

# GAVE WINNIPEG AND CANADA BAD REPUTE

## Deliberate Misrepresentation by an Englishman Resident in This City

Some light is thrown on how conditions in Winnipeg during the strike were misrepresented to the English people, by a letter given below in full, which appeared in the Halifax Chronicle on July 26, and which is signed Pte. V. Spencer. The clipping from the Yorkshire paper was handed the Free Press by Edward S. Lord, 277 Hampton street, St James, who is acquainted with the editor of the paper and wrote him stating the facts and adding that the statements in the letter were deliberate lies. He told the editor his son, who was a soldier, had acted as a special policeman during the trouble, and said that the writer of the letter if he had been doing his duty to the colors he had served under, should have been the same.

The following is the epistle which appeared in the Chronicle under the captions, "Conditions in Canada"; "The Old Country Bette":

Winnipeg, Man., Canada. July 2, 1919. Sir,—Halifax is my birthplace. I came to Canada about 14 years ago; my father still lives in Pelton and works at Dean Clough Mill. I went to England with the first Canadians and then to France. I was in France the first two years of the war with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Now for my story. When I returned to Winnipeg I was surprised to see the high cost of living for this country, where we produce nearly half the food of the world. Bacon 3s lb.; boiled ham at 3s 6d.; eggs 2s. 6d dozen; a suit of clothes, £12, and hundreds of other things too numerous to mention. Wages here did not meet the cost of living. The rents have also been raised to twice what they were, so everybody here went on strike for higher wages; the returned soldiers also had a parade to the Parliament buildings to ask the premier to put the high cost of living down, or to come up with an increase of wages. We also had a parade to the mayor of this city, but it was all to no satisfaction. So they stopped all parades, hired about 600 special constables and fired the regular police force, and on June 21 they called out the regular soldiers and, with the help of these special police, they shot down and wounded lots of returned soldiers before the Riot act was read, because the returned boys were going to have a silent parade. This is only a sample of what is being done. Hundreds of men, half of them returned boys, have been put in gaol and the charges against them are sedition, conspiracy, and lawless assembly. Lots of these men are without a charge against them. All Britishers are foreigners now here if not naturalized, and on these charges men can be deported to their respective countries without a trial. It does not matter if you have been in this country 25 years, they are going to deport men for these charges. Returned soldiers here are signing a petition to be deported to their mother country because conditions are impossible to live in. I for one have signed this petition and would only be too glad to get back to Halifax. There is nothing like the old place you were born in. The Old Mother Country is a thousand times ahead of this, which they call the New Country, and they some times call this "God's Country." Yours truly,  
(Pte.) V. SPENCER.