

LOCAL RIOTERS ARE SCORED BY COURT

JUDGE JAMES R. EDLIN SUSPENDS OPERATION OF JAIL SENTENCE OWING TO YOUTH.

Fines of \$15 and costs, with an added jail sentence of 15 days, which was suspended during good behavior, were imposed in the city court this morning in each of the cases of the three young men who were found guilty of participating in the riot at the home of Carl Herrmann last Saturday morning. The cases were tried out yesterday and three of the four accused being found guilty. Judge Edlin at that time stated that he would defer sentence until this morning.

Prosecuting Attorney Bertrand E. Spencer yesterday in the course of his argument asked for the conviction of the accused and for the imposition of a jail fine of ten days. Four in all were charged with the breach of the peace. Neal A. Millane, Bernard Scanlon, John Rosano and Frank Gorman. In the case of Mr. Millane the court yesterday found him not guilty, but in the cases of the other three young men, the court decided that the state had proved its case and that they were guilty. There was a good sized crowd on hand this morning to listen to the decision of the court, but not as many as were present yesterday to listen to the trial. Judge Gustaf B. Carlson at the conclusion of the case this morning, reserved the right for the defendants to take an appeal, but up to a late hour this afternoon no steps had been taken regarding an appeal and it is not believed that an appeal will be taken.

Court was opened in the regular manner this morning and as there was no other business, the disposition of the riot cases was taken up at once. The court imposed in each case a fine of \$15 and costs and a sentence of 15 days in jail, and thereupon announced that the jail sentences would be suspended during the defendants' good behavior. Judge Edlin stated that he wished to make it very plain that the suspension of the jail sentences was purely an act of clemency on the part of the court. The defendants were all quite young, the youngest being a boy of 15. He did not wish to send this young boy to jail for a first offense, and on the other hand he wished to treat all alike. All were guilty and all, three undoubtedly deserved a jail sentence, as they participated in a riotous and disorderly demonstration which was admittedly an outrage upon a peaceful community.

The court added that it was unfortunate that all of the hundred or more who are said to have taken part, could not have been brought to justice. A good deal had been said about the greater guilt of the ring-leaders, but this would not lessen the blame attaching to each individual, as a mob of this sort has a tendency to act independently of ring-leaders or anyone else. Every rioter who went upon Herrmann's property that night, without lawful occasion, and aided to terrorize the Herrmann family and other nearby residents, by tumult and force of numbers, committed a serious breach of the peace.

The question of Herrmann's loyalty, the court said, had nothing to do with the case. The United States government is competent to take care of disloyal citizens. The government has provided its own tests of loyalty, and Herrmann had complied with them when he took the oath of allegiance and was admitted as a citizen. By that admission he obtained the right to protection as an American citizen. The United States government guarantees him such protection and this community owes it to him, and he and all other citizens will receive such protection so far as it is within the court's power to protect them. President Wilson, in a recent proclamation, expressly urged all local authorities to co-operate in preventing disorders of this character. Active pro-Germanism is one form of lawlessness, mob violence is another, and the courts should do all in their power to discourage both. There is no need and no place for mob rule in Middletown, and the community does not propose to submit to riots of this character.

The court expressed the hope that this would be the last time that Middletown would be disgraced by any such lawless episode.

It was reported this afternoon that an effort would be made to raise the fines imposed by the court, by popular subscription, and that a paper would be circulated at Convey's cigar store. Up to this afternoon, no such move had been made, but it was stated at Convey's that there was talk of such a move and that it would not be surprising if the amount needed was quickly contributed.