

**CITIZENS OF KITCHENER KNOW  
ONLY UNION JACK, SAYS MAYOR**

# And They Desire to Own Allegiance to None Other

## COUNCIL DECLARES ABSOLUTE LOYALTY

### County's Recruiting Record is Defended as Very Creditable

To the Editor of The Daily News.

Following our municipal elections the members of the City Council deemed it advisable that the main facts of the situation should be set forth. The assertion has been made that a majority of our citizens are Pro-German. Specially this untruthful statement rested on the circumstance that one body of ratepayers, styling itself the Citizens' League while in opposition to another body of ratepayers calling itself the British League, succeeded in electing to office a Mayor and 15 Aldermen—constituting the whole council of 1917.

To appraise the result justly, certain general information is required. The Kitchener Council sincerely believes that all of its citizens are loyal British subjects. Of its 19,000 inhabitants probably 17,000 are Canadian-born. In the recent municipal election the supporters of the two leagues mentioned lined up at the polls as 4 to 3. Both had strong support from the ratepayers of German descent. Of the 11 candidates for Aldermen endorsed by the British League, 3 are of England and 8 of German descent. Of the 15 candidates endorsed by the Citizens' League, 5 are of English, 1 of Danish and 9 of German derivation.

#### Citizens' League Planks.

The principal planks in the Citizens' League's platform were:

1. To give hearty support to every patriotic movement which may be calculated to help the British Empire and the brave men defending it.
2. As true Britishers, we are opposed to the introduction of the name controversy as an issue at this election, or as long as we require the united efforts of our people to prosecute the war to a successful conclusion.
3. To treat all citizens with courtesy and consideration and to do all in our power to restore to this community that harmony and good will of which we were all so proud in years gone by.

#### The Change in Name.

It may seem strange that a goodwill plank should have appeared in a municipal programme of a Canadian city. Yet it was necessary, owing to the bitterness generated during the name changing campaign of May last. It may interest the general public to know that the name "Berlin" was discarded on the advice of certain local leaders who declared that our fellow British subjects in Toronto, Hamilton, London, and elsewhere would not buy our manufactured product if we retained the old name.

Those who had greater faith in the fairness of Canadians generally differed. They stoutly maintained that if this city did its duty to the Empire—in men, in money and in patriotic services—the name Berlin would be enhanced in the estimation of the Dominion.

However the change was made. Now, it is not meet here to say. Recognizing this fact, the Citizens' League studiously avoided re-introducing the name controversy at the recent election. They felt that to do so would be to prolong the internecine strife and detract the energy of our citizens from the National duty—of assisting to win and end the war. We submit that this was a loyal and reasonable course.

#### Choice Never Regretted.

Three generations of Canadians have known this community, the Berlin that was and the Kitchener that is. It has stood high in their good opinion. Its industry, its enterprise and its thrift were commended. It was generally known to have been founded by sturdy pioneers who migrated here from the State of Pennsylvania and from Germany, a century ago to found new homes in Canada. They loved peace and so desired to locate in a land which offered the largest sum of human liberties. They chose this country in preference to the American Republic and they never regretted their choice.

The descendants of those pioneers are now in the second and third generation. They know but one King, one country and one flag—the Union Jack. They desire to know and own allegiance to none others. Hence it is a base falsehood to term them pro-Germans.

Should not our citizens of Teutonic extraction, who have shown themselves to be good Canadians, be judged by what they have done instead of by what a few extreme persons, themselves hyphenates, with an itch for writing, choose to say of them in the metropolitan press?

#### Insults Borne in Silence.

Therefore, our citizens have borne insults in silence. Recently there appeared a malicious article in a public journal in which the people of Canada were urged to boycott Kitchener factory products. Modesty must now withdraw and allow justice to speak. It is estimated that in North Waterloo, one-half of its inhabitants are of Mennonite (Pennsylvania Dutch) extraction. They are exempt from military service. Yet in this city and district 1,100 men have enlisted in various overseas units. The commanding officer of the 118th Battalion had stated that a larger percentage of his command are native born Canadians than that of any other battalion raised in the Dominion, and nearly 50 per cent. are of German extraction. It will be admitted that this is a good showing.

The eligibles for enlistment in North Waterloo are not, as has been stated, 20,000. The total population of the riding at the last census was only 33,600, the size of an average riding. We have the usual quota of women, children, aged men and physically unfit. We have in addition a population that is 50 per cent. Mennonite or of Mennonite extraction. Yet the total enlist-

ment in North Waterloo, counting all contingents, is 1,100, which, allowing for the Mennonite admixture is equivalent to 2,200 for the riding, or at the rate of a total for the Dominion (221 ridings) of 486,000. Hence the recruitable portion of this riding has done better than the average of the Dominion.

Kitchener itself is at a disadvantage in recruiting because the percentage of female operatives employed in its industries is much greater than in most other manufacturing centres.

### **Patriotic Efforts.**

When the call for contributions to the Canadian Patriotic Fund was issued, this city had but 14 married soldiers in uniform, yet its 19,000 residents subscribed \$26,000.

Since then they have contributed \$30,000 to the British Red Cross Funds; \$2,000 to the British Sailors' Relief Fund and more than \$6,000 to the Belgian Relief Fund.

On the 31st of December, the city had paid \$31,000 in premiums on soldiers insurance and expended \$6,150 on giving each of its 615 enlisted men a \$10 gold piece. The first act of the newly-elected Council was to purchase an artificial hand for a disabled soldier. Our citizens and institutions have participated to a creditable extent in raising the two Dominion war loans. This list of patriotic activities could be extended indefinitely, but it might weary your readers.

### **National Service Cards.**

Ninety-seven per cent. of the National Service Cards distributed in this city were immediately filled out, signed and returned. Our people know that they are loyal; and one of the main reasons for the victory of the Citizens' League is resentment of the majority of them at the cry of "Pro-German" used unjustly by a limited number of our citizens. The other principal reason was that the opposing side proposed to treble the assessment and water rates of the manufacturers of this city.

The present Council proposed to reduce the taxation of the city by economy in local expenses and improvements. At the same time it advocated hearty support to patriotic needs. This programme of economy at home and full support of patriotic measures received the sweeping endorsements of our citizens. The present Council is determined to carry out that policy, and looks confidently for the approval and support of the country in that course.

Signed on behalf of the City Council.

**D. GROSS, JR.**

**Mayor.**