

# "CANADA CAN WELL BE ASHAMED"

Late yesterday afternoon a letter from Mrs. L. H. Kain of Walkerton, widow of the late Capt. (Rev.) Roy Kain, a Chaplain of Niagara Camp, who died at the Base Hospital of Spanish influenza, was received by the police, addressed to Mayor Church as Chairman of the Police Commission.

Detective Nurse will confer with the Chief Coroner and the Crown Attorney this morning as to whether a separate inquest will be held regarding the death of Capt. Kain, or whether the present investigation will be enlarged to cover this case.

The letter reads as follows :

"'Canada can be well ashamed of the way she has treated her men.' These are the dying words of my husband, who died at the Base Hospital last week.

"He contracted Spanish influenza at Niagara Camp, and, thinking he would receive better treatment, I took him to the Base Hospital, Toronto. I would have paid anything for a private room, but owing to overcrowding my husband was put in a room with six others who were dying. He became steadily worse, and I was admitted a few days before his death. I shall never forget the horror of that room. I saw four die during the few days I was there, and only those who have witnessed it know the terrible death of the victims of Spanish influenza.

"Can any front-line trench be worse than to be placed in a room with the most advanced cases, to hear the cries of the dying, to realize your own time is coming as surely as the sun will rise, to feel that you are suffering and dying from the neglect and carelessness of others ?

"My husband well knew that his time was short. The night before he died he said to those around him : 'Canada may be well ashamed of the way she has treated her men.'

"A doctor standing near said, 'Why, Captain, what cause have you for complaint,' and my husband replied, 'Can you tell me, doctor, why it is that though I came into this hospital on Monday my chest was not examined till Friday ?' The doctor hung his head and had no answer. I hope the words will burn into his heart and the hearts of all those who have been careless or indifferent. The next morning my husband was sinking, but still conscious, and knew me perfectly, but in his nervous state the cries of a dying man next to him sent him into a wild delirium, in which state he died. Our loved ones are not even allowed to die peacefully and alone. Are the people of Canada going to allow these horrors to go on ?

"I write this hoping it may help to secure better conditions for our men.

"(Signed) HIS WIFE."