

TROUBLE IN KITCHENER.

It is not a parent that the demand for a change of name, from Kitchener to Berlin, involves any disrespect on the part of the people for the great man whose memory, for his notable service to the empire, will never die. The agitation which has been revived, and with some evidence of violence since the municipal elections, in Kitchener, is very hard to understand. The city is one of the most thrifty in western Ontario. Two years ago the Whig passed through it, conversed with its people, and viewed in the business and industrial streets the evidences of their progressiveness.

The war was on, but it was yet young. The German element was strong, but inactive and respectful. It exhibited a spirit of loyalty to British law and to British institutions. The people generally seemed to be prosperous. Many, perhaps most of them, owned their own houses. They were of German descent. They had colonized in Berlin and had reason to thank Canada for their success. They were peaceful and happily minded. They were probably stirred up later by the anti-Germans who demanded a change in the name of the city.

Berlin had to go, and under the council of 1916 the change was carried into effect. Kitchener was adopted, and the name of Kitchener will probably remain. The new mayor and city council, largely pro-German, may change the name upon the water department's literature, and upon the letterheads of the city, but they cannot change the name of the post office. They may, if they continue to act indiscreetly, bring ruin upon the municipality. It can be boycotted for business reasons; some of its more active men can be blacklisted; others may be interned; and the place which was so prosperous a little while ago may suffer a great reverse. German ideals cannot be exalted in Canada at the present time, either in Kitchener or any other place.