

# Kitchener Fights Pro-Germanism

British League of Former Berlin Tells of Situation Developed by Change of Name—Ex-Mayor Schmalz Facilitated Movement of German Reservists From City—Municipal Election Issue to Be "Any Name But Kitchener."

The following communication has been received from Mr. C. C. Hahn, president of the British League of Kitchener, and ex-Mayor of the city, and endorsed by Mr. R. Smyth, of Smyth Bros.; Ald. W. G. Cleghorn, vice-president L. McBrine Co., and acting chairman Recruiting League; Ald. J. A. Hallman, manager Walker Bin and Store Fixture Co., Ltd.; T. H. Reider, vice-president and general manager Caadian Consolidated Rubber Co.; Sam J. Williams, president Williams, Greene, & Rome Co., hon. president Recruiting League; W. T. Barric, president Berlin Robe and Clothing Co.; and A. H. Goudie, vice-president Weseloh Goudie Co.

Our attention has been called to a widely disseminated article in the press over the name of A. R. Lang, president of the Citizens' League. This article is merely a resume of a long effusion by H. M. Bowman, recently in the Kitchener News Record, in which Mr. Bowman holds up Mr. Schmalz as a martyr, and to enlist public sympathy for the Citizens' League, appeared in the outside press. We should like, with due restraint, to place some of the facts concerning the Citizens' League and its officers before the public.

In April, 1916, a number of prominent citizens formed a British League for the purpose of retaining British sentiment in our city, and counteracting any pro-German influence which might creep insidiously into our municipal affairs. The officers and members of this British League have been most prominent in every patriotic movement in our city. They worked night and day to recruit the 118th Battalion, and gave freely of their time and money to further the work in connection with the Patriotic Fund and the Red Cross. Nearly all of them have sons or relatives in khaki, either in training now or overseas fighting to preserve that British freedom for which the British League stands.

The Citizens' League was organized in direct opposition to the British League in July, after the name of this city was changed from Berlin to Kitchener. The real aim of the Citizens' League, although it is veiled with plausible statements about "promoting better civic government," was and is solely to defeat on January 1st, 1917, those members of the City Council who voted for the change of name (four of whom have sons in khaki), and if possible change the name of this city back to Berlin. If that cannot be accomplished, then they will try amalgamation with Waterloo. Their slogan is, "Any name but Kitchener." They cannot disguise the fact that they

dislike the name, because it is too British.

## Pro-German Influence.

We do not charge that all the members of the Citizens' League are pro-German. We recognize that numbers of our loyal citizens have been misled into allying themselves with the Citizens' League. But we state unreservedly that all the pro-Germans in this city either are or are expected to be identified with this league before January 1st, 1917.

The chief promoters of the league, with few exceptions, have not put forth one little effort to raise recruits. Many have put obstacles in the way of recruiting, and have moved heaven and earth recently to prevent the return of the 118th Battalion to winter here. Sons of the promoters and members of the league, instead of being in khaki, are walking the streets of this city or are in the U. S. A. member of the executive of the Citizens' League was heard to say in German, that the "damned British are not going to run this city."

Some have openly stated that this is England's war, and that we should have no part in it. Some have cheered at reports of German victories, and have expressed on our streets a desire that Germany should win. These are the men who are appealing to the sympathy of British leagues throughout Canada! These are the men who are posing as martyrs! Elsewhere men have been interned for pro-German utterances similar to these.

The time for plain speaking has come. Canada should know just where these men stood, and just what claim they have to the sympathy of the Britishers throughout Canada.

The president of the Citizens' League is A. R. Lang, of the Lang Tanning Company. The chairman of the executive is W. H. Schmalz, manager of the Economical Fire Insurance Company. Permit us to state a few facts concerning them:

## Call to German Reservists.

When war was imminent two posters appeared in this city, one in the window of the Economical Insurance

Company, of which W. H. Schmalz is manager, and the other in the window of the News Record. These posters instructed all German reservists to report to W. H. Schmalz and were signed "W. H. Schmalz." In other words, any German reservist who desired to fight for Germany against our country was to apply to him, presumably for information and means to get out of this country for that purpose. Would any loyal British subject have done this? What would happen to a man who did such a thing in Germany?

