

# MADE KISS UNION JACK BY VETERANS

## Toronto Man Suspected of Being a Hun Gets Rough Treatment.

Special to The Journal.

TORONTO, April 10. — Fred Spade, an expressman in business for himself at 2 Jersey avenue, was taken from his home last night by a party of returned soldiers and forced to kiss a large Union Jack following which a pail of automobile grease was poured over him.

The demonstration was arranged by a number of returned men on the ground that Spade was alleged to be a German, and his loyalty was questioned by Mrs. Holmes, widow of Pte. Herbert Holmes, killed in action.

### "German Sausages."

The ill-feeling between the Holmes family and that of the Spades dates only from last summer, when Edith Holmes called the Spade children "German sausages." This they resented because, although Mrs. Spade was born in Germany she was taken to the United States as a very little girl. Mr. Spade is an American of German extraction, his grandfather having emigrated to the United States.

Mr. Spade's family consists of two boys and three girls, the eldest being married to a soldier of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and the eldest boy having just qualified for a first-class war badge for 200 hours duty in the Boy Scouts' uniform, which he was wearing when interviewed to-day.

### Kissed Flag.

Last night at about 9.30 the soldiers went to the door. Mrs. Holmes, the next-door neighbor, was moving and the Spades thought that soldiers were there to help her. The ring was answered by Mrs. Spade and the veterans demanded to see her husband. When he went to the door he was seized and hauled into the street. In the street he was forced to kiss a large Union Jack which was carried by one of the soldiers, and as soon as he did so the pail of grease was emptied over his head. Some attempt was also made to feather him as well.

"They had no reason to suspect my loyalty," Mr. Spade said to The Journal today. "My boy, Pte. George Lee, is in the signal section of the C.E.F., and is at present in Kent. I call him my boy because he lived me since he was a very little boy. He is an orphan whose mother used to be a neighbor of our and we brought him up. Here is a letter from him. You will see that he always speaks of Mrs. Spade as 'mother.'

"I cannot think what it is all about except that the children had a bit of a spat last summer. The little girl called up children Germans, and they did not like it."

### Wife is a German.

"I am the only German here," said Mrs. Spade, smiling. "I was born in Germany but I do not remember it. I lived in New York all my life, until we came here 22 years ago. I used to be friendly with Mrs. Holmes and I was always friendly with her husband. If he had not been killed this would not have happened." Continuing, Mrs. Spade said that Mrs. Holmes alleged that she was a spy.

### Veteran Secretary Sorry.

Assistant Provincial Secretary Pratt of G.W.V.A., interviewed to-day, said:

"I did hear that there was going to be a demonstration last night. I understood that it was against some alien enemy, but I do not know very much about it."

Mr. Pratt added that he was very sorry that the trouble had gone so far, and said that he thought it a bad thing for the veterans that it had done so.