

# CONTEST IN KITCHENER TURNS ON NAME CHANGE

## Mayoralty Candidates Are on Opposite Sides of This Question

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Kitchener, Dec. 24.—Ald. W. E. Gallagher, printer, and Ald. David Gross, jun., button manufacturer, announced themselves as being the candidates for the Mayoralty, last evening, at the largest and one of the most interesting nomination meetings ever held in this city.

Ald. Gross is the nominee of the Citizens' League, which has been opposed to the changing of the name of the city, and during the course of his address declared: "I am out to please the people of the city of Berlin. Legally we are called Kitchener, but in my heart it is still Berlin." From his statement and others made by speakers representing that organization, the campaign will be fought on the question whether the name should be changed back from Kitchener to Berlin. H. M. Bowman, Secretary of the league, intimated that it was a question who will control the affairs of this city in the future.

### Other Matters to Attend to.

Ald. Gallagher, who is the candidate of the British League, made a strong appeal to the electors to direct their attention to matters pertaining to municipal government, on the ground that the name of Kitchener was here, and here to stay.

Despite the divisions which have developed in this city the nomination meeting passed off without the special police being called upon to quell any disturbances. The speakers were given a good hearing, although a number were heckled.

### Would Equalize Assessments.

Mayor Hett, Aldermen Gross, Gallagher, Hahn and Master, Messrs. T. H. Rieder and H. M. Bowman and Chairman G. Lippert of the Light Commission addressed the electors. Mr. Rieder urged the necessity of equalizing the assessments of the city by levying the same rate of assessment on factories as on the homes of the workingmen. He also advocated the advancing of water rates for factories to stop unnecessary waste.

### Minister's Promise Not Kept.

Considerable stir was created when Mr. Bowman, in referring to the decision of the Court of General Sessions refusing to naturalize allens of enemy birth, declared that the Minister of Justice, Hon. C. J. Doherty, had promised two members of the league and himself two months ago that desirable citizens of allen enemy birth who had resided here for ten years or more would be naturalized on the 12th of December. He stated that information had been sent from Ottawa to this city, and that Mr. W. G. Weichel, M.P., had promised to assist in having the order carried out, but for some unknown reason had failed to keep his promise.

### Claims Injustice is Done.

The local Conservative organ, in a front-page editorial entitled "The British League and Its Attitude Towards Naturalization," severely criticizes the organization, which opposed the granting of papers during the war, and refers to the "official promise" which had been made, but which had not been fulfilled. It concludes: "We maintain that an injustice has been wrought upon all citizens who have resided here for ten years up to fifty years, and who applied for and were denied naturalization. In our opinion it is anything but British and breaks a long-standing rule, laid down by common consent generations ago."