

MAYOR AND HASTINGS AGREE ON HOSPITAL

Both Condemn the Gerrard St.
Building—His Worship
Attacks Govt.

Half a dozen facts stand out prominently in the evidence submitted last night at the inquest into the death of F. N. Davidson, an R. A. F. cadet, a Spanish influenza victim, who died a few days ago at the Military Base Hospital. They are:

That so far, 1,680 members of the Royal Air Force have contracted Spanish influenza.

A total of 1,160 R. A. F. men and officers have been sent to the Base Hospital suffering from the disease. The deaths to date, have been 53, almost five per cent. There have been nine deaths in the various R. A. F. camp hospitals.

Four hundred and twenty of the 1,600 officers and men at Long Branch Camp had suffered from the epidemic, to midnight of October 20th, 25 per cent.

Mayor Attacks Government.
Before Coroner McCollum could call any witnesses, Mayor Church submitted, as exhibits, a sheaf of papers and clippings concerning the taking over of the old General Hospital as a Military Base Hospital. He also endeavored to present letters from interested parties concerning conditions at the hospital and at the various camps, but the coroner, following objections from Lieut.-Col. J. A. McDonald, Assistant Judge Advocate General, ruled that such people could come to the inquest and give evidence in person, and refused to allow the letters to be read.

The Mayor stated that, in criticising the lack of hospital accommodation, he wished to put the blame on Ottawa, and not on the local military authorities.

In turning in the documents regarding the taking over of the present Base Hospital, he declared that the hospital "was so dirty and filthy that the commanding officer and the A. D. M. S. would not allow the soldiers to clean it out."

"The city," he said, "had to send men from the scavenger department to do the work."

In further denouncing conditions, he declared:

"We wish to see the men housed like human beings. Despite the fact that the A. D. M. S. has never had enough accommodation for C. E. F. men, the R. A. F. was attached to the Canadian service for medical treatment. This, I believe, is a breach of the lease under which the Base Hospital is held, and the Hospital Trust will deal with it at its next meeting."

Objects to Secrecy.
"I can't understand what is the necessity for tying up in secrecy the deaths of men in the Base Hospital, in contrast to conditions in France. I have received a letter from a Montreal man, whose two sons have died in the hospital, but he has been unable to get any particulars."

"Also I cannot understand the contention of the Ontario Attorney-General's Department that when a man puts on a uniform he has no civil rights."

In directing criticisms at the Royal Air Force, the Mayor stated he wanted to be fair to the Imperial authorities, adding that they had explained they were doing all they could to provide proper, cold weather quarters for their men.

"But," he added, "about 60 of them are dead."

"I want to find out," he continued, "the status of the Royal Air Force in Canada. I think the aim of this inquest is to fix the responsibility. I have received many complaints that the men are living in tents and some that they do not receive proper care when they are sick. I don't know as to that, but more than 50 men have died."

Civic Interference Hurt Also.
In answer to a question by Crown Attorney Greer, Mayor Church admitted that the city had taken steps to prevent Toronto soldiers going to Hamilton hospitals and stated that the Base Hospital building had been decided upon after a lot of objection.

"Then," said Mr. Greer, "I don't understand why it was leased and then turned over to the Government." A. M. Andrew Adams, a Long Branch chauffeur, was the first witness called. He claimed to have brought Cadet Davidson from the camp to the Base Hospital, with eight other patients, but could not say that he actually knew which of the nine was Davidson. He stated that no attention accompanied them from the camp to the hospital.

Crown Attorney Greer was not pleased with the manner in which Adams answered his questions and finally stated he would recall him.

"And bring a little civility in addition to your records when you come back," he told him.

Thought Not Seriously Ill.
Corp. Irwin Morgan, of the Long Branch Orderly Room, described the manner in which patients are dispatched from the camp to hospitals. He could not say if he had received a receipt from the Base for Davidson.

Capt. William H. Butt, Medical Officer at Long Branch, declared he first saw Cadet Davidson on the morning of October 4th. He said he decided to send him to the Base Hospital, but in answer to a question by Mr. Greer, described him as a man who was not seriously sick.

"If there had been anything extraordinary about his case," he said, "I would have given him more than ordinary attention, but there was nothing to cause alarm."

