

GERMANS FORGED TO KISS FLAG BY MOB

GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH IN-
VADED BY CROWD—C. HERR-
MANN'S HOUSE DAMAGED
—WARRANTS OUT FOR
FOUR.

The first anti-German outburst of any magnitude in this city took place this morning, about 1 o'clock, when the German Lutheran church on the corner of High and Warwick streets was visited by a large crowd, part of whom had been parading the streets in celebration of the allied success. The pastor of the church heard the crowd coming up High street, and went into the church and tolled the bell. The crowd also entered the church, and tolled the bell for a long time. They then proceeded to the home of Carl Herrman, the well-known German delicatessen dealer, who lives in a house at 38 Fountain avenue, owned by John Mylchreest.

As a result of the mob's activities, warrants were issued today for the arrest of four of the alleged leaders. Neal A. Millane, a well-known young man about the city, is one of those included.

The crowd surrounded the house and began calling for Mr. Herrman to come forth. For a long time there was silence, and the crowd became restive. Garbage cans were seized, and their contents spread on the veranda. The screen door at the rear entrance of the house was torn off, and great excitement and turmoil reigned. Then the front door was rushed, smashing the lock and catch and glass. All the while, the crowd was becoming more and more excited, and to people in the neighborhood it seemed as if violence was impending.

Finally Mr. Herrmann came down from the upper part of the house and asked what was wanted. Naturally he appeared stricken with fear, as the temper of the crowd was at high pitch, and it was problematical to what ends they would carry their "patriotism." The spokesman of the party then informed Mr. Herrman that it had been reported about for some time that he was making pro-German statements, and talking against the United States. A course in patriotism was then administered. First Mr. Herrmann was forced to kiss the flag three times. This he did with alacrity. Then he was ordered to give three cheers for the United States, which he also did, in a weak and fear-stricken voice. Some one in the crowd called for a speech. This Mr. Herrmann was unable to do. His son, Carl F. Herrman, a young man about 20 years old, was then put through the same treatment that had been accorded his father.

When ordered to make a speech he succeeded better than his paternal ancestor. He told the crowd that the Herrman family's patriotism and loyalty was above reproach, and as good as that of any in the crowd. They burned Liberty bonds and gave to all the funds for the common good. He challenged any one in the crowd to come forward and repeat any statements that they had made against the United States. This did not take very well with the crowd and it was with some difficulty that they were restrained from laying hands on the youthful orator.

There was some talk among the crowd of going to the home of Henry Koehler, the German who was discharged from the Franklin Co. a short time ago for pro-German utterances. The distance was too great however, and the crowd decided that they had done enough for one night.

Just as the crowd was beginning to disperse at the Herrman home, Officer Schilling was driven up to the scene in an automobile. He ordered the crowd to disperse and cease their rioting, which they did. The lines formed again and proceeded to the home of Caspar Schmidt, the photographer. Mr. Schmidt according to report has also been suspected of being pro-German. He lives on Main street on the third floor, over his photographic studio. The mob was unable to raise him, so after hurling epithets and abuse at the house, they dispersed.

It is reported that hymn books were torn and thrown around the church. Even the Holy Bible did not escape, it is said, the book of books being being cast from its place in the pulpit.

At the German Lutheran church while the noise was at its height, a young man, who is of German descent and employed as a clerk in one of the banks of the city, remonstrated with the crowd. He made the statement that those who were there would not want their own churches treated in the manner they were handing the German church. This remark incensed the crowd highly, and the young man was roughly handled. He was rushed into the church and there made to kiss the flag. A flag was then wrapped around his shoulders and he was thrown out of the church. An American flag was hung from the belfry of the church by an employe of the Goodyear Rubber Co., who was in the crowd. The American flag and a service flag have been displayed from the church for some time past, and today the pastor of the church purchased a brand new American flag and a staff to replace the old one.

The visit of the mob and their activities last night were the talk of the town today. In some sections the spirit seemed to be strongly against such demonstrations, but in many quarters there was a feeling that the right medicine had been administered and that the same dose could be given to good advantage in several other cases. There have been reports and rumors of the pro-German leanings of many influential residents of German birth or descent, some of them among the leading business men of the city.

One man said this morning that there was a movement on foot to wipe out all pro-German sympathy in this section. The plan is to visit some German sympathizer after every parade, and in this way bring home to them that no unpatriotic action or word will be tolerated.

Warrants Out for Four.

This noon warrants were issued by Prosecuting Attorney Bertrand E. Spencer, for the arrest of four young men, whom it is alleged were implicated in the assault on Mr. Herrmann and his son. The men were Neal A. Millane, president of the Millane Tree Expert Co.; Frank Gorman, of King's avenue; John Roscano and Berney Scanlon, of Rapallo avenue.

The name of a fifth man has not

been secured as yet, but an investigation is being made, and it is presumed that he will soon be located. It is said that he was the ring-leader of the crowd that created the disturbance.

The warrants charge the men with assault and battery on Carl Herrmann and Carl Herrmann, Jr. They were given to the police this afternoon to serve. The young men are to appear in the city court on Monday morning.

The warrants charge that on the third day of August, 1918, the accused did assault, beat, bruise and injure Carl Herrmann and Carl Herrmann, Jr. and by tumultuous and offensive carriage did cause a breach of the peace. It is also alleged that they committed a breach of the peace by following or mocking the aforementioned Carl Herrmann and Carl Herrmann, Jr. with tumultuous and offensive carriage, scurrilous, abusive and indecent language, gestures and noise. Mr. Herrmann and his son were seen this afternoon at the store and stated that their front door was broken in, the window being smashed and the lock forced off. Young Mr. Herrmann had been out for the evening and was just coming home. The crowd followed him. They thought there were about 100 in the crowd, all men. Gorman and another man were in their shirt sleeves.

When they commenced to pound on the front door, Mr. Herrmann senior said that he shouted, "Wait a minute and I will open the door." The pounding and kicking continued until the door was broken in. They seized Mr. Herrmann and his son and dragged them out to the front porch, where they were compelled to kiss the flag.

One man had a lantern, which he brandished. Mr. Herrmann said that the man with the flag was particularly insulting and abusive in his language and statements. In addition to the front door, someone threw a rock through the screen door in the rear of the house. Three garbage pails were emptied on the back steps in the back yard and all over the grass.

Mr. Herrmann said that he recognized four of the young men whose names have been given to the police. He estimated that there were nearly 100 in the crowd. All were men, no women being seen.

He said that Mr. Millane, who is one of the young men for whom a warrant is out, was in the store to see him this morning. He denied having anything to do with the affair, except to admit that he was there. He showed Mr. Herrmann a police badge which he wore.

The cases will be heard by Judge James R. Edlin in the city court Monday morning at 9 o'clock and it is safe to say that there will be a crowded court room on hand. The offense with which the young men are charged can be made an extremely serious one, being punishable either by a fine or by imprisonment, or by both.