

# RACE DISCORD IS DEPLORED

## Kitchener's New Mayor and Aldermen; Make Strong Pleas for Harmony

### GROSS SWORN IN; STATES POLICIES

#### Says No Proposal to Change City's Name Will be Entertained

Staff Correspondence of The Daily News.

Kitchener, Jan. 8.—David Gross, Jr., button manufacturer, was sworn in as Mayor of Kitchener this morning. Immediately on taking oath he said it would be his aim to draw the people together. This was the keynote of the inaugural address which he delivered when the 1917 council held its first meeting.

The Mayor took it upon himself to announce that during his term of office no proposal would be entertained to rechange the city's name. It would be his ambition, too, he added, to treat all citizens fairly, to cultivate genuine good will and unity and to work that the city should do its full share towards every good in defence of the British Empire.

During his regime he promised to exercise economy and to conduct the civic business on sound lines; to oppose unwarranted extensions of utilities; to discourage unnecessary increases in debenture debt; to enforce by-laws impartially; to assist in investigating the present high cost of living; to do everything possible to restore peace, to punish all lawlessness; and to hold to strict account any newspapers or persons circulating untrue and unfounded reports against the city and its people.

He referred to what Kitchener had done in the past in the matter of contributing to patriotic ends and he added that the people must continue to do so freely and liberally not only out of the civic treasury but also of their own time and money.

He deplored the feelings of bitterness and discord that had arisen out of the agitation following the changing of the city's name. Acts of lawlessness and violence unknown heretofore had occurred and great injury had been done to city and the reputation of the people by distorted and in many cases slanderous reports, he said.

#### Aldermen Voice Loyalty.

Carrying out the spirit of the Mayor's address, the newly elected aldermen of Kitchener voiced their loyalty to the British Crown at the inaugural meeting held here this morning.

The hope was expressed that both the Citizens' League and the British League would get together in future and work unitedly for the best interest of the community. Alderman J. T. McKay drew attention to the fact that the descendants of United Empire Loyalists, some of whom sat at the Council Board could not possibly be German sympathizers, and Ald. H. H. Huchenegard struck a popular note when he stated that the city could not do better than honor the memory of Britain's great war hero by retaining his name. It was Ald. W. D. Uttley's opinion that this year's council would go down to history as that of the peacemaker.

#### Union Jacks on Walls.

Outside of the names of some of those seated at the Council there was nothing to indicate in the chamber that the new body was anything but British. Large Union Jacks adorned the walls and above the Mayor's head were draped the colors of civilization. Three policemen were at the doors to guard against any disturbance that might arise, and more than a hundred supporters of both leagues were interested followers of the proceedings. Stalwarts of the British League who were present, included Hahn, Gallagher, Schnarr, Hessenauer, Cleghorn and Osborne, all of whom went down to defeat on New Year's day.

Speaking of the resolution endorsing the Mayor's address, Ald. J. T. McKay went over the names of the Councillors, showing that six of the fifteen were of British and Canadian descent and could not possibly be classed as pro-German. His own father, he said, came to Canada in 1837 and the family had always upheld the cause of the Dominion and the Empire. The British League, he said, made its first mistake when it classed its opponents as pro-German. He hoped that the spirit of malignity and revenge that had been fostered would be crushed.

It was a pleasure, he said, to find Mayor Gross so loyal and so fair-minded in all his utterances.

#### "The Peacemakers."

Ald. W. D. Uttley thought the 1917 Council would go down to history as "The Peacemakers." He advocated making friends with the outside press, remarking that on better acquaintance the Province would perhaps be more ready to praise than condemn. A publicity committee, he believed, would be a good thing for the city and he outlined a scheme whereby the writings of the local correspondents would be kept in check, not censored or suppressed as some wished.

Emphatic denial to the charge that he favored the German cause was given by Ald. W. T. Sass, who pointed out that he was born a Canadian and had lived under the

British flag half a century. If ever there was a time in the history of the city, he said, when the citizens should get together that time had arrived. He advocated the restoration of peace.

It was the opinion of Ald. H. H. Huehnergard that there should be only one league in the city, the object of which should be to aid the cause of Empire. He voiced his approval of the retention of the name of Britain's great war hero.

### **Pro-Germanism Denied.**

Aldermen Campbell and Bowman, the latter being the man who was injured in the attack on The News-Record office, spoke along similar lines and Alderman John Reid, who was attacked on the street last week by an indignant woman, followed suit. He had been branded as a pro-German, he said, because he had opposed the changing of the city's name. Yet, he added, his forefathers came from Denmark, and his mother was a Campbell of the Highlands. His brother had been wounded at the front and had recently been discharged from the Highland regiment to which he had himself belonged.

Although born in New Germany, Ald. George Zettel said he was Canadian to the core, and that there would be something doing if any attempt were made again to change the city's name.

The members present were: Aldermen Nicholas Asmussen, A. L. Bitzer, H. M. Bowman, S. Brukacher, A. B. Campbell, S. F. Gofton, H. H. Huehnergard, W. Iler, J. F. McKay, E. E. Ratz, John Reid, W. T. Sass, W. V. Uttley and George Zettel.

The meeting adjourned until 1.30 o'clock, when the committees were to be struck and the regular business taken up.