

COAL OPERATORS ARREST PAPCUN FOR UNION WORK

Mine Barons Fear Workers Party Leadership

(Special to The Daily Worker)

REPUBLIC, Pa., Feb. 1.—Republic is located in Fayette county, the center of the coke region. In 1922, a strike took place here and the field was organized 100 per cent by the United Mine Workers of America. While the miners put up a good fight, the strike was finally lost thru a betrayal by John L. Lewis. Since that time numerous strikes have taken place, but the operators with the aid of the state police, have suppressed them. The last strike which took place in the first part of November was supported in fact, led by the Workers (Communist) Party and the Young Workers' (Communist) League.

The capitalist papers spilled the beans stating the real cause of the arrest of Papcun. The Uniontown Morning Herald, for example, states: "State police have been seeking Papcun for several months in connection with the spreading radical literature and for speeches he delivered. They received word that he would speak at Franklin Hall Union Town, Sunday at 2:30 o'clock but arrived too late to apprehend him."

Some of this story is bunk as the police were in the hall when the meeting started. The charge of sedition was made by Corporal Willard of the New Salem barracks. According to those present the seditious speech of Papcun consisted of calling upon the workers to join the United Mine Workers to help form a labor party, and join the Workers (Communist) Party.

The miners in this field have been reduced to and below the 1917 scale for union fields. Day workers receive only \$4 and \$5 per day. In face of these conditions the miners are now talking general strike, and many are joining the United Mine Workers. This is getting under the skin of the employers as those joining the union are doing so on the recommendation of the Workers (Communist) Party and the Young Workers' (Communist) League.

The hearing of Comrade Papcun will be held before Squire McCombs at New Salem. This justice has a reputation for the railroading to jail workers who participated in strikes in this domain of the coal barons. The International Labor Defense is handling the case.