



Thug Attacks Kintzer

Clarksburg, W. Va.—Edward H. Kintzer, secretary of the Social...

No Protection for Soldiers

BY JOHN KENNETH TURNER
Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime...

Attention—Just a Minute

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Breaking Boys' Backs

UPON the statute books of the United States there are special laws called military laws...

Glaring Discriminations

ANOTHER soldier, writing from Fort Sam Houston, Texas, presents the records of a number of court martial cases...

And this man does the fighting.

charges being filed, and when, after the court martial did convene, the trial was postponed again and again...

Slanders Coffman

Not satisfied with having railroaded an innocent man to prison the powers that be are now circulating letters in an infamous effort to besmirch the character of young Waldo Coffman...

War No Picnic

The youngsters who imagine war is a picnic should hear this grim echo of the conflict in the Balkans...

Mexicans Call Our Bluff

In order that the coming elections be of assured fairness I suggest that they be held under the auspices of a commission composed of the Hon. Charles Murphy of New York...

JURY TRIALS SUPPRESSED!

A timely book on Military and Martial Law. Fred B. Chase, State Sec. of Mass., says: This book treats the subject in a new way...

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At the same time and in the same place Thomas Cameron, another American citizen, (but also a soldier), was condemned to six months at hard labor for "writing scurrilous articles about the United States Army."

When the APPEAL printed a paragraph, some time ago, asking for first-hand information on life in the army as seen by the enlisted man, it had no idea that it was asking soldiers to commit a crime for which they might be fined and imprisoned.

But the sentences imposed upon Johnson and Cameron show that any soldier, who writes a letter to the APPEAL, to REASON, or to any other publication or person, detailing his experiences, may be sent to prison for it.

If the soldier may be punished for writing a letter, why may not the APPEAL be punished for printing it?

There is a difference—that the APPEAL may defend itself in the civil courts, while Citizen Johnson and Citizen Cameron may not.

They cannot apply for habeas corpus. They cannot appeal to a jury of their peers. They cannot seek refuge in the law. The law is not for them.

Which means that they are not citizens at all, but only soldiers. They are not Citizen Johnson and Citizen Cameron. When they became soldiers they ceased to be citizens. They lost their rights. They may consider themselves lucky that they were not sent to prison for life, instead of for six months, since the court which condemned them is clothed with the power to imprison them for life.

And this in time of peace, remember. There is not the excuse of war and public danger.

UPON the statute books of the United States there are special laws called military laws. In general they deal very severely with the soldier. There are offenses called military offenses. Among the list of these military offenses you will fail to find any entitled "Conspiring to Write Articles Vilifying the United States Army," or "Writing Scurrilous Articles about the United States Army."

Nevertheless, the army court martial has the power, under the military laws of the United States, to imprison men for doing these things, or doing anything else under heaven. For under the sixtieth article of war, which I quoted in last week's APPEAL, members of the commissioned officer class may create "offenses" to suit their whim and then proceed to punish the enlisted man under them.

It is with clubs of this sort that boys' backs are broken to make them soldiers.

Not their physical backs, to be sure—not their backs, but their backbones, their courage, their independence, their self-respect, their manhood.

The ancient system of army discipline has not remained in force to the present day by accident, or because nobody has happened to think of abolishing it.

The army authorities know what they are doing. They know what they are doing when they start out by breaking the backs of the boys. The ideal soldier of modern times is not a brute man, but a coward. "To ensure efficiency," as the book says—to fight as those in control of the army wish them to fight, to fight for the purposes for which modern armies are maintained, the common soldier must fear army discipline more than he can fear any enemy, more than he can fear the loss of his self-respect.

Punishments are Excessive

A PART of a letter from a soldier now in service, referring to some of the minor abuses of army discipline, is as follows:

Attention—Just a Minute

Here is the most remarkable combination offer the APPEAL has ever made: APPEAL to REASON one year..... \$1.50 APPEAL to REASON two years..... 2.00 National Socialist two years..... 50

All many principle and become a mere thing with no will but to obey right or wrong.

There is one law for the officer and one for the man. The officers have their clubs with which to beat and lick and keep in the post, while the enlisted men were cut out of them.

As an instance of the latter, I will cite the case of the late Gen. McClure, who in 1906, General McClure, who was in command at San Francisco, ordered himself and a party of five or more to march on the streets of San Francisco.

charges being filed, and when, after the court martial did convene, the trial was postponed again and again, far beyond the legal limit of time.

On page 50 of the court martial manual there is another paragraph: "Solitary confinement, or confinement on bread and water diet, shall not exceed fourteen days at a time, nor be again enforced until a period of fourteen days has elapsed."

But, if the reports from Fort Stevens are true, Cameron, Kurtz, Johnson and Tibbits were held much longer than fourteen consecutive days in solitary confinement. And if the reports from Vancouver are true, Private Anthony, the ball-and-chain man, has been held much longer than fourteen consecutive days in solitary confinement.

Again, military law declares it a crime when an officer applies opprobrious epithets or profane language to a subordinate. This law is almost never enforced.

Not satisfied with having railroaded an innocent man to prison the powers that be are now circulating letters in an infamous effort to besmirch the character of young Waldo Coffman, the Socialist.

From Nashville Democrat. The youngsters who imagine war is a picnic should hear this grim echo of the conflict in the Balkans.

From the Mexican Herald. In order that the coming elections be of assured fairness I suggest that they be held under the auspices of a commission composed of the Hon. Charles Murphy of New York.

A timely book on Military and Martial Law. Fred B. Chase, State Sec. of Mass., says: This book treats the subject in a new way.

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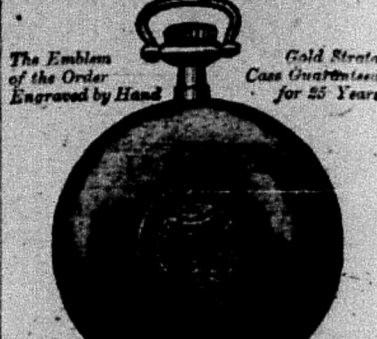
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Immortality at Posts

A LETTER from an ex-soldier, now living in the state of Washington, reads in part as follows:

Still Explaining

THE war department has been called on by President Wilson to explain the Coffman case. As may be expected it is now trying to shield the Fort Stevens officers who have railroaded Coffman and his friends.



