

# SEEKING PRO-GERMAN VOTE IN KITCHENER

Such is Charge Made Against  
The Citizens'  
League

## BRITISH LEAGUE'S VIEW

Allege Citizens' League Con-  
siders "Kitchener" is  
"Too British"

The Daily News is in receipt of an open letter signed by Mr. C. C. Hahn, president of the British League of Kitchener, Ont., which reads in part as follows:

"Our attention has been called to an article in The London Free Press of October 14th, over the name of Mr. A. R. Lang, president of the Citizens' League. This article is merely a resume of a long effusion by Mr. H. M. Bowman, recently in The Kitchener News Record, in which Mr. Bowman holds up Mr. Schmalz as a martyr, and to enlist public sympathy for the Citizens' League, appeared in the outside press. We should like with due restraint, to place some of the facts concerning the Citizens' League and its officers before the public.

### Purpose of British League.

"In April, 1916, a number of prominent citizens formed a British League for the purpose of retaining British sentiment in our city, and counteracting any pro-German influence which might creep insidiously into our municipal affairs. The officers and members of this British League have been most prominent in every patriotic movement in our city. They worked night and day to recruit the 118th Battalion, and gave freely of their time and money to further the work in connection with the Patriotic Fund and the Red Cross. Nearly all of them have sons or relatives in khaki, either in training now, or overseas fighting to preserve that British freedom for which the British League stands.

### The Name "Too British"?

"The Citizens' League was organized in direct opposition to the British League in July, after the name of this city was changed from Berlin to Kitchener. The real aim of the Citizens' League, although it is veneered with plausible statements about 'promoting better civic government,' was and is solely to defeat on January 1st, 1917, those members of the City Council who voted for the change of name (four of whom have sons in khaki), and if possible change the name of this city back to Berlin. If that cannot be accomplished, then they will try amalgamation with Waterloo. Their slogan is 'Any name but Kitchener.' They cannot disguise the fact that they dislike the name because it is too British.

"We do not charge that all the members of the Citizens' League are pro-German—we recognize that numbers of our loyal citizens have been misled into allying themselves with the Citizens' League—but we make the statement unreservedly that all the pro-Germans in this city either are, or are expected to be identified with this league before January 1st, 1917.

### "England's War."

"The chief promoters of the league, with few exceptions, have not put forth one little effort to raise recruits. Many of them have put obstacles in the way of recruiting, and have moved heaven and earth recently to prevent the return of the 118th Battalion to winter here. Sons of the promoters and members of the league, instead of being in khaki, are walking the streets of this city or are in the United States. A member of the executive of the Citizens' League was heard to say 'in German, that the 'D—— British are not going to run this city.' Some have openly stated that this is England's war, and that we should have no part in it. Some have cheered at reports of German victories, and have expressed on our streets a desire that Germany should win. These are the men who are appealing to the sympathy of British Leagues throughout Canada! These are the men who are posing as martyrs! Elsewhere men have been interned for pro-German utterances similar to these."

The communication concludes with personal arraignments of both Mr. Schmalz and Mr. Lang.