impressive that we simply could not turn
them down, even though our scholarship
fund is now gravely low.

Typical Application

Look at this typical application from an
18-year-old Kokomo, Indiana, boy who is
endorsed by the Central Labor Union, Steel
Workers Organizing Committee and Ameri
can Student Union:

". . . Last week I was summoned into the
office of the principal and threatened with
expulsion. This was because of my union
activities while in high school. I was told
that unless I stopped such activities I would
never graduate. After he had finished, I
made it clear that I had no idea of doing as
he wished, and explained further that if he
had any other complaints he should take
them up with the Trades and Labor Council
which was backing me."

That is the mettle of the students we
must either turn down for lack of scholar
ship funds or do as has been done in several
instances: take them on, hoping that some
one will "adopt" them as the Rhodes schol
ars did Reuben Cole.

Can we count on you?

WHAT IS COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE?

Commonwealth College is a non-tactical
labor school which has as its function the
training of young men and women for active
service in some militant organisation in the
labor movement.

Its course, which includes economics, his
tory, labor problems, protestant culture,
public speaking, journalism, etc., is taught
from a point of view pertinent to the working
class.

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

Students pay $50 tuition per quarter
year (three months) and receive their board
and room in exchange for 28 hours work
per week during fall, winter or spring terms,
and 15 hours per week during the summer
term, on the college farm, in the garden,
library, etc.

Commonwealth is located near Mena, Ar
kansas in the Ouachita Mountains, the
southernmost range of the Ozarks.