

# MAYOR ATTACKS BASE HOSPITAL

## Takes Stand at Inquest on Body of Cadet Davidson of Air Force

"I have had many complaints about the Base Hospital, and I am not blaming the officers, but over 20 deaths have occurred, and the law requires an investigation," said Mayor T. L. Church at the opening of an inquest last night at the Morgue concerning the death of Cadet Davidson of the R.A.F., who died in the Base Hospital of Spanish influenza. "I venture to say," said the Mayor, "that if many of these soldiers had been in well-equipped quarters, with the attention of specialized doctors, there would not have been so many casualties."

In opening the inquest, Coroner W. J. McCollum told the jury that it was not an ordinary case they were called upon to investigate. "There has been a good deal of talk of overcrowding. I don't feel that there is a charge against anyone. Cases of sudden death have occurred outside as well as here. We know that the mortality of pneumonia and all such outbreaks is severe."

"It is not the fault of General Logie or Col. Bickford," the Mayor continued. "I am not criticizing Col. Hardy, either. It is Ottawa that bungles everything."

### Hospital Overcrowded.

Speaking of the alleged overcrowding, the Mayor said there were more than 900 soldiers, where in peace times seldom more than 300 were cared for.

"In my opinion," said the Mayor, speaking of the "flu" outbreak, "men being placed in tents have led to this trouble." It was a crime, he declared, to be in the fifth year of the war and still only have tents to house the soldiers.

The Mayor declared that it was unwise to close the schools. It only meant filling the movies.

The inquest was adjourned till the 22nd.