Mr. Schmalz and his friends connected with the Citizens' League are sending out these letters to the outside papers describing the great sacrifice that he has made by recently letting his only son go into the Canadian army. Before the war Major Schmalz qualified as an infantry officer in the Royal Military College at Kingston. He has been wearing the uniform around this city for over two years. We have reason to believe he would have gone to the front long ago had not his father objected. The war was in its third year before Major Schmalz enlisted. Today he is again walking the streets in civilian clothes.

The Citizens' League called by advertisement a public meeting to form a women's section. A number of British Canadian women in the city went to the meeting. Mr. Schmalz turned out the lights and left them in darkness on the third floor. The glorification of Mr. Schmalz in the press is on a par with the publicity methods in vogue in Germany—anything and everything that the Germans have done is right; anything and everything that their opponents have done is wrong; and they are practicing the same thing here in Kitchener, as they are in Berlin, Germany. This public meeting was called at the instance of the Citizens' League, and because some British ladies went there they met with an insult which A. R. Lang, president of the league, tries to justify in his letters to the press.

## Don't Be "Too British."

When the Patriotic Fund was being formed in this city, at a meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Mr.

Schmalz, in the course of his speech, advised the audience not to be "too British." At a public meeting held in the rink, when Mr. Hugh Guthrie, M.P., was the chief speaker, Mr. Schmalz was called upon to put himself on record, and he again advised the audience not to be "too British." Mr. Schmalz within the last two or three weeks told a gentleman that Germany would win out. Was he speaking the wish of his heart?

In Mr. Lang's letter to the press of October 14 he criticizes one of the ladies who was present at the meeting because she has not sent her son or any of her relatives to the front. The lady referred to has a son who is ten or twelve years of age, one of her nephews has been killed at the front, a cousin is now in the trenches. If this lady were responsible for all of her relatives she would have had Mr. H. M. Bowman, her cousin, in khaki and on the firing line two years ago.

Mr. Lang also criticizes the president of the British League, saying that he has not given to the nation an only or any other son. This is true, because the president of the British League has no son to give.

Will Mr. Lang tell why the four sons of his brother, Geo. C. H. Lang, all apparently eligible, able-bodied young men, do not enlist, and what they have been doing and what occupation they have been following since the war broke out? Has one or more of them taken educational trips to the United States for several months, and returning to Kitchener only when the battalion had left here? Speak up, Mr. Lang, and let the pub-

lic have the truth. The four young men are your nephews; the same blood courses through their veins as courses through yours. If you are British, why are those boys not at the front?

## In the Fight To-day.

In Mr. Lang's letter to the press we notice this clause: "We invite the attention of the British public and British Leagues of this country to the abuse heaped on a British father in the hour of parting with his enlisted son." Would anybody call Mr. Schmalz a true British subject after considering his record as here given? These are the men who are appealing for British fair play. The great trouble in our city has been that men like these have had too much British fair play, have taken advantage of it, and have become over-bold.

We state these facts that the public of Canada may know what sort of influences are at work among the loyal population of German origin. We are in the fight to stay. The name "Kitchener" is not "too British" for us. We won the name fairly for our city. Talk about intimidation by the soldiers, etc., is the merest "piffle." We are in this fight to retain the name. We ask for the sympathetic support of every man in Canada who is animated by love of the British liberty which has made us all free, and for which many of the sons of our fellow-citizens of German extraction are gallantly fighting.

## THE BRITISH LEAGUE.

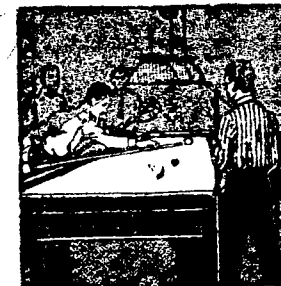
C. C. Hahn,  
President.

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A Friendly Game.

# CHARM

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