

CAMPAIGN TO ELECT PRO-BERLIN COUNCIL

Kitchener's Name-Pot Is Still Boiling — Charges of British League.

Editor of *The Star*: The pro-German propaganda which has been intensified in this city since the change from a Prussian to a British name is being cloaked under an organization which professes to have formed only to promote improved civic government. The Citizens' League has no question of "civic" administration for its basis. It is out to elect a Council on January 1 next that will reverse the action of the outgoing Council in furthering the discard of the name "Berlin." It is openly boasted that "Berlin" will be restored.

Not content with agitating for the restoration of the name in a lawful way, members of this organization, with improved civic government as its aim, are trying to persuade the general public to override the statutes of Ontario and the order of the Post-Office Department at Ottawa by enclosing a card having the following notice with their correspondence:

"Until the ratepayers of this city definitely decide the name issue in a fair election, without intimidation or danger of violence, you will oblige by using the following address:

"Berlin, Canada."

The restoration of the name of the Prussian capital in a British country would be heralded in Germany as a final proof that Canada is at heart breaking away from the allies.

In the United States the German-speaking population would be told that Canada is full of sympathizers with them, and the activities of the German-American alliance would be strengthened thereby.

It is shrewly understood by the promoters of the Citizens' League that no community in Canada has such a chance to strike an insidious and far-reaching blow at Canada's prestige as a British country as Kitchener, which was once Berlin. The responsibility of patriotic people here, therefore, is doubly clear.

The commercial side of the name-changing was precipitated by the objection to the purchase of goods "Made in Berlin," which travellers reported from all over the country. One firm alone spent thousands of dollars on new dies which did not put the word "Berlin" on all its products. The movement against "Kitchener" now going on is undoubtedly also by way of reprisal for the measures taken by leaders in patriotic movements to have every alien registered, and pro-German propagandists interned, and to prevent unnaturalized Germans from voting against a change of name.

Certain firms persist in using "Berlin" in all their business advertisements in the "Berliner Journal" as against "Kitchener." The anti-Kitchener faction hope to get away with this defiance of British-Canadian authority as a means of helping to carry the election, counting on the indifference to the subject of the outside public, who assume that "Kitchener" once having been put on the map, the situation is accepted locally without question.

The pending municipal election, therefore, is likely to develop a national interest.

THE BRITISH LEAGUE.

Kitchener, Nov. 10.

C. C. Hahn.

President.