

CITY OF BERLIN, ONTARIO, DEFENDS ITS LOYALTY WITH GENEROUS PATRIOTISM

KAISER WOULD BE CENTRE OF A RIOT IF HE
MADE AN APPEARANCE IN BERLIN, ONTARIO

**Great Majority of Citizens Are Loyal, With a Loyalty That
Reaches Their Pockets—City's Splendid
Showing in Patriotic Work**

**MANY OF GERMAN DESCENT WOULD GO
TO UNITED STATES IF GERMANY WON**

**Citizens Resent Having Their Loyalty Questioned and Back
up Their Conviction That They Are Strongly
in Favor of the Allies**

BY HEW TRILL

Berlin, Ont., Sept. 1.—“Is Berlin loyal to Canada?” If a Britisher feels compelled to ask that question of a Berliner it is just as well for him to have a smile ready to go with it. The people of Berlin are touchy on the subject. They get up and walk about when it is broached. “They get hot in the palms of the hands when the name of the Kaiser is mentioned,” as one prominent citizen put it to *The Daily News*. They are apt to reply to the question vehemently: “Well, if any other city in Canada is paying out as much cash per capita to the Patriotic Fund as Berlin is I would like to know it.” No one so far has been able to enlighten them. They have the figures at their fingers’ ends.

The city of Berlin has 15,500 inhabitants. In October last the citizens organized a Patriotic Fund campaign. For three days they worked “nights and days and Sundays.” They went through the city as with a fine tooth comb. They collected cash and promises, aggregating \$95,000—over \$5 a head for every man, woman and child in the city. And it is only fair to add that there are a number of foreigners there who are quite unapproachable for any public subscription.

\$60,000 in One Year.

Almost more striking still, they are paying up. To-day, after eleven months, \$40,000 has been paid over to the Patriotic Fund, and there is deposited in the bank \$3,580.09. While *The Daily News* correspondent was looking over the books to-day well over a hundred dollars in subscriptions were brought into the office.

The money was subscribed under three heads: First, cash payments; second, monthly payments for a year; third, a cash payment and four subsequent semi-annual payments of similar amounts. The \$44,000 (to use round figures), already paid in represents the cash payments, eleven of the twelve monthly payments, and only two of the five semi-annual payments, the latter by far the largest class. The third of these last payments falls due at the end of September, an additional ten or twelve thousand dollars. That and the last of the monthly payments will bring the amount paid by Berlin citizens to the Patriotic Fund in one year to approximately \$60,000.

“I expect that we shall collect 90 per cent. of the subscription list,” said the secretary-treasurer to *The Daily News*. “If you have ever had anything to do with collecting subscriptions you will know how exceptionally high this percentage is. I am satisfied they are paying up their subscriptions to a larger extent than any other city in Canada.”

Collected From Germans.

“Did you collect from Germans?” *The Daily News* ventured to ask.

“Who else would we collect from?” came back the instant and indignant counter. “Of course we did.” Then came a comparison of na-

tional generosity which, since all comparisons are odious; The Daily News' informant asked should not be published lest "it should take the roof off the town." His statement was confirmed independently that the German element in Berlin had been far from behind their fellow citizens in their donations to the Patriotic Fund.

"Everybody wanted to give. There was no compulsion. It was a free-will offering. The subscriptions ranged from five cents a month to \$1,000 semi-annually. Working girls in the factories gave. Some workmen gave \$1 a month, which meant a lot to them. Some came back next day and doubled what they had promised." Many said they were sorry they could not give more. And they are paying up. That is the great thing."

The Patriotic Fund in Berlin employs no paid official. No collector goes the rounds constantly. The money is brought in to the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, and one hundred per cent. of it is turned over to the central authorities.

Red Cross Campaign.

