

# Extra THE NEWS RECORD Extra BIG RIOT LAST NIGHT

## City Council Rejects Proposal to Have Another Vote on Name of City and Session Comes to Disturbing Close

Office and Plant of News Record and Ontario Journal Partly Destroyed. Mob Attacks Aldermen Bitzer and Bowman. Both Members of Parliament Appear in G. W. V. A. Hall.

Dec 2-1919

### THE NAME QUESTION

Will not be reopened by the City Council who last evening by an unanimous vote struck out clause 6 of the Finance Committee report which was to the effect that the petition by about 700 ratepayers to have another plebiscite on the present name and "Berlin", be granted.

All the Aldermen who were present voted in favor of not taking action on this petition. They were Aldermen Schreiter, Iler, Reid, Ratz, Lippert, Uttley, Baetz, Gofton, Sass, Greb, Zettel and Asmussen. Ald. L. O Breifhaupt, who is on his honeymoon trip, and Aldermen Bitzer and Bowman, who however, figured at the meeting later were not present.

The meeting of the Council a few minutes after the name question had been disposed of ended in an uproar which was not limited to the Council Chamber but extended to other parts of the city at the expense of several prominent citizens.

#### THE MEETING.

Long before 8 o'clock arrived the Council chamber was packed. Standing room was unavailable. People, men and women, representative of numerous organizations in the city, were squeezed into the hall like sardines in a box. "Cops" at the doors to the council chamber said "No pass." Only the councilmen and those who had business to transact with the city were permitted to enter.

The crowd of five hundred citizens made up of members of the G. W. V. A., Daughters of the Empire, the Woman's Canadian Club, the Trades and Labor Council, the Manufacturers, the Young Business Men's Club and others. The mood of the audience indicated that they were not in any way inclined to consider the submitting to the people of a bylaw on the name. This mood became more pronounced as the delay by the aldermen in appearing for business was lengthened.

At 8.15 o'clock only two aldermen were in their seats. A conference of the aldermen on the proposed bylaw it is said was being held. It was after 8.30 o'clock when the aldermen appeared. A din accompanied their arrival. After this had subsided the audience started to sing God Save the King and the Mayor and aldermen arose and participated.

The regular preliminary business of the Council was proceeded with.

There was a big budget of communications. Among them were a number of protests from various organizations against the proposed bylaw, in which it was stated among other things that "for the sake of peace and harmony in the city, the name question should

not be touched. These included the Board of Trade, the Trades and Labor Council, the Sons of England Lodge, the Daughters of the Empire, the Woman's Canadian Club, and the F. W. D. Auto Company. The latter said that to change the name of the city back from Kitchener to Berlin would seriously interfere with their export business in the British Empire. One reason why they located here was the name "Kitchener". Other reasons given in the various letters were of a patriotic nature.

#### A COUNTER PETITION.

A counter-petition against the proposed new bylaw to be submitted to the people was in the form of a big roll containing 5431 signatures. Mr. Jacob H. Baetz and Mr. George S. Ahrens had also forwarded an affidavit taken before Mr. George Bray, barrister, to the effect that every name on the list was that of a citizen of at least 21 years of age.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT SUBMITTED

It was generally expected that the bylaw submitted. When Alderman Baetz moved that the Finance Report, moved that the Finance Report be adopted, as anticipated an amendment was proposed by Aldermen Zettel and Baetz to strike out clause 6. When submitted, this amendment was carried unanimously. Vociferous approval was in evidence and it was only after some minutes that the Council was able to proceed to other business. The crowd began to file out and it seemed that all was well. But then arose cries for "Bitzer and Bowman". As mentioned by some Aldermen, M. P. P., was still quite large. In the audience, which was however, directed to this incident.

The Council then proceeded with other business when suddenly a disturbance came and owing to this unusual meeting had to be postponed.

### Mob Attacks Office and the Plant

Of the News Record and Ontario Journal

With the extensive alterations underway in the front of the Record office and the work of the mob which attacked the building and the equipment; our plant last night had every appearance of what is left after a terrific cyclone has gone through a building.

Beginning at the front of the office the big plate glass window and the panes in both doors were smashed; counters, desks and chairs were overturned.

In the mechanical department forms were knocked over, key-board machines were upset and very much type was dumped. Many of the windows at the rear and sides were smashed. Damage was also done to the minor equipment throughout the plant.

The total loss runs into thousands of dollars.

#### NOTES.

Good morning! The News Record was hit; sorry the taxpayer may feel the blow.

It took all night, but we got the extra out.