"How many cases of influenza have you had in the camp?" asked Mr. Greer.

Striking Points About the Base

By Mayor Church.

"When the military authorities, including Col. Mewburn (now Major-Gen. Mewburn), went to inspect the building, prior to taking it over, the hospital was so dirty and filthy the commanding officer and the A. D. M. S. would not allow the soldiers to clean it out. The city had to send men from the scavenger department to do the work. It was in a dilapidated condition."

"If anybody is to blame, it is not the local authorities, but Ottawa."

Crown Prosecutor Greer.
"In view of the objections, I can't understand why the building was leased and then turned over to the Government."

"As a matter of fact, it had been a hospital. That was about the kindest thing that could be said about it."

Dr. C. J. Hastings, M.O.H.
"If it had not occurred (the use of the building as a hospital for three or four years), I would have said such a thing would have been inconceivable—the building is so unfit."

"The overcrowding is so much a decided factor in increasing the death rate that I wouldn't tolerate it in hospitals under my control."

had not broken any regulations in handling diseases. He added that he had no jurisdiction over military hospitals, they being under Federal control, and he had never attempted to intervene, having been assured that the Department of Militia and Defence had assumed full responsibility.

"Have you ever tested the responsibility?" he was asked.

"No," he replied, "I didn't feel that there was any occasion, for I felt the hospital was in competent hands."

Crown Attorney Greer then asked him about the Base Hospital itself.

Condemns the Building.
"As a matter of fact, it had been a hospital. That was about the kindest thing you could say about it."

"It is an obsolete structure?"
"Yes."

"All faults and few virtues?"
"Yes."

"It was abandoned by the General Hospital because it was condemned?"
"Yes."

"Is it a proper building for a hospital?" "It should be used only as a hospital."

"As a medical man, what would you say about the Government using it for three or four years, without taking steps to provide a new structure?" "If it had not happened I would say it would have been inconceivable, the building is so unfit."

"In justice to the patients not more than 250 ought to be treated there?" "It is unfit even for 150 beds. The walls and floors are terrible. There is nothing to commend it except in an emergency."

"Have you ever heard of the Government increasing its hospital space on account of the epidemic?" "No."

"Have the military authorities ever discussed combating the disease with you?" "Not officially."

"Would you think it proper, from lack of accommodation, to transfer 800 convalescents from the Base Hospital to the university?" "If the accommodation had to be. Only those that could be moved were moved. That would be the best of a bad job, wouldn't it?"

"Why a bad job?" asked Lieut.-Col. Macdonald. "The men were not going to live there."

"No, a lot of them died," retorted Mr. Greer.

Following a short discussion, Major O'Reilly was questioned regarding moving the convalescents, and he admitted some of them had to be returned to the hospital.

Overcrowding Increases Deaths.
Dr. Hastings was questioned at length regarding the effect of overcrowding on the death rate, in connection with the high death rate among R. A. F. men at the Base, which was nearly five per cent, as compared with from half to one per cent, in most cities on the continent. He declared overcrowding was much a factor in increasing the death rate that I wouldn't tolerate it in any hospital under my control."

"In other words," the coroner queried, "if the cases had been split up, the death rate would have been lower?"

"I would unhesitatingly say," replied Dr. Hastings, "that overcrowding has a tendency to lower vitality and develop simple influenza into virulent complications."

Lieut.-Col. Macdonald interrupted to ask what would be the difference between having 400 and 800 in an institution, if they got proper treatment?"

"The only way to keep the 800 as safe as the 400," the doctor answered, "would be to put masks on them all. Handling 800 in a hospital for 250 patients is only increasing the danger. I think my learned friend could not find a hospital authority on the continent to say that 800 patients could be properly treated in such a building."

"Overcrowding means danger?" again asked the coroner. "Yes, all things being equal," answered the doctor.

City Can Only Give Advice.
In reply to Mr. Fairly, Dr. Hastings stated the city could not now give assistance to the military authorities if it were asked, all available accommodation and workers being needed for civilian cases.

"On your return to the United States to investigate the disease," asked Mr. Fairly, "were you consulted by the military authorities?"

"No."

