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RICHMOND HILL, ONT., JAN. 18, 1917

### A BACKWARD MOVE

In ordering that letters addressed to "Berlin, Ont." shall be delivered at Kitchener, it is generally considered that Mr. Blondin, the new Postmaster-General, has taken a backward step. After the name was changed to Kitchener, Mr. Cosgrain, the late Postmaster-General, ordered that all letters addressed to "Berlin, Ont." should be sent to the Dead Letter Office, to be returned to the senders. This seemed reasonable as the former name had ceased to exist. At the municipal election in January, the mayor and most of the aldermen-elect of that city, bore German names, or were of German parentage. That need not be looked upon as a crime, as we are not responsible for our name or place of birth.

After the election, Mayor Gross and several of the aldermen publicly stated that it would be their aim to draw the people together, and work for the peace and harmony of the city and community. Mayor Gross, as reported in the Toronto Daily News, stated that "it would be his ambition to treat all citizens fairly, to cultivate genuine good will and unity, and to work that the city might do its full share towards every need in defence of the British Empire." The Mayor and Aldermen also stated at their first meeting that no proposal to change the city's name would be entertained.

In the face of all that has taken place it seems unfortunate that the Dominion Government would encourage the Pro-German element to still hope that the name of the city may sometime be changed to Berlin.

Mr. Allan, Conservative, was on Monday elected in West Simcoe, over Mr. Scott, Liberal, by about 600.

### LET CRITICISM BE FAIR

For the Liberals to contest West Simcoe where the normal Conservative majority is anywhere up to one thousand, could not be looked upon as good politics. The same may be said of Northwest Toronto where a candidate has been nominated to oppose Mr. W. D. McPherson who has been selected for a position in the Ontario Cabinet.

There is nothing dishonorable, however, in placing candidates in the field where there are vacancies. Surely it cannot be expected that all the positions shall be given to Conservatives. Where there are contests the addresses should be instructive, and not abusive. The party in power should not object to fair criticism. Some of the speeches in West Simcoe, on the Conservative side were far from being fair or elevating. To raise the old cry of disloyalty or to try to show that the opponent is descended from German stock is both unfair and mischievous.

Wm. D. Lawrie, for 20 years caretaker of the York County buildings, Toronto, died last Friday, aged 67 years. Mr. Lawrie formerly resided in Newmarket.

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