

## Kitchener, Ont.

It is rumored that a movement is on foot in Kitchener, Ont., to change the name of the city, and call it "Berlin" in honor of the capital of Prussia, with which country Canada is at war. It is said that plans are being made to elect in January a City Council that will favor the change and endeavor to bring it about.

This change, if it could be made, would please enemy aliens here among us and enemy sympathizers everywhere. The news of it, duly reported to Ambassador Bernstorff, foreman of the public and secret service of Germany in North America, would greatly please him, and give him the text for a jubilant submarine despatch to his master.

Those who have set out to do this thing will scarcely succeed in getting away with it. They may, possibly, succeed in changing the name of Kitchener, Ont., because the people of a city may reasonably desire to change its name, but it is going rather far to expect that Canada will permit one of her cities to put off the British name, Kitchener, and in the middle of this war put on the Prussian name, Berlin. No Provincial or Federal Government would permit it, because of the way the thing would be blazoned abroad to the comfort of Canada's enemies. Those who agitate for this change of name presume too far on public patience, and no doubt the Government will call for and examine a secret service report on those engaged in so questionable an activity as this at such a time as this.

A despatch from Kitchener yesterday stated that at the general sessions of the peace on December 12th there will be 204 applications for naturalizations in that city, of which 197 will be enemy aliens applying for citizenship and the

right to vote. And, if granted the right to vote, the first exercise of it, not by all perhaps, but presumably by most of them, will be to vote in the municipal elections in January for those who want to abolish the British name of Kitchener, and restore to the city the Prussian name of Berlin.

It is only in comic opera and in Ontario politics that such a situation as this could occur. Here's two hundred **enemy aliens**, most of them probably swearing fealty to us in order to put one over on us, and renouncing the Kaiser and all his works in order to pull off a bit of work for him in the municipal elections.

Also, to carry out the comicality of it all in a consistent way, the City of Kitchener has no soldiers in it, although the Dominion Government has built fine armories there at large public cost. As the troops make trouble there with their parades and their singing, and their annoying attempts at recruiting, the amiable Government removes the troops and leaves the armories idle. But get this: The amiable Government proposes to open a military hospital there instead. Thus, if the population does not like to see husky soldiers parading, recruiting, and training in the streets before going to war against the Huns, they are to be relieved of that, and regaled instead with the sight of wounded men who have been away and come home broken. Isn't amiability being carried to an extreme in thus providing agreeable entertainment to those among us who are alien to us in all their sympathies during this war? Is Kitchener a suitable place, is the atmosphere there adapted to the needs of wounded soldiers back home seeking sympathy, approval, and restoration to health?