

THOUSANDS OF CASES DEVELOP

Spanish Influenza is Prevalent Throughout Whole of Ontario

MANY NURSES NEEDED

All Night Staff Kept on Duty at Health Board Offices

Cases of Spanish influenza throughout the Province can now be numbered in the tens of thousands. While it is impossible to secure any reliable data as to the exact number, reports received at the offices of the Provincial Board of Health up until last night indicated that in seventy places there are at the lowest 25,000 persons suffering from the malady. Such places as Toronto, London and many of the smaller cities are not included, as it is more difficult to ascertain the number of cases in the larger communities.

One peculiar feature of the epidemic, which the telegrams reveal, is that while there are in some instances hundreds of cases in one town, a municipality only a dozen or so miles away will have only an odd person sick with the disease. With that exception, the malady seems to be prevalent in all parts of the Province, although the north country does not seem to be in the grip of the disease as yet to the same extent as older Ontario.

Shortage of Nurses.

The telegrams received by the Provincial Board of Health are in response to messages sent out by Lieut.-Col. J. W. S. McCullough, Provincial Officer of Health. These messages show that a serious shortage of nurses exists in many of the places where the epidemic is raging. Places asking for the assistance of nurses are: Brantford, for the emergency hospital; Kitchener, for the general hospital; London, for the Queen Alexandra Hospital; Midland, Oshawa, Oakville, Penetang, Waterloo, Wingham and Orillia. Places asking for doctors are Alexandria, Bracebridge and Lansdowne. Lecturers are required at Carleton Place and Barrie to instruct the volunteer workers.

While the disease has not gained the hold in smaller centres that it has in the cities, it is particularly fortunate, as the authorities in places of but a few hundred population are not in a position to properly deal with an epidemic. There is often no regularly appointed Officer of Health. At Capreol the Mayor is holding the dual position, and the authorities have asked if he can legally do so. Cochrane has commandeered the public school building as an emergency isolation hospital. However, the action of the authorities was criticized there, and they have appealed to the Provincial body for a ruling.

Drastic Measures.

Goderich and Barrie both report having closed all schools, theatres, libraries and poolrooms as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the disease. While Oakville reports no cases of Spanish influenza, they state that they have a number of people suffering from ordinary influenza. Fort Frances and Halleybury both telegraph that they have no cases.

The situation at Alexandria seems to be particularly serious. More than 400 cases are reported in that place, and the number is steadily increasing, and the surrounding country is filled with it. Only one doctor is able to attend all the patients within a seven-mile radius, and people are reported to have died in that part of the country without having had medical attention.

While most of the places express appreciation at the action of the Provincial Board of Health in offering assistance, such is not the case with Ottawa. In a telegram received from Mayor Fisher yesterday, he said: "We are pleased to know that the Provincial Board of Health has realized that there is going to be an epidemic. Will also be pleased if your Board of Health will waken up to the fact that measures for preventing spread of disease must be taken."

Places Affected.

The number of cases reported include:

Alexandria, 400; Barrie, 175; Brockville, 114; Bracebridge, 5; Carleton Place, 200; Cobalt, 50; Cornwall, 60; Cobourg, 13; Cusickel, 4; Forest, 25; Fort William, 40; Gananoque, 400; Goderich, 200; Guelph, 25; Kingston, 4,000; Kincardine, 70; Lindsay, 400; Midland, 400; Niagara Falls, 300; Orillia, 200; Oshawa, 30; Orangeville, 60; Ottawa, 3,979; Pembroke, 80; Petrolia, 20; Picton, 200; Prescott, 144; Rockland, 150; Sudbury, 800; Sarnia, 5; Smith's Falls, 500; Sault Ste. Marie, 50; Stratford,

2,000; St. Thomas, 500; Windsor, 25; Waterloo, 1,400; Wingham, 300; Weiland, 400.

While some experiments have been made locally with a serum, the Provincial authorities have none of it ready for general use. Experiments are now being conducted at the University, and Dr. McCullough has telegraphed to Rochester, inquiring what the serum made there contains.

An all-night staff is being kept on duty at the Provincial Board of Health offices. Already about 175 "Sisters of Service" have been sent out on cases. To date 343 deaths from influenza have been registered at Dr. McCullough's office by undertakers from different parts of the Province, but these are known not to be a fair indication of the death rate.

Dr. McCullough is making an appeal to the clergy of the Province to inform their congregations to-morrow that the need for voluntary aid nurses is very great, and to ask that as many as possible volunteer.