"Last February, when you reported the A. D. M. S. at his wife's end for accommodation, there was no epidemic?" "No."

"Wouldn't the influenza patients be better in a separate building?" "Yes."

Asked regarding the Mayor's suggestion to send the troops to their homes during the epidemic, he replied he believed it a good idea to have the men where they could be under the supervision and control of the medical officers.

"What is your judgment about keeping troops in tents, sleeping on the ground in a fall such as this?" "I think it inconceivable. With proper bedding and heating, it might be quite safe, though."

Just before adjournment Lieut.-Col. Macdonald vainly tried to get from Dr. Hastings an admission that there was nothing in the law to justify his belief that he had no right to intervene in the Military Base Hospital.

"You show me where I am wrong," the doctor finally said.

Col. Macdonald asked if he had ever offered assistance to Gen. Logie.

"When I was quite a young man," he responded, "I learned that no one is thanked for unasked-for assistance and suggestions."

OFFICERS WOUNDED

Canadians Are Admitted To Various Hospitals in France and England.

Canadian Press Despatch.
London, Oct. 24.—The following Canadians have been admitted to hospital:

At Le Treport: Major W. J. Baxter, face, slight; Lieut. R. England, multiple, serious.

At Rouen: Capt. G. Mair, body and thigh, slight; Lieut. J. H. M. Keef, chest, dangerous.

At Caen: Lieut. H. W. Powell, face, slight.

At Boulogne: Lieuts. C. A. Edlehead, slight; J. C. Hutchinson, thigh; R. E. Heaslip, gassed, severe.

At Rouville: Babcock, leg, serious.

At Portsmouth: Lieut. A. H. Freudenmeyer, knee, slight.

At Exmouth: Lieut. A. F. Wallace, thigh, slight.

At Buxton: Capt. C. J. Stewart, hand.

At Salisbury: Lieut. Finnigan, arm, slight.

At Reading: Lieut. R. C. Towns, hand, hand and leg.

Prisoner of war: Lieut. B. Skewley.

MIGNAULT FOR BENCH
Is Appointed to Vacancy in Supreme Court, Succeeding Sir Louis Davies.

Ottawa, Oct. 24.—P. G. Mignault, K.C., of Montreal, has been appointed to the bench of the Supreme Court of Canada in succession to Sir Louis Davies.

Mr. Mignault, in consequence, has resigned as a member of the International Waterways Commission.

Toronto Officer to Wed.
Canadian Associated Press Cable.
London, Oct. 24.—The marriage shortly of Capt. George W. Anderson of the Royal Medicals, Toronto, to Ann Greville of London is announced.

24 HOURS IN TORONTO

Attention is drawn to the use of peashooters by children as a means of spreading "flu" germs.

Lieut. John Philip Sousa, with his famous band, will be in Toronto for the Victory Loan drive.

The Victoria Alumni quadrennial elections will take place next month. As well as the senate, vice-chancellors will be elected.

Diphtheria antitoxin is no use as a preventive of influenza. The preventive vaccine is entirely different.

The Executive of the International Typographical Union has decided to invest \$10,000 of the union's funds in the Victory Loan.

Israel Lublosky, 99 Nassau street, was arrested last night by Police-Man Gracie on a charge of stabbing Samuel Black, of Beverley street, in the chest with a pair of scissors.

The last of the prisoners who escaped from the Jail Farm, Sunday, Daniel Pyburn, with but one leg, was retaken last night in a house in Church street.

Jean Gilchrist, Bond street, was arrested last night by Acting Detective Thomas, on a charge of having stolen \$50 from Oliver Kernsman.

Dr. Arthur Everett, vice-chancellor of Cambridge, and Rev. Edward Mewburn Walker, of Oxford, with representatives of other British colleges, visit Toronto on an educational mission on Nov. 3.

A deputation from Dunnville waited on the Ontario Government yesterday afternoon and asked for power to drill for natural gas on water lots owned by the Government nearby.

Several of the eight cars of coal promised to York Township were, at a late hour last night, shunted into coal yards at the north end of the city, and their contents will be delivered this afternoon.

Two men driving a motor car which had been stolen from R. D. Henderson, of Markham street last night, ran down and injured Frank

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