

EPIDEMIC STILL VERY SERIOUS

Niagara Falls, Montreal and Quebec Prohibit All Meetings

DEATHS YET NUMEROUS

Rev. J. A. MacNeil, Pastor of an Ottawa Methodist Church, Succumbs

(Special and C. P. Despatches.)

Niagara Falls, Ont., Oct. 8. — All schools, churches, theatres and other public meeting places were ordered closed to-day by the Board of Health by reason of Spanish influenza, of which many cases have occurred in the city. Several deaths have taken place. The Board of Health this morning came to a prompt decision in the matter. In some business establishments it was stated there are so many ill as to seriously interfere with the carrying on of business.

All Meeting Places Closed.

Montreal, Oct. 8. — The Administrative Commission and the Municipal Board of Health yesterday discussed precautionary measures, and last night the following notice, over the signature of Dr. S. Boucher, Medical Officer of Health, was issued:

"Public notice is hereby given that, until further orders, all places of public gathering, such as schools, theatres, dance, moving picture and concert halls, and all other meeting halls, as well as places where the public may gather, socially or otherwise, shall be closed under the penalty provided by law."

Eight Deaths Yesterday.

Eight deaths from Spanish influenza were reported this morning to the Board of Health for the last 24 hours, and 47 new cases. This morning Archbishop Bruchesi ordered that only low Masses are to be celebrated in the churches until further orders.

To-day was the first really fine weather enjoyed here for several weeks, and the Board of Health doctors intimated that it would do much to stop the epidemic.

Among the dead from the after-effects of influenza to-day was W. L. Fogarty, one of the best-known newspapermen in Montreal. He was attached to the financial department of The Star's editorial staff.

Quebec Schools and Theatres Closed.

Quebec, Oct. 8. — Notwithstanding attempts to contradict the information, the Spanish influenza has reached the epidemic stage in this city. Yesterday the Municipal Board of Health made an admission of the existence of the plague by closing, for at least one month, all schools, boarding convents, colleges, etc. The closing of theatres was decided upon this evening.

While the epidemic is not so serious as in the Eastern Townships, where deaths are reported by the score, the illness here is growing. Eleven deaths from the Spanish influenza were recorded Sunday at Plessisville.

Over 200 Cases at Stratford.

Stratford, Oct. 8.—More than 200 cases of "flu" are now reported here, but only one death so far. Arrangements have been made for the hospital to handle emergency cases on recommendation of the Board of Health. The G.T.R. Transportation Department seems likely to be tied up, for 25 conductors and brakemen are sick, as well as several engineers and firemen.

Fifty More Cases at London.

London, Ont., Oct. 8.—More than 400 cases of Spanish influenza had been reported to the Board of Health up until noon to-day, another 50 cases having been added this morning. It is stated that upwards of 100 cases exist among the troops in training at Carling Heights Camp.

Ottawa Pastor Succumbs.

Ottawa, Oct. 8.—Rev. James Archibald MacNeil, pastor of Western Methodist Church, died here to-day of pneumonia following influenza. He was in his thirty-eighth year, and was a native of Ormstown, Que.

Ban on Meetings Raised.

Ingersoll, Oct. 8.—It was decided by the Board of Health, at a special meeting to-day, to raise the ban on public meetings which was imposed because of the influenza epidemic several days ago. The published statement of Dr. McCullough of the Provincial Board of Health was brought to the attention of the Board of Health, and soon afterwards the meeting was called. After weighing circumstances fully it was decided that it would be in order to hold public gatherings as formerly. The schools, churches, etc., had been previously closed, and in the interval there has been a wonderful improvement in the situation.

Few Cases in the North.

Cobalt, Oct. 8.—Inquiries made at Cobalt and the surrounding district have failed to reveal any evidence of Spanish influenza. Numerous citizens complain of colds, but ascribe their afflictions to the inclement weather. Near the south end of Lake Timiskaming isolated cases

have been reported, and in Halleybury one or two cases are reported to have developed.

No Spanish "Flu" in Brantford.

Brantford, Oct. 8.—That there is not one case of Spanish influenza in the city is the declaration of Chairman T. J. Minnes of the Board of Health, who says that from statistics compiled by himself, after gathering the facts from every reliable source in order to set at ease the minds of citizens and protect the good name of this city has enjoyed as being a healthy place of abode, he is able to state most emphatically, and is backed up by the most unquestionable authority, that there is no such thing existing in Brantford as Spanish influenza. There is no doubt that influenza or grippe is prevalent by far above the average for this season of the year, caused by the unreasonable climatic conditions at this time. He declares that there are 795 cases of grippe here, but not one is considered critical. Out of 2,415 employees in nine factories 277 are absent to-day. From the schools 790 are absent out of 3,350, but it is felt that many are staying away as a precautionary measure.