

# 31 DEATHS IN TORONTO ASCRIBED TO INFLUENZA

## Pneumonia Claims 17 Others—Further Steps Are Taken to Prevent Spread of Disease

Thirty-one Toronto people died of Spanish influenza yesterday, and seventeen succumbed to pneumonia. Thus the epidemic shows no signs of abating, and the opinion in official circles is that the daily toll of fatalities will increase before it diminishes. It is thought that the peak will be reached about next week. Up to 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon 198 deaths from influenza had been recorded at the City Hall since October 1, while 109 fatal pneumonia cases had been reported. The deaths from all causes in this city during the first sixteen days of the month aggregate 522, which is more than there would be in a whole month under normal conditions.

### Fighting the Epidemic.

Various steps were taken yesterday with a view to preventing the spread of the disease. The local Board of Health issued instructions to the proprietors of theatres and moving picture shows ordering them not to admit to their places of amusement persons under the age of seventeen. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Charles J. Hastings, also recommended that all lodge meetings be called off, and many of the lodges have already indicated that they will comply with this request. The St. Patrick Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons had arranged for a Past Principals' night on Saturday, and this was cancelled. Ald. John Cowan, one of the leading officers, wired to New York and Chicago, advising distinguished members of the craft, who had planned coming to Toronto, to remain at home.

Another meeting of the Board of Health has been called for 10.30 this morning, when the question of closing the theatres, churches and other places will probably be under consideration. So many people who had bought tickets for the theatres are demanding the refund of their money that the theatre managers are said to be not averse to closing until the wave of sickness has passed. Massey Hall has already closed voluntarily.

Several of the colleges are closing down until the outbreak is checked. The Medical Faculty of the University of Toronto will be closed until further notice, and a meeting will be held to-day to consider the advisability of closing the whole University. Notice also comes from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario that in the interests of the students and infirm patients and as a preventive measure against the influenza epidemic, the college closed at 6 o'clock last evening until Tuesday, October 29, or longer if necessary. It was explained that the decision had been arrived at primarily as a preventive measure and to free physicians and nurses on the staff for service elsewhere. All infirm appointments have been postponed for two weeks.

### Call to Medical Students.

All the medical students at the University are urged to volunteer for service in the war against the influenza, and those wishing to serve should register in the Secretary's office at the Medical Building. By the closing of the Medical Faculty some 85 or 90 doctors will be able to devote all or part of their time to fighting the epidemic. The 55 students of the fifth year, who already have been assisting in the outbreak, will be freed entirely from lectures. The third and fourth years also have training which will be valuable. It is not known yet just what the first two years will be asked to do. Those who are in the army will likely be required to report to the A.D.M.S.

Many meetings have been postponed, including the annual meeting of the Upper Canada College Old Boys' Association, along with Prize Day.

### Appeal to Employers.

Dr. Hastings has made an appeal to the large employers of labor to take action with a view to reducing the epidemic. He urges them to insist on employees suffering from the disease to go to bed and remain there for at least four days. They should compel their employees, he says, to report on the first appearance of symptoms. By so doing and submitting to proper medical attention, the mortality will be greatly lessened and the amount of time lost will be reduced, he believes. He adds the encouraging statement that there is very little likelihood of a serious outcome if the disease is fought from the beginning in bed.

Dr. Hastings' advice to those suffering from influenza is: "Take a purgative. Call the doctor. Go to bed."

His appeal to the big employers comes none too soon, judging by the number of absentees in the large stores, offices and factories. The Globe was informed last evening that the Bell Telephone Company had 400 operators off work yesterday out of a total of 1,900. The long-distance service was badly crippled, it was said, and subscribers were asked to use the telephone only in cases where it was absolutely necessary.

### Rushing the Hospitals.

The special civic influenza hospitals in the Arlington and Mossop Hotels will be in full swing in a day or two. The first patients were taken into the Arlington Hotel last evening, and more will be admitted to-day. The Hotel Mossop will be ready for occupation about the end of the week, it is believed.

Eight Boy Scouts are assisting the nurses at the Arlington Hotel, and Mr. H. G. Hammond, Provincial Secretary of the Boy Scouts, told The Globe last night that he has 200 Boy Scouts available for any kind of service in the emergency.