A new front was coming anyway in the Record office. The carpenters are saved some work.

Who said we needed fresh air?

In a few days we hope to be on the job same as ever.

The name question was buried, did peace and harmony die with it?

We are trying to figure out what connection there was under present circumstances between the name question and the News Record.

A. H. Liedemann, Strathroy, was arrested for the second time in the period of a week on a charge of unlawfully having in his possession a smash for the manufacture of liquor.

The steamer Myron, loaded with lumber became water-logged and went ashore near Whitefish Point Lake Superior, and it is thought the crew of 18 have perished.

This is the front page of the NEWS RECORD EXTRA as it appeared at 6 o'clock this morning Dec. 2nd. 1919

### ATTACKS ON CITIZENS

Another cyclone struck the city last evening. But it was not the usual storm.

It struck three members of the City Council, namely Aldermen Bitzer, Bowman and Asmussen, M. P. P. and also North Waterloo's member in the Dominion House, Mr. W. D. Euler, and in addition the News Record of which Mr. Euler is president.

Messrs. Bitzer and Bowman, who had not been present at the Council meeting were seized by the mob and brought to the City Hall. Here Mr. Bowman was secured from further attacks by the action of the police, while Mr. Bitzer was forced to endure a series of incidents ending in Victoria Park.

Alderman Asmussen, M. P. P., who had gone home after the meeting, was brought back to town and taken to the G. W. V. A. hall. Another section of the mob called at the residence of Mr. Euler M. P. Later on Mr. Euler at the request of some of the G. W. V. A. proceeded to their hall, and owing to his refusal to kiss the flag by compulsion received several blows.

About five minutes after the disposal by the city council of the petition on the name question to have the matter resubmitted to the people the storm came. This was at about 9.15. Disorder was heard in the northeast corridor of the City Hall. There was a stir near the door between the corridor and the council chamber.

Suddenly Ald. H. M. Bowman was shoved through the crowd into the assembly hall, accompanied by members of a pursuing crowd.

Ald. Bitzer also appeared in a similar way, both having been accompanied to the hall after they had been located. Both were forced into their seats, and demands to kiss the flag were made. The two aldermen declined. The crowd which had brought them into the building then seized them and forced them out of the east side-entrance of the council chamber. In the melee Ald. Bowman was seized by the police and taken to the guard-room downstairs for protection.

Ald. Bitzer was forced to accompany the crowd down King street to the G. W. V. A. hall, where the ceremony of kissing the flag was insisted on. Later he was released and adorned with a Union Jack in the lapel of his coat and accompanied by P. C. Blevins, proceeded up King street. Near the corner of Queen street he was again seized by the pursuing mob who rushed him to the lake in Victoria Park, where several immersions took place. This was the climax of his experience and he later left for his home.

The Record office then was the object of an attack, as described elsewhere.

The next objective was Ald. Asmussen, M. P. P., who was at his home. The mob asked the member that he accompany them to the G. W. V. A. hall. An altercation followed. Individuals who were in the crowd reported that the alderman brandished a revolver, stating that he had it to protect his wife and family. The mob replied they did not want

his better half but him. The upshot of the altercation was that the alderman accompanied the crowd to the hall where after the usual flag salute he gave an outline of his attitude in the council on patriotic questions since he entered the council. He said he had been conscientious in all his actions, and never had any ill-will to the G. W. V. A. He regretted he had never been invited by the Association to visit them. As to the Freeport Sanatorium he was not against the city supplying water to the patients, but he objected to the fact that the city alone was to pay for the cost. Galt and other places should have been included in the matter of paying the cost. If he had ever done anything which was not considered patriotic, he regretted the misinterpretation. The alderman thereupon signed a statement to that effect.

After this incident the mob directed its attention to the member for North Waterloo, Mr. W. D. Euler, M. P., who was at the Lancaster Club across the street. Mr. Euler was asked to accompany them to the hall, and he did so quite willingly. When there he was asked to join in the singing of the National Anthem and to kiss the flag.

He spoke at some length on his course in public affairs and he said that he was quite willing to salute the flag but not when forced to do so. Under proper circumstances he would certainly kiss the flag, to do so under these circumstances would be to dishonor it. As to his loyalty he considered himself as loyal as any of the men to whom he was speaking. The tumult continued and the member persisted in his declaration that he would not kiss the flag under these circumstances. He carried out this declaration. He received a few blows in the face, after which he departed from the hall under the protection of a few of those present.

At an early hour this morning it was learned from Mr. Euler, who had come down street that his injury is not serious.