Nor does Berlin's contribution to the Patriotic Fund represent all of its loyal donations. Until last June the work of caring for the wounded was carried on in Berlin by the vigorous efforts of the Daughters of the Empire. Then a charter was granted, and the Berlin branch of the Red Cross Society was formed. The first thing that strikes the visitor to Berlin to-day is the placard around the front of the first Berlin and Waterloo railway car he sees. In bold letters on a white ground appears: "The need is great: Berlin will do her duty." On a similar placard on the rear of the car reads: "Remember the fellows who are sick and wounded for your sake." Other cars bear similar appeals. A Red Cross-campaign is on. The south and eastwards have been canvassed from door to door, and over \$600 a month has been subscribed. The officials confidently expect to collect \$800 a month. They will not be surprised if they are given \$1,000 a month to work with. Many of the professional men are out of town on vacations,—the ministers, and the doctors, and the lawyers, and the teachers and many of the manufacturers. The promised

are monthly until June 1st, 1918 or until war ceases.

Will Reach \$100,000.

Add \$1,000 a month—and this is a conservative estimate—when the membership subscriptions are taken into account for the Red Cross Funds, for thirteen months to the end of the second year of the Patriotic Fund, and, allowing ten per cent. decrease for removals, deaths, loss of employment and so on, it will appear that Berlin will have contributed in cold cash towards the work of the Empire at war with Germany in round figures \$100,000, and this from a population of 18,500. "Come to me if you need any more" has not been an infrequent God-speed to the canvassers. It is small wonder, then, if Berliners have become impatient of the suspicion that their city is a hot-bed of sedition.

Already the Berlin Branch of the Red Cross Society has expended \$2,000 in buying raw material. Accustomed to factory methods, they have gone into the manufacture of hospital supplies with so much business acumen that samples of their first shipment of surgical bandages have been sent out to other towns of the country as models, they were so highly approved by the doctors of the Toronto General Hospital where they were sent to be sterilized.

Making Hospital Supplies.

Four power sewing-machines and six tread-machines have been installed in the spacious workroom at 143 King street west, where any afternoon in the week from twenty-five to seventy-five ladies may be seen making every necessity for the sick-room: shirts, pyjamas and every kind of bandage. The shirts are cut out by experienced people at the factories by electric power at cost, a cent a shirt. The same facilities are employed for the buttonholing and button-sewing. Material is given out to responsible persons on the card index system. Poor women are employed to knit socks at 30 cents a pair. The society branch has already 375 members, of whom a large proportion are members for life.

"Power machines have taken the place of hand," said Mr. August Lang, president, himself of German extraction. Fifteen hundred dollars' worth of supplies have already been forwarded in two shipments.

"I am certain the Germans of Berlin would never tolerate Prussianism for a minute," said Mr. Lang when The Daily News reporter sought to ascertain the personal feeling of the German element. He explained that thousands of them—his father among them—had left Germany to escape the military system. His interviewer remarked that

he had heard that many of the Germans in Berlin had expressed the intention of going to the United States if Germany gained control of Canada, to flee again from what they had fled before. "And how long do you think they would avoid militarism there if Prussia conquered in this war?" asked Mr. Lang. He answered the question himself: "Not a generation."

Riot Around the Kaiser.

"The Germans here would be the first to take up a gun if they were attacked," said another, who was in very close touch with conditions in Berlin. Perhaps no one is in a better position to judge. He went so far as to say that "there are no more loyal citizens of Canada than the Germans here." He explained that many of them when they took out their naturalization papers and swore allegiance to Canada did not realize the far greater truth that they were swearing allegiance to the Empire of which Canada is an integral part.

"If the Kaiser appeared in Berlin he would be the centre of a riot," said a Berliner, who holds a prominent position in the city. He bears a German name. The riot would not be favorable to the Kaiser. Mr. Lang commented on this statement that the Kaiser would never get so far as Berlin.

"A Winnipeg man came to Berlin and went to see an insurance man who is of German extraction. They had done business together for a long time. They were good friends. The visitor remarked that the Germans were driving back the Russians in great shape. 'I hope they will give them a jolly good drubbing,' said the visitor. The Berliner rose from his chair, walked round his desk, seized his visitor by the throat, thrust him

outside the door and slammed it in his face. 'We're through,' he said. 'Don't you ever come here again.'" So the man who expressed the "riot" opinion backed up his contention.

"How many internments have you made?" the Chief of Police was asked.

"None," he answered.