### Organizing Province.

The response to the appeal for volunteer nursing aid has been unprecedentedly large. The four lectures so far delivered have had an attendance exceeding one thousand, and over one hundred of those who have taken the three-lecture course are now actually in attendance on cases of influenza in Toronto, and about twenty others left for outside points to care for patients.

Advice has been received by Col. J. W. S. McCullough that branches of the Emergency Volunteer Health Auxiliary are being established at Hamilton, St. Catharines, Windsor, London, Kingston, Ottawa, Guelph and Cobourg.

In the absence of advice from other cities and towns in Ontario, a telegram has been despatched to the Mayors of these places to the following effect:

Please reply at once with following information:

- (1) How many cases of Spanish influenza have you?
- (2) Are they increasing in number?
- (3) Have you sufficient profes-

sional assistance of doctors and nurses?

(4) If not, what further assistance do you require? State fully.

(5) Are you arranging to establish a branch of the newly-organized Ontario Emergency Volunteer Health Auxiliary? Volunteer classes here have been most successful. Strongly recommend you to follow suit. If you require lecturer to help qualify your applicants, we will provide one.

(6) Lectures already given to volunteer classes are printed in full in to-day's Toronto papers. Recommend you to save considerable number of copies to instruct your volunteers.

The lectures by Dr. Patterson to the nursing class at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily are being continued in view of the registration of large numbers of new volunteers.

If the municipalities which desire aid will make known their needs, the Provincial Board feel satisfied that they can render most useful assistance.

Yesterday's toll of deaths from pneumonia included Dorothy Esmi Vera Denison, aged 26, the youngest surviving daughter of Brig.-Gen. Septimus and Mrs. Denison.

The death occurred at Annesley Hall of a Victoria College student, Eleanore Porter Wyllie, from pneumonia. Miss Wyllie was the eldest daughter of W. A. Wyllie of Kamloops, B.C.

Cadet Freeman A. Davidson of the Royal Air Force passed away at the Base Hospital last Sunday, from pneumonia. He was the elder son of C. N. and the late Mrs. Davidson of Vancouver, B.C. He was in his 26th year. He will be buried with military honors on Saturday afternoon. It was on the body of Cadet Davidson that the inquest was opened on Tuesday evening.

### Epidemic in County.

Two people died yesterday of Spanish influenza in Newmarket, where, at the beginning of the week, it was thought the epidemic was under control. Lucretia, the nine-year-old daughter of Rev. A. E. Bagby, minister of the Christian Church, died yesterday afternoon. The whole family, including Mr. Bagby, his wife, and four children, have been laid up with the disease, but all the rest are out of danger now. A young man who had recently come to the town from Stratford also succumbed yesterday to the epidemic.

All the schools in King township have been ordered closed by the Township Board of Health. Many of the school boards in Whitchurch have closed their schools, but as yet the Local Board of Health has taken no action. In Aurora and Mount Albert both high and public schools have been closed.

### Troops Confined to Barracks.

While the influenza epidemic is raging, the troops at Exhibition Camp will be confined to the grounds unless on official business or on special pass. All ranks have been forbidden to patronize theatres, dance halls, eating houses or other crowded places. Public vehicles are to be used only when absolutely necessary. Temperature parades are to be held twice daily.

Doctors and druggists throughout the city are busy fighting the outbreak. They are working night and day, visiting patients and filling prescriptions. Drug stores were thronged all last evening with people wanting prescriptions filled.

The undertakers are busy; also the ministers of the city. On the street cars the "flu" has ousted "the war" as the chief topic of conversation.

### R. A. F. Man Dead.

Lieut. T. Louis Brennan, R.A.F., an instructor at Leaside, died yesterday of pneumonia, contracted after an attack of influenza. He went overseas in 1915, and received his commission in England. He was wounded at the Somme, was invalided back to Canada and returned overseas in the fall of 1916. He returned to Canada to instruct in flying in May, 1917. He was the son of the late John B. Brennan of North Sydney, N. S., and is survived by three brothers, one in France.

### Less for Hospitals to Do.

With a view to guarding against the spreading of the epidemic of Spanish influenza among guests in the Walker House and Carls-Rite Hotel, Mr. George Wright announced last night that he has engaged qualified nurses, who will be stationed in both hotels for the purpose of taking care of guests suffering from the disease.

Dr. Hastings, the Medical Health Officer, regards the innovation as one of the best displays of individual patriotism that he has heard of in a long time.