

# WOULD CHANGE NAME "BERLIN"

Citizens of Canadian Town Say  
Name is No Longer  
Acceptable

ONE DISSENTER  
HISSED DOWN

Resolution Praying for Action  
Sent to the City  
Council

Special to The Daily News.

Berlin, Ont., Feb. 12.—The people of Berlin, without distinction of nationality, age, sex or previous condition of servitude, want the name of the city of Berlin changed to one that will more nearly reflect the aspirations of Canadians. They came out strong on this point at a representative meeting of citizens, which was held in the City Hall yesterday afternoon. With only one dissentient vote a resolution was carried requesting that "the City Council be petitioned to take the necessary steps to have the name Berlin changed to some other name more in keeping with our national sentiment."

The existing movement is not the outcome of any momentary hysteria. At the outbreak of the war steps were taken along this line, but, on the suggestion of citizens in other municipalities, the matter at that time was left in abeyance. Residents here have now come to feel that the name Berlin is despised throughout the British Empire and the Allied nations and they are consequently indisposed to longer tolerate the stigma.

Its Degradation Stinks.

As one of the speakers said, in a moment of enthusiasm: "It is not the German people that we are opposed to but what Berlin Germany stands for. Its degradation stinks in the eyes of the world." The orator did not go on to explain how this phenomena arose, but it must be pretty bad.

A significant feature of the meeting was that the resolution proposing a change in the name of the city was moved by Mr. A. A. Eby, a grandson of one of the founders of the city; the late Bishop Benjamin Eby, who came from Pennsylvania in 1806. The place he founded was known by the name of Ebytown until one fine summer afternoon in 1826 the village fathers had assembled in a blacksmith shop to meet a newly arrived immigrant from Berlin, Germany, and in honor of this man it was renamed Berlin, which name it has borne for the past ninety years.

So far the matter of a suitable name for Berlin has not been extensively discussed, but this subject will no doubt be given the attention it deserves within the next few days. Perhaps the most feasible suggestion made in this connection is that the municipalities of Waterloo and Berlin should amalgamate under the former title. In this way the susceptibilities of any who may have leanings toward the Teutonic Allies would be appeased owing to the important part that the Prussians under Blucher prior to losing the vestiges of civilization they had acquired, took in the battle which preserved liberty to Europe and the world for close on to a hundred years.

No Hysterical movement.

The meeting, which was made up of 150 of the most representative citizens of the town, was presided over by Mr. D. B. Detweiler, who denied that the citizens, through recent developments, were being stampeded into taking the course they were doing. The change suggested had been under consideration ever since the outbreak of hostilities. Prominent men in Ottawa and Toronto advised against any hysterical movement. Events, however, have followed one after another so that all classes in Berlin are practically agreed that the name of this city is no longer an honor to Canada, and during the last month, he stated, various meetings have been held for the purpose of ascertaining the necessary steps to be taken to have the name changed. He felt that the people of this city owed it to Canada and the British Empire that no longer should the name of the capital of Germany be tolerated here.

"What will it cost to make the change?" asked Mr. D. Hibner. "I should like to know merely as a matter of information."

"I am sure I do not know," replied the chairman.

"It is not a matter of cost," exclaimed Ald. Cleghorn. "What is

presented in the change is the main consideration."

Mr. Hibner went on to say that there would be two advantages: it would be giving the enemy a slap in the face and it would go to show that the people of Berlin were loyal enough to change the name.

Mr. S. J. Williams, who was in Ottawa at the time of the burning of the Parliament Buildings, was strongly of the opinion that that catastrophe originated with alien enemies. He went on to emphasize the fact that, while the changing of the name would meet with the general approval of the Canadian people, it was also necessary that the young men of the city should rally around the colors and fill up the ranks of the 118th Battalion. Unless this was done the changing of the name would serve no good purposes.

#### Mayor Was Pleased.

Mayor Hett intimated that he was pleased with the manner in which the citizens were dealing with this question.

Ald. John Reid, the labor representative in the city council, heartily endorsed what had been said in regard to the change of name.

Mr. G. M. Debus, secretary of the board of trade, said he would sooner move out than live under the name and couldn't see how anyone would care to remain a citizen under such a name. A year ago he had strenuously opposed a change, but what transpired and the atrocities committed by the Huns was more than he could bear. He was a native of Berlin and had lived here over 50 years and had done everything in his power as a town booster.

In addition to those who have been mentioned the proposal to change the name was stringly endorsed by Aldermen Irvine Master and W. G. Cleghorn, Messrs. J. C. Anderson, Capt. J. J. Walters, Dr. R. W. Schnarr, Wm. F. Metcalfe, E. C. Kabel, George Davidson and others.

#### Spoke in Opposition.

Only three addresses were delivered in opposition to the resolution. Messrs L. J. Breithaupt and Rev. J. E. Lynn urging that there was no necessity for haste, while C. Asmussen did not consider that dishonor had been brought upon the name Berlin.

Mr. L. J. Breithaupt cautioned for time in which to consider the He was of the opinion that those present were hardly a good enough representation for \$20,000. "We have been known as Berlin for 90 years and we shouldn't throw it overboard so soon," he said. "We shouldn't become hysterical or be stampeded into anything which we would later regret. There is also the possibility that the outside has got the wrong impression.

Rev. J. Lynn could not see any advantage in changing the name. N. B. Detweiler said it was Berlin's first duty to fill the ranks of the 118th Battalion and then have a registrar of aliens appointed. The name Berlin was offensive of the people of Canada and it should be changed, not for the sake of commercial.

Mr. C. Asmussen contended that the destruction of the Parliament Buildings, was not caused by German spies, but by carelessness on the part of those in charge of the buildings. He was absolutely opposed to any change of name.

#### Resolution Emorsed.

The resolution adopted by the meeting was in the following terms:

"Whereas it would appear that a strong prejudice has been created throughout the British Empire against the name Berlin, and all that the name implies;

"And whereas the citizens of this city fully appreciate that this prejudice is but natural, it being absolutely impossible for any loyal citizen to consider it complimentary to belong to or be called after the capital of Prussia;

"Be it therefore and it is hereby resolved, that the City Council be petitioned to take the necessary steps to have the name Berlin changed to some other name more in keeping with our national sentiment."

Mr. Eismussen was the only one who carried his opposition the length of voting against it.

Petitions favoring the change in name will be circulated within the next few days to be presented to the City Council and the Ontario Legislature.