

HOW THEY FRAME-UP YOUNG WORKERS AT FORT BEN C. M. T. C.

Dear Comrades:

During the circulation of petitions and spreading of strike issue for better grub, there were two leading students of the C. M. T. C. that led the fight for better food and sanitary conditions. So the commanders thought they would have to find a way to get rid of these two fighters, especially after a meeting was held of the Company G, where more than 100 students were present, and George Papcun spoke. After that everything was in uproar with the commanders, and so they started to persecute Philip Shatz and Papcun, by not permitting them to drill, but putting them on kitchen police duty, to do more than they should of that work. It is hard work, for there you work from 14 to 16 hours in one day. They picked out little faults of all kinds. They say, however, that they could not down the fighting spirit of the two C. M. T. C. students who fought for better grub, so they had to find a way to frame up and remove them. When everybody was excited and ready to strike, the officers saw that these two students were leading a strike movement for better grub. So they suddenly found a way.

There was money missing in Tent 4, Second Platoon, Company G, on Monday, July 27. So first thing that they did was to search everybody in that tent. Of course they did not find any money on any of the C. M. T. C. students in that tent. But they thought they must put the blame on someone. So they placed it on Papcun and Shatz, another fellow, that was in the same company but another platoon, the third platoon. He stayed in the barracks. It was a wonderful plot even the D. of J. would have one hard time to equal it. Here was their evidence:

1. That Papcun got up on Monday a. m., July 27, at 1:50 and went to the latrine. By this the officials concluded that it was natural for Papcun to take the money.
2. That Shatz, commonly known as "Caruso" at camp, came over that morning at 7:30 to the tent; because of this they concluded that Papcun gave the money to Shatz.
3. That there was a fellow that

changed a \$10 bill at the Post Exchange at the camp, of whose identity they were not sure, but claimed it must have been "Caruso." So there was their case.

They threatened to give Papcun and Shatz a court-martial, but they were surprised that not only the students wanted a court-martial, but even demanded it. So then the commanding officer said, "We will give you a civil trial." And again it as accepted by the two leaders of the rebellious students in Fort Ben. It was a kind of a surprise to Captain Groves, and Lieutenant Hazley, the fellows who are trying to do the framing-up.

During the questioning and threatening, they made the two students stand at attention, which was very hard on the nerves. After about one hour of questioning and threatening, they said they would give the boys a trial. But when they saw that the students demanded a courtmartial or civil trial, they said that they would send them home without a trial because the officers said they were guilty.

The next day the two battalions went on a hike, on which everyone remained over night. At the same time the regular officers saw that the petty, non-commissioned officers were spreading lies against these two leaders of the students. So when the two battalions reached their camping place, Papcun and Shatz decided to go to the commanding officer in charge of the whole camp, and demand an immediate trial. So they went to Major Philpotts, the executive officer, but he must already have known about the frame-up, for he notified them that they must go to Colonel Nolan. When they went to Colonel Nolan, he called Captain Groves and Lieutenant Hazley, who gave their evidence. Then the two students gave their defense. Because of the poor evidence that the officers gave, as much as they did not like it, they had to say that these two were not guilty, but this did not prevent them from carrying on a campaign of lies against Papcun and Shatz.

So then it was quiet, except for discrimination against, and lying about the two students, about

CHICAGO, Ill. (A. N. L. C.)—The Chinese of Chicago have organized the Chinese Welfare Association to support their brother workers and students in China. Sunday, August 2nd, they held a large mass meeting and play. Over 500 Chinese were present. Many speakers, including a representative of the American Negro Labor Congress, told of the solidarity of the American workers with the Chinese in their attempt to rid their land of foreign imperialism.

camp. In this way they prevented what looked like a developing strike. But they were not satisfied with that. On August 5, day before the C. M. T. C. was to be discharged, Shatz got a wire stating that his mother was seriously ill, and he must come home. So they allowed him to go. On August 6, just when the camp was breaking up, they were giving everybody his discharge, and they gave Papcun his discharge and promoted him to the Red Corps for next year. They gave him the discharge at 8:00 a. m. At 10:00 Papcun's train was to leave. At 8:30, Lieutenant Hazley came over to tell Papcun that he was wanted at the guardhouse. There was nothing to do, but obey and go there. When he arrived, they searched his baggage, and questioned him again about the missing money. But here they let the cat out of the bag. They wanted to know why Papcun and Shatz (Caruso) made so much trouble about sanitary conditions and grub. They questioned him until 9:45. Then they changed his honorable discharge to read that he is not promoted to a Red Corps, and is not to be given any further military training because this must be one of the terrible Reds that are so much spoken of.

All this frame-up and so on did not hurt the influence these two students had. In fact it gave them more prestige among the fellows who were in training. One thing that the young workers of this country must keep in mind is that they must not be fooled by the nice flowery speeches in the schools, and the pamphlets with all kinds of pictures distributed by the capitalist government of this country about the C. M. T. C. For there they try to fill you with dope to fight against the working class. Not only that, but about the good eats and the fine vacation time that they promise you is all bunk. As you will see from the articles.

George P.