

Aliquippa Police Not To Pay for Illegally Raiding and Arresting

By A. JAKIRA.

BEAVER, Pa.—“Ham” Brown, chief of Aliquippa police, will have to pay no damages to Pete Muselin for the false arrest he made on July 27, 1926, in Aliquippa, Pa. This was the verdict of the jury after it was out for just a short time.

Civil Liberties Involved.

Mr. Wilson, one of the attorneys for Pete Muselin, in a two-hour speech before the jury pointed out that the question involved is whether the American government is a dictatorship or a democracy. He quoted the constitution of the United States and of the state of Pennsylvania to show that no search should be made without a warrant, that the Communists have as much right to hold meetings and to advocate their theories and ideas as any one else, even though one may disagree with these ideas.

He brought out numerous facts from American history showing that many leaders who were responsible for the liberation of America from the English oppression were subject to prosecutions just the same as the Communists are subjected in this country at the present time.

Yet, they, these leaders, are admired by everyone now, he pointed out. He called attention to the fact that the witnesses for the chief of police contradicted themselves, and that Brown was merely a tool in the hands of some “outside” forces. His speech had a big effect upon the jury and upon the numerous spectators who were present in court.

Judge Attacks Muselin.

Judge Wm. A. McConnell, instead of acting as the “impartial” judge as his duty demands in his instruction to the jury indulged in a bitter attack against the plaintiff and the witnesses who testified against Brown, after which the verdict for Brown was brought in.

Court Takes Revenge.

As soon as the verdict was announced the court decided to raise the bail of Muselin, Resetar and Zima to five thousand dollars each in place of the one thousand dollars under which they were held on a charge of violation of the infamous Flynn Anti Sedition Act of Pennsylvania on Armistice Day when three houses were raided in Woodlawn and eight men arrested. Resetar gave himself up to the police authorities in Beaver while the International Labor Defense was busy getting the additional bail.

The International Labor Defense will help Muselin to carry the fight to a higher court, declared Caroline Scollen, the secretary of the International Labor